

WindowsXP Tips

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Running CHKDSK

Added 8/17/05

One way to run a *chkdsk* (this is like Scandisk that was with Win9X), is to

1. Double click on *My Computer*
2. Right click on the drive you want to check
3. Select *Properties*
4. Click on the *Tools* tab
5. Click on the *Check Now* button
6. Check to *Automatically fix file system errors* - This is the same as running *chkdsk /f*
7. If you want to *Scan for and attempt recovery of bad sectors*, check that box - This is the same as running *chkdsk /R*. It can also add a lot of time to the scan
8. Reboot if necessary

You can also run *chkdsk* from the command line with will give you more options.

The following switches are available:

/F - fix any errors

/R - identifies bad sectors

/V - with FAT32, displays a verbose output

With NTFS Volumes:

/I - Performs simpler check (stage 2)

/C - Skips the checking of cycles within folder structures

/X - Forces the volume to dismount if necessary. Intended for server administrators and should be avoided for normal use

Opening Shared Folders Snap-In

Added 8/17/05

To manage all your shared folders, you can run the snap-in directly

Start / Run / *fsmgmt.msc*

This will show you all your shared folders in a single window

You can also see what other computers are connected and what files they have open

Additional Utilities

Added 8/17/05

On the XP CD in the \Support\Tools directory, there are a lot of additional support and troubleshooting utilities.

You can run SETUP from that directory to install them.

Just a few are:

diruse	Shows Disk Usage
dupfinder	Finds Duplicate files
getmac	Get's MAC address of the network card
hostname	Shows the host name of the computer
netdiag	Diagnoses a variety of network components
pviewer	Show a list of process and allows you to get a memory detail or kill any process
windiff	Compare files and directories

Viewing Your IP Address Information

Added 8/17/05

There are several ways you can determine your IP address information:

IPCONFIG

1. Start / Run / cmd
2. IPCONFIG /ALL

This opens a command window. One advantage is that you can send the information to a text file (IPCONFIG /ALL > c:\ip.txt)

But sometimes the window shows show much information you need to scroll around to fine it.

VIEW STATUS

1. Control Panel / Network Connections / Double click the icons for your network (If the network has an icon in the system tray you can also just double click on that icon)
 2. Click on the *Support* tab
 3. Click on the *Details* button
-

Make Pictures Smaller Unavailable

Added 8/17/05

When you try and send pictures through e-mail, you should normally be given the option to make them smaller.

If this option is not available, a DLL file may need to be registered.

1. Start
 2. Run
 3. `regsvr32 shimgvw.dll`
-

Creating a Suspend Shortcut

Submitted 3/2/05

If you would like to create an icon to suspend your computer,

1. Right click on the Desktop
2. New / Shortcut
3. Enter in `rundll32.exe PowrProf.dll, SetSuspendState`
4. Give it whatever name you want
5. Now when you click on that shortcut, your computer will shutdown and suspend

Submitted by [Gabe](#)

Changing the User Type

Added 3/2/05

Normally in XP Pro, through the Control Panel / User Accounts icon, you are only allowed to create administrators or limited users.

If you want to create

1. Right click on My Computer
 2. Manage
 3. Local Users and Groups
 4. Users
 5. Right click on the user you want to change
 6. Properties
 7. Member of tab
 8. Add button
 9. Advanced button
 10. Find Now button
 11. From here you see the full list of possibilities (e.g. Power User, Backup Operator etc.)
-

Determining Which Services are Associated with SVCHOST

Added 3/2/05

Since so many critical services are run with each svchost,
You can see which ones are being used by opening a cmd prompt and running:

```
tasklist /svc /fi "imagename eq svchost.exe"
```

Note: This is available only with XP Pro

Identify Faulty Device Drivers

3/2/05

If you are having problems with lockups, blue screens, or can only get to safe mode, often the problem is due to a faulty device driver.

One way to help identify them is through the use of the *Verifier* program

1. Start / Run / *Verifier*
 2. Keep the default of Create Standard Settings
 3. Select the type of drivers you want to confirm
 4. A list of drivers to be verified on the next boot will be shown.
 5. Reboot
 6. If your computer stops with a blue screen, you should get an error message with the problem driver
 7. To turn off the Verifier, run `verifier /reset`
-

Viewing Installed Drivers

Added 3/2/05

If you want to see a list of installed drivers, you can run the *driverquery* program

There are a lot of available switches to view different types of information.

