

Stop Laptops from Waking ?In the Bag?

By Seth Kahn on 10/25/2011

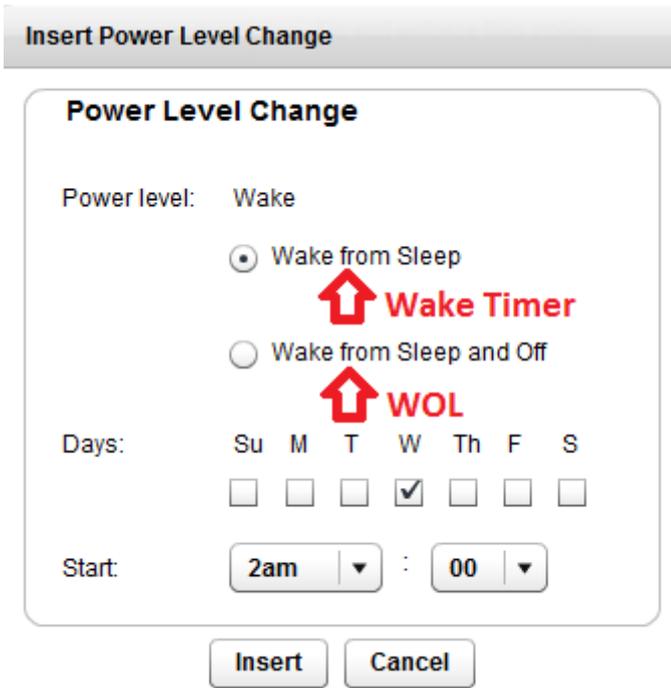


A common customer worry when implementing a PC power management solution is a laptop turning on while sleeping nicely in its bag. This causes the battery to drain, and the rising heat in the bag to potentially damage the laptop. While it may seem like a trivial problem, this causes our customers? frustration when planning a power management solution.

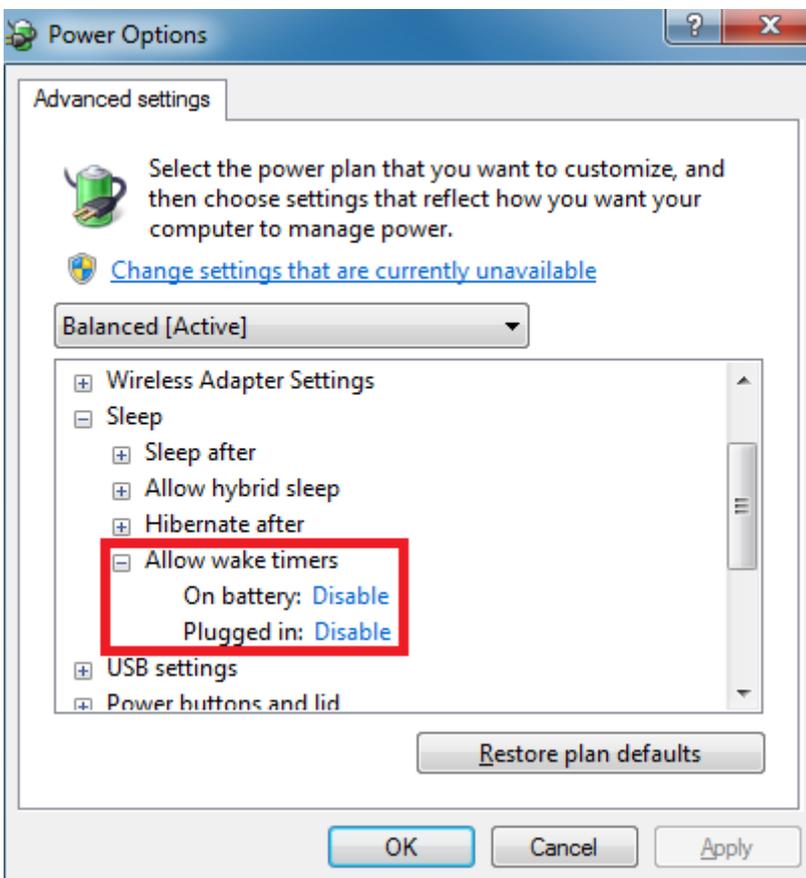
Waking laptops plugged in to their network overnight is essential to perform maintenance operations like software distribution, patching, and virus scan updates. There are 2 options for customers that work really well:

1. Develop laptop only power policies where only ?Wake on LAN (WOL)? is used to wake systems.
2. Configure the Windows 7 power policy option to ?Disable Wake Timers? while running on battery.

Surveyor can be configured with pre-defined scheduled wake times for maintenance. For example, wake all systems at 2:00 AM and leave them on for 60 minutes every Wednesday. Without worrying about laptops, Surveyor can take advantage of an internal ?Wake Timer? ([link to MSDN reference](#) ^[1] for the geeks out there) that simply wakes a sleeping system at a specific day/time. Using a wake timer is great, because you don?t need to rely on a WOL infrastructure to wake a sleeping system. Plain and simple, if the system is sleeping at a specified time (local to the system), the wake timer will wake it up. With laptops in the mix, we don?t recommend our customers go this route to avoid the potential to drain the customer?s battery.



A separate laptop policy that only uses scheduled WOL is one way to go here. With the introduction of Windows 7, Microsoft finally created a solution to address this. They basically added the ability to enable/disable wake timers as part of the power policy, and by default turns them off on laptops.



Beginning with Surveyor 5.5 and continuing with Surveyor 6, we've added the ability to

control wake timers, along with a slew of other Windows 7 advanced power options. Customers now have the ability to centrally manage this configuration and take advantage of wake timers on laptops while plugged in, but not on battery power.

	Plugged in	On batteries	OSes Supported
Adaptive display timeout:	Don't change ▾	Don't change ▾	Vista,Win7
Allow display required:	Don't change ▾	Don't change ▾	Win7
Default display brightness:	Don't change ▾	Don't change ▾	Win7
Dim display:	After 20 mins ▾	After 3 mins ▾	Vista,Win7
Dim display brightness:	Don't change ▾	Don't change ▾	Win7
Allow hybrid sleep:	Don't change ▾	Don't change ▾	Vista,Win7
Automatically wake for tasks:	Enable ▾	Disable ▾	Win7
System hibernates:	Never ▾	Never ▾	XP Vista Win7

Tags:

[PC power management](#) [2]

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Links:

[1] <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa373235%28VS.85%29.aspx>

[2] <http://www.verdiem.com/tags/pc-power-management>