One use can be to export to a CSV file for viewing in Excel

An example would then be:

```
Driverquery /v /fo csv > drivers.csv
```

Operation Was Attempted on Something That Is Not a Socket Error

Added 11/19/04

If you get this error when you try and renew your IP address,
Likely the winsock2 registry entries are corrupted.

The basic steps to fix this are:

1. Remove the old registry entries - [Download Reg file](#)
 2. Import the correct registry entries - [Download Reg file](#)
 3. Reboot the computer
-

Opening Ports or Adding Allowed Programs with SP2's Firewall

Added 9/30/04

1. Click on Start / Run
2. Enter in *firewall.cpl*
3. Click on the *Exceptions* tab

Adding a Port for Internet Access:

1. Click on the *Add Port* button
2. Name it whatever you want
3. Enter in the ports you want to open

Adding a Program for Internet Access

1. Click on *Add Program...* button
 2. A list of all installed programs will be displayed
 3. Highlight the one you want to include for Internet access
 4. Click on the *OK* button
-

Autoexec.nt or Config.nt Errors

Added 9/17/04

If you are getting errors similar to:

The system file is not suitable for running MS-DOS and Microsoft Windows applications. Choose 'Close' to terminate the application.

Try copying the file from \windows\repair directory to the one that is in the \windows\system32 directory.

Common Control Panel Applets

Added 9/17/04

The follow are some common Control Panel Applets that are located in the \windows\system32 directory.

If you find yourself using any of these frequently, then you can simply make shortcuts to them on your desktop.

appwiz.cpl	Add/Remove Programs
desk.cpl	Display Properties
firewall.cpl	Firewall Settings
inetcpl.cpl	Internet Options
mmsys.cpl	Sound and Audio
ncpa.cpl	Network Connections
nusrmgr.cpl	User Accounts
powercfg.cpl	Power Options
sysdm.cpl	System Properties
wscui.cpl	Security Center
wuauclt.cpl	Automatic Updates Configuration

Windows Explorer Opens Search Companion Rather than the Folder

If the Windows Explorer opens up the Search Companion rather than opening up the actual folder, the default setting for opening a folder is changed.

To correct this:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT \ Directory \ shell and HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT \ Drive \ shell]
3. Edit the default value to be *explorer* or *none*

[Download reg file](#)

Running SFC without a CD ROM

Added 6/9/04

If you run *sfc /scannow* and get prompted to insert a CD, there are a couple of changes you might need to make.

Slipstream your copy of WindowsXP with the latest service pack you have applied.

For detailed unstructions on how to do this see:

[SlipStreaming a Service Pack into Windows XP](#)

Once these files are on your hard drive, you can simply make a few registry changes to point to those locations.

Start Regedit

Go to the follow locations and change the path to wherever you copied the source files.

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Setup\ServicePackSourcePath

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Setup\SourcePath
the last one might not be necessary

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\SourcePath

Guest Only Network Access

Added 4/11/04

If you try and connect to an XP computer and are shown a logins screen with only the *computername/Guest*,

You may need to change one of the Local Security Policies:

1. Got to *Control Panel - Administrative Tools*
 2. Go to *Local Policies - Security Options*
 3. Check teh *Network access: Sharing and security model for local accounts*
 4. Set it to *Classic - local users authenticate as themselves*
-

Repairing Damaged Winsock2

Updated 6/26/04

The symptoms when Winsock2 is damaged show when you try to release and renew the IP address using IPCONFIG.

And you get the following error message:

An error occurred while renewing interface 'Internet': An operation was attempted on something that is not a socket.

Also Internet Explorer may give the following error message:

The page cannot be displayed Additionally, you may have no IP address or no Automatic Private IP Addressing (APIPA) address, and you may be receiving IP packets but not sending them.

There are two easy ways to determine if Winsock2 is damaged:

From the XP source files, go to the *Support / Tools* directory

Winsock Test Method 1

Run *netdiag /test:winsock*

The end should say Winsock test passed

Winsock Test Method 2

1. Run *Msiinfo32*
2. Click on the + by *Components*
3. Click on the by *Network*
4. Click on *Protocol*
5. There should be 10 sections if the Winsock2 key is ok

MSAFD Tcpip [TCP/IP]

MSAFD Tcpip [UDP/IP]

RSVP UDP Service Provider

RSVP TCP Service Provider

MSAFD NetBIOS [\Device\NetBT_Tcpip...

MSAFD NetBIOS [\Device\NetBT_Tcpip...

MSAFD NetBIOS [\Device\NetBT_Tcpip...

MSAFD NetBIOS [\Device\NetBT_Tcpip...

MSAFD NetBIOS [\Device\NetBT_Tcpip...

MSAFD NetBIOS [\Device\NetBT_Tcpip...

If the names are anything different from those in this list, then likely Winsock2 is corrupted and needs to be repaired.

If you have any 3rd party software installed, the name MSAFD may be changed.

There should be no fewer than 10 sections.

To repair Winsock2

1. Run Regedit
2. Delete the following two registry keys:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Winsock

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Winsock2

[Download Reg file](#) to delete these entries

3. Restart the computer
4. Go to Network Connections
5. Right click and select *Properties*
6. Click on the *Install* button
7. Select *Protocol*
8. Click on the *Add* button
9. Click on the *Have Disk* button
10. Browse to the *\Windows\inf* directory
11. Click on the *Open* button

12. Click on the *OK* button
13. Highlight *Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)*
14. Click on the *OK* button
15. Reboot

Or [Download Reg file](#) to add the correct registries back in

Not Displaying Previous Network Share Shortcuts

Added 3/26/04

By default, when you go to Network Places, it will scan and show shortcuts to previous network shares.

To turn this off and remove any current shortcuts

1. Open up the Windows Explorer
 2. Go to Tools / Folder Options / View
 3. The top section should be Files and Folders
 4. Uncheck Automatically search for network folders and printers
 5. Then go into Network Neighborhood Select all the previous network connections Delete them
 6. Next time you look at the Network Neighborhood, they should not repopulate
-

Hiding a XP Computer from Network Neighborhood

Added 3/26/04

If you want to share files from a XP computer, yet want to remove it from showing up in the Network Neighborhood,

Run *net config server /hidden:yes*

Easy Way to Share Multiple Folders

Added 3/26/04

If you need to share multiple folders, running the program *SHRPUBW.EXE* will bring up a simple dialog box to let you:

1. Browse to the folder you want to share
2. Enter in a Share name
3. Enter in a Share description
4. Set permissions. Several choices are available

5. Restart the process from within the same program
-

System32 Folder Opens When Logging On

Added 3/26/04

If the System32 folder shows on the desktop, there may be an invalid entry in the Registry

1. Start Regedit
 2. Go to both:
 3. HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
 4. HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
 5. Double check that the values do not have incorrect, incomplete, or blank entries
-

Not Viewing Zip Files as Folders

Added 3/4/04

If you want to turn of WindowsXP showing Zip files as folders, just run:

```
regsvr32 /u zipfldr.dll
```

Setting Capslock, Numlock, Scroll Lock

Added 3/4/04

If you want to set the startup state for any or all of these keys, you just need to edit the registry.

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to *HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Keyboard*
3. Open *InitialKeyboardIndicators*
4. Change the value to one of the following numbers
 - 0 - All Keys off
 - 1 - Caps Lock on
 - 2 - Num Lock on
 - 4 - Scroll Lock onFor multiple keys, add their values:
 - 3 - Caps Lock and Num Lock on
 - 5 - Caps Lock and Scroll Lock on

- 6 - Num Lock and Scroll Lock on
 - 7 - Caps Lock, Num Lock, and Scroll Lock on
 5. Log off and back on again
-

Running Network Diagnostics

Added 3/4/04

Network Diagnostics scans your system to gather information about your hardware, software, and network connections.

Start / Run / *NETSH DIAG GUI*

The following is the type of information that can be displayed:

- Ping
 - Connect
 - Show
 - Verbose
 - Save to Desktop
 - Mail Service
 - News Service
 - Internet Proxy Server
 - Computer Information
 - Operating System
 - Windows Version
 - Modems
 - Network Clients
 - Network Adapters
 - Domain Name System (DNS)
 - Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)
 - Default Gateways
 - Internet Protocol Address
 - Windows Internet Naming Service (WINS)
-

DOS Tips in XP

Submitted 3/4/04

Windows XP cmd tip (DOS isn't dead... it just smells funny) Some command-line folder creation examples:

To create multiple folders at once, add them directly to the "md" command:

```
C:\> md this is a test
```

To create a folder several folders deep, use:

```
C:\> md this\is\test
```

Creating a folder with a long name requires the double-quote at the beginning:

```
C:\> md "this is a test
```

Bonus tip: Windows XP supports the forward slash "/" as a folder divider. Unix/Linux users: don't let the DOS environment get you down. Use a Unix-style CD command to change your present working directory:

```
C:\> cd Windows/system32/drivers/etc
```

Submitted by [Bob and Tina](#)

Restoring Desktop Icon to the Quicklaunch Bar

Added 12/26/03

If you mistakenly deleted the icon for the Desktop on the Quicklaunch toolbar

Go to C:\Documents and Settings\user_name\Application Data\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch

(where user_name is replaced by your login name)

Create a Text file called ShowDesktop.SCF with the following contents:

```
[Shell]
Command=2
IconFile=explorer.exe,3
[Taskbar]
Command=ToggleDesktop
```

You can also [DOWNLOAD](#) a file, uncompress it, and copy to the toolbar or wherever you would like.

Network Access After Norton Anti-Virus Install

Added 12/9/03

Sometimes you can't access a WinXP computer after installing Norton Anti-Virus. There might be a variety of errors at the other computer depending on the operating system.

On the XP computer, in the Event Viewer / System log, there will be the following error:
The server's configuration parameter "irpstacksize" is too small for the server to use a local device.

1. Start Regedit
 2. Go to
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\lanmanserver\parameters
 3. Edit the *IRPStackSize*
 4. Give it a value of 15
 5. Reboot the computer
-

Fixing Cryptographic Services Error

Added 12/8/03

If you get an error about the Cryptographic services when trying to apply the Security Updates or Service Pack 1, run the following from Start / Run - note, you might want to just cut and paste the text.

```
net stop cryptsvc
ren %systemroot%\system32\catroot2 oldcatroot2
net start cryptsvc
regsvr32 softpub.dll
regsvr32 wintrust.dll
regsvr32 initpki.dll
regsvr32 dssenh.dll
regsvr32 rsaenh.dll
regsvr32 gpkcsp.dll
regsvr32 sccbase.dll
regsvr32 slbcsp.dll
regsvr32 cryptdlg.dll
```

Fixing Explorer Searching Rather Than Opening Directories

Added 11/30/03

Sometimes after adding the right click with the Explorer, the default setting for opening a folder is changed.

To correct this:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to *HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT \ Directory \ shell*
3. Edit the default value to be *explorer* or *none*

[Download reg file](#)

Configure for Auto-Logon

Added 11/28/03

If you are the only person using the computer and what to have it automatically log you on,

1. Start / Run / "control userpasswords2" - no quotes
2. Uncheck *User must enter a user name and password to use this computer*

Services You Can Disable

Updated 10/30/03

There are quite a few services you can disable from starting automatically.

This would be to speed up your boot time and free resources.

They are only suggestions so I suggestion you read the description of each one when you run Services and that you turn them off one at a time.

Some possibilities are:

- **Alerter** - Sends alert messages to specified users that are connected to the server computer.
- **Application Management** - Allows software to tap directly into the Add/Remove Programs feature via the Windows Installer technology.
- **Background Intelligent Transfer Service** - The Background Intelligent Transfer service is used by programs (such as Windows AutoUpdate) to download files by using spare bandwidth.
- **Clipbook** - ClipBook permits you to cut and paste text and graphics over the network.
- **Error Reporting Service** - Allows applications to send error reports to Microsoft in the event of an application fault.
- **Fast User Switching** - Windows XP allows users to switch quickly between accounts, without requiring them to log off.
- **Help and Support** - Allows the XP Built-in Help and Support Center to run.
- **IMAPI CD-Burning COM Service** - You don't need this if you have other software to create CDs.
- **Indexing Service** - Indexes contents and properties of files on local and remote computers; provides rapid access to files through flexible querying language.
- **IP SEC** - Manages IP security policy and starts the ISAKMP/Oakley (IKE) and the IP security driver. If you are not on a domain, you likely don't need this running.
- **Messenger** - Transmits net send and Alerter service messages between clients and servers. This is how a lot of pop-up windows start appearing on your desktop.
- **Net Logon** - Supports pass-through authentication of account logon events for computers in a domain. If you are not on a domain, you don't need this running
- **Network DDE** - Provides network transport and security for Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) for programs running on the same computer or on different computers.

- **NT LM Security Support Provider** - Provides security to remote procedure call (RPC) programs that use transports other than named pipes.
- **Performance Logs and Alerts** - Collects performance data from local or remote computers based on preconfigured schedule parameters, then writes the data to a log or triggers an alert. If you don't need to monitor your performance logs, then you don't need this service.
- **Portable Media Serial Number** - Retrieves the serial number of any portable music player connected to your computer
- **QOS RSVP** - Provides network signaling and local traffic control setup functionality for QoS-aware programs and control applets.
- **Remote Desktop Help Session Manager** - Manages and controls Remote Assistance. If you are not using Remote Desktop you don't need this service.
- **Remote Registry** - Enables remote users to modify registry settings on this computer.
- **Routing & Remote Access** - Offers routing services to businesses in local area and wide area network environments. Allows dial-in access.
- **Secondary Login** - Enables starting processes under alternate credentials. This is what allows you to run an application as another user.
- **Smart Card** - Manages access to smart cards read by this computer.
- **Smart Card Helper** - Enables support for legacy non-plug and play smart-card readers used by this computer.
- **SSDP Discovery Service** - Enables discovery of UPnP devices on your home network.
- **TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper** - Enables support for NetBIOS over TCP/IP (NetBT) service and NetBIOS name resolution. This should not be needed in today's network environment.
- **Telnet** - Enables a remote user to log on to this computer and run programs, and supports various TCP/IP Telnet clients.
- **Uninterruptible Power Supply Service** - Manages an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) connected to the computer.
- **Universal Plug and Play Device Host** - Provides support to host Universal Plug and Play devices
- **Upload Manager** - Manages synchronous and asynchronous file transfers between clients and servers on the network.
- **Volume Shadow Copy Service** - Manages and implements Volume Shadow Copies used for backup and other purposes.
- **Web Client** - Enables Windows-based programs to create, access, and modify non-local files across the Internet.
- **Wireless Zero Configuration** - Provides automatic configuration for the 802.11 adapters
- **WMI Performance Adapter** - Provides performance library information from WMI HiPerf providers.

Stopping the Messenger Service

Added 6/21/03

To remove the ability for anyone in the world to pop up messages on your computer, you can disable the Messenger service.

1. Click Start->Settings ->Control Panel

2. Click Performance and Maintenance
3. Click Administrative Tools
4. Double click Services
5. Scroll down and highlight "Messenger"
6. Right-click the highlighted line and choose Properties
7. Click the STOP button
8. Select Disable or Manual in the Startup Type scroll bar Click OK

Submitted by [Thomas Bitner Olson](#)

Faster DOS Printing

Submitted 6/21/03

If you are experiencing slow printing for DOS programs with Windows2000

1. Go Start | Run | Regedit
2. Click Hkey_Local_Machine
3. Click on System
4. Click CurrentControlSet
5. Click Control
6. Go to the bottom of this part of the list and click WOW
7. Click LPT timeout and change it to a 3

Submitted by [Steve Cohen](#)

Cleaning the Prefetch Directory

Added 3/2/03

WindowsXP has a new feature called Prefetch. This keeps a shortcut to recently used programs. However it can fill up with old and obsolete programs.

To clean this periodically go to:

1. Star / Run / Prefetch
 2. Press Ctrl-A to highlight all the files
 3. Delete them
-

Not Displaying Logon, Logoff, Startup and Shutdown Status Messages

Added 3/2/30

To turn these off:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\policies\system
3. If it is not already there, create a DWORD value named *DisableStatusMessages*
4. Give it a value of 1

[Download a reg file](#)

Accessing Non-Listed Display Configurations

Added 3/2/03

If you want to access display configurations not normally listed (e.g. 256 colors)

1. In the Display Properties dialog box, click the *Settings* tab.
 2. Click the *Advanced* button.
 3. Click the *Adapter* tab,
 4. Click the List all modes button.
 5. Select the resolution, color depth, and refresh rate that you want and click OK.
-

Repair Install

Added 2/9/03

If XP is corrupted to the point where none of the previous solutions get it to boot, you can do a Repair Install that might work as well as keep the current settings.

Make sure you have your valid WindowsXP key.

The whole process takes about half an hour depending on your computer

If you are being prompted for the administrator's password, you need to choose the 2nd repair option, not the first.

1. Insert and boot from your WindowsXP CD
2. At the second R=Repair option, press the R key
3. This will start the repair
4. Press F8 for I Agree at the Licensing Agreement
5. Press R when the directory where WindowsXP is installed is shown. Typically this is
C:\WINDOWS
6. It will then check the C: drive and start copying files
7. It will automatically reboot when needed. Keep the CD in the drive.

8. You will then see the graphic part of the repair that is like during a normal install of XP (*Collecting Information, Dynamic Update, Preparing Installation, Installing Windows, Finalizing Installation*)
 9. When prompted, click on the Next button
 10. When prompted, enter your XP key
 11. Normally you will want to keep the same Workgroup or Domain name
 12. The computer will reboot
 13. Then you will have the same screens as a normal XP Install
 14. Activate if you want (usually a good idea)
 15. Register if you want (but not necessary)
 16. Finish
 17. At this point you should be able to log in with any existing accounts.
-

NTOSKRNL Missing or Corrupt

Added 2/9/03

If you get an error that NTOSKRNL not found:

1. Insert and boot from your WindowsXP CD.
 2. At the first R=Repair option, press the R key
 3. Press the number that corresponds to the correct location for the installation of Windows you want to repair.
Typically this will be #1
 4. Change to the drive that has the CD ROM.
 5. CD i386
 6. expand ntkrnlmp.ex_ C:\Windows\System32\ntoskrnl.exe
 7. If WindowsXP is installed in a different location, just make the necessary change to *C:\Windows*
 8. Take out the CD ROM and type exit
-

HAL.DLL Missing or Corrupt

Added 2/9/03

If you get an error regarding a missing or corrupt hal.dll file, it might simply be the BOOT.INI file on the root of the C: drive that is misconfigured

1. Insert and boot from your WindowsXP CD.
2. At the first R=Repair option, press the R key
3. Press the number that corresponds to the correct location for the installation of Windows you want to repair.
Typically this will be #1
4. Type bootcfg /list to show the current entries in the BOOT.INI file

5. Type bootcfg /rebuild to repair it
 6. Take out the CD ROM and type exit
-

Corrupted or Missing \WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\CONFIG

Added 2/9/03

If you get the error:

Windows could not start because the following files is missing or corrupt

\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\CONFIG\SYSTEM or \WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\CONFIG\SOFTWARE

1. Insert and boot from your WindowsXP CD.
 2. At the first R=Repair option, press the R key
 3. Press the number that corresponds to the correct location for the installation of Windows you want to repair.
Typically this will be #1
 4. Enter in the administrator password when requested
 5. cd \windows\system32\config
 6. Depending on which section was corrupted:
ren software software.bad or ren system system.bad
 7. Depending on which section was corrupted
copy \windows\repair\system
copy \windows\repair\software
 8. Take out the CD ROM and type exit
-

NTLDR or NTDETECT.COM Not Found

Added 2/9/03

If you get an error that NTLDR is not found during bootup,

If you have FAT32 partitions, it is much simpler than with NTFS.

Just boot with a Win98 floppy and copy the NTLDR or NTDETECT.COM files from the i386 directory to the root of the C:\ drive.

For NTFS:

1. Insert and boot from your WindowsXP CD.
2. At the first R=Repair option, press the R key
3. Press the number that corresponds to the correct location for the installation of Windows you want to repair.
Typically this will be #1
4. Enter in the administrator password when requested

5. Enter in the following commands (X: is replaced by the actual drive letter that is assigned to the CD ROM drive.
COPY X:\i386\NTLDR C\
COPY X:\i386\NTDETECT.COM C:\
 6. Take out the CD ROM and type exit
-

Bringing Up the Shutdown Dialog Box

Added 1/31/03

1. Create a new txt file somewhere on your system, open it and put in this one line:
(new ActiveXObject("Shell.Application")).ShutdownWindows();
2. Save and Close the file. Change the extension to js and your got it.
3. You can make a shortcut to that file to make it easy to shut down your system.

Submitted by [DJ Speed Racer](#)

Adding TCP/IP Printers

Added 1/7/02

To create a connection to a printer connected to your network:

1. Start to add a new printer through the control panel.
 2. Select Local Printer / Next
 3. Instead of a LPT port, check Create a new port at the bottom on the window
 4. Scroll to Standard TCP/IP Port
 5. Keep going and enter the IP address of the printer.
-

Increasing the Folder Cache

Added 1/6/02

The default setting for WindowsXP is to cache the Explorer settings for 400 folders.
To increase it:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to *HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\ShellNoRoam*
3. Change the vaule of *BagMRU* to whatever size you want (hex)

1000 - 3e8
2000 - 7d0

3000 - bb8
4000 - fa0
5000 - 1388

You can [Download a reg](#) file that will set it for 5000

Hiding the Last User Logged On

Added 1/4/03

If you use the standard NT style of login and want to hide the last user:

1. Start the Group Policy Editor (gpedit.msc)
 2. Go to Computer Configuration / Windows Settings / Security Settings / Local Policies / Security Options
 3. Scroll down to Interactive logon: Do not display last user name
 4. Set it to Enable
-

Poweroff at Shutdown

1/4/03

If your computer does not turn off the power when doing a shutdown, you may need to edit the registry. I have all the correct BIOS and Power settings and still needed to do this.

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to *HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Desktop*
3. Edit the key *PowerOffActive* and give it a value of 1
4. You can do the same in *HKEY_USERS\DEFAULT\Control Panel\Desktop*

[Download reg file](#)

Remembering Folder Settings

Added 12/21/02

If XP does not remember your folder settings, delete or rename the following registry keys

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\ShellNoRoam\BagMRU]
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\ShellNoRoam\Bags]

[Download reg file](#)

Stop Password Expiration

Updated 12/21/02

If you want to do this for all users, enter:

Start / Run / *net accounts /maxpwage:unlimited*

Added 3/18/02

If you are getting an error message that your password is about to expire:

1. Right click on the *My Computer* icon
 2. Select *Manage*
 3. Go to *Local Users and Groups / Users*
 4. Right-click on the user you want to change
 5. Select *Properties*
 6. On the General tab, check Password never expires
 7. Click OK
-

Installing Java Virtual Machine

Updated 12/21/02

If you are getting errors when browsing the web to install Java Virtual Machine,

You can still [download it from Microsoft](#) (version 3810)

If this link is removed by MS or is too slow you can [download it here](#)

If you need a previous version, you can [download 3805](#)

It is now included in [Service Pack1](#)

You can also download [Sun's version](#)

Preventing Applications from Stealing the Focus

Added 12/14/02

To prevent applications from stealing the focus from the window you are working

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Control Panel \ Desktop
3. Edit the key *ForegroundLockTimeout*
4. Give it a value of *00030d40*

[Download reg file](#)

Disable Explorer Thumbnail View

Added 12/4/02

If you want disable the Explorer's ability to show the Thumbnail View ,

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Software \ Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ Explorer \ Advanced \
3. Change *ClassicViewState* to 1

[Download reg file](#)

Adding Environment Variables

Added 12/04/02

Since any version of NT does not use an autoexec.bat file,
to add environment variables to WindowsXP:

1. Right click on My Computer
 2. Select Properties
 3. Click on the Advanced tab
 4. Click on the Environment Variables button
 5. From here you can change it for the system or just the current user.
-

Disable Passport Pop-Up

Added 11/26/02

Normally, WindowsXP will prompt you 10 times that *You Need a Passport to use WindowsXP Internet communication features...*

To disable this

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Software \ Microsoft \ MessengerService
3. Edit the binary key *PassportBalloon*
4. Give it a value of 0A (0A 00 00 00)

Show Hidden Devices

Submitted 11/26/02

You can show hidden devices in the Device Manager. One way is by making a simple registry change. The other is through a batch file.

Registry Change:

1. Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SYSTEM \ ControlSet001 \ Control \ Session Manager \ Environment
2. Create a string *DEVMGR_SHOW_NONPRESENT_DEVICES*
3. Give it a value of 1

[Download](#) reg file

Batch File

```
@Echo Off
Prompt $p$g
set DEVMGR_SHOW_NONPRESENT_DEVICES=1
start devmgmt.msc
exit
```

Submitted by [Michael Kinsel](#)

Spell Check Not Working With Outlook Express and Office97

Added 11/23/02

This is simply due to a missing or corrupted DLL file

1. Go to the i386 directory of your XP source files
2. Run *Expand csapi3t1.dl_ csapi3t1.dll* (Note: If your source files are on a CD, you will need to put a path before the csapi3t1.dll since you can't write to the CD).
3. Copy the file to the *Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft Shared\Proof* directory
4. You can also [download](#) the file from my site.

Disable Shared Documents

Added 11/23/02

To disable the Shared Documents folder that shows up on the network

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Software \ Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ Policies \ Explorer \
3. Create a new DWORD Value
4. Give it the name *NoSharedDocuments*
5. Give it a value of 1
6. Log off or reboot

Disable the Remote Desktop Sharing (RDS) icon's menu

Submitted 11/23/02

To Disable the Remote Desktop Sharing (RDS) icon's menu:

1. Start regedit.exe
2. Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Conferencing\Mcpt
3. Create a new string value (Click on Edit > New > String Value).
4. Name the value *Nx*
5. Double-click on it and set it's value to 1
6. Close the registry

Now the menu options will be grayed out.

Submitted by [Justin Herron](#)

Prevent the Remote Desktop Sharing (RDS) icon from appearing in the notification tray

Submitted 11/23/02

To Prevent the Remote Desktop Sharing (RDS) icon from appearing in the notification tray:

1. Click Start, then Run.
2. Type *services.msc* and then click ok.
3. Scroll down until you find the *NetMeeting Remote Desktop Sharing* service
4. Double-click on it.

5. Click on the *Log On* tab.
6. Uncheck *Allow service to interact with desktop*
7. Click OK then close the services window.
8. Reboot (You must reboot).

There you go. When you return, RDS will work, but there will be no icon in the notification area.

Submitted by [Justin Herron](#)

Printing a Directory

Added 11/12/02

WindowsXP does not allow you to use previously describe methods for printing the contents of a directory.

To do this requires the creation of a small batch file which is then added to your right-click options.

Batch File

On the root of the C: drive, create a batch file called `print_directory.bat` with the following lines:

```
@echo off
dir %1 /o:g > c:\directory.txt
start /w notepad /p c:\directory.txt
del c:\directory.txt
exit
```

Note: `dir %1 /o:g` will print with any directories listed first. You can add whatever other switches you like

Adding to the Explorer Right Click

1. Start the Explorer
2. Go to Tools / Folder Options
3. On the File Types tab, click *File Folder*.
4. Click Advanced button and then click New.
5. In the Action box, type *Print Directory* (or whatever text you want to appear).
6. In the Application used to perform action box, type `C:\print_directory.bat`, and then click OK.
7. Click OK, click OK, and then click Close

Fixing the Registry

Sometimes after adding the right click with the Explorer, the default setting for opening a folder is changed.

To correct this:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT \ Directory \ shell
3. Edit the default value to be *explorer* or *none*

[Download reg file](#)

Removing Thumbs.db Files

Added 11/12/02

When viewing a folder with the Thumbnail view, WindowsXP creates a *thumbs.db* file. This is a cache of the current pictures in that directory. If you want to turn this feature off and save a little disk space

1. Start the Windows Explorer
 2. Go to Tools / Folder Options / View
 3. In the first section under Files and Folders, check *Do not cache thumbnails*
 4. Now you can search for the thumbs.db file on your computer and remove them. No more should be created.
-

Enable / Disable the Task Manager

Added 10/17/02

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System
3. Create the Dword value *DisableTaskMgr*
4. Give it a value of 0 to enable it
5. Give it a vaule of 1 to disable it

[Download Reg File](#)

Saving Desktop Settings

Added 9/11/02

If you desktop or folders on your desktop do not retain their settings:

Start Regedit

1. Go go HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Program Manager\Restrictions
2. Create or edit the DWORD value *NoSaveSettings*
3. Give it a value of 0

[Download reg file](#)

Hiding the Windows Version on the Desktop

Added 9/10/02

If your version of WindowsXP is displaying on the desktop and you would like to remove it:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Control Panel \ Desktop
3. Edit or Create the DWORD entry *PaintDesktopVersion*
4. A value of 0 will hide the version from the desktop
5. Logoff or reboot

[Download reg file](#)

To make this change for all future users, edit HKEY_USERS\DEFAULT\Control Panel\Desktop in the same manner.

Using Media Player 6.4

Added 9/10/02

If you want to use the older version of Microsoft Media Player 6.4, it is still on your computer.

Make a shortcut on your desktop to the:
C:\Program Files\Windows Media Player\mplayer2.exe file

You can also change the file associations from this program to set it as the default for all media types.

Controlling the Desktop Cleanup Wizard

Added 7/24/02

By default, the Desktop Cleanup Wizard will pop up every 60 days to cleanup your desktop.

To stop this:

1. Right click on the desktop.
 2. Select Properties
 3. Click on the Desktop tab
 4. Click on the Customize Desktop button
 5. Uncheck Run Desktop Cleanup Wizard
-

Clearing the Page File on Shutdown

Updated 7/24/02

Another way to set the computer to clear the pagefile without directly editing the registry is:

1. Click on the Start button
2. Go to the Control Panel
3. Administrative Tools
4. Local Security Policy
5. Local Policies
6. Click on Security Options
7. Right hand menu - right click on "Shutdown: Clear Virtual Memory Pagefile"
8. Select "Enable"
9. Reboot

Submitted by [Arthur Pounder](#)

Added 8/16/01

If you want to clear the page file on each shutdown:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Memory Management\ClearPageFileAtShutdown
3. Set the value to 1

[Download reg file](#)

Restoring Access to CD ROMs

Added 5/22/02

If after you remove CD Burning software, you can no longer access your CD ROM's, the following registry keys need to be deleted:

Locate and delete the UpperFilters and LowerFilters values under the following key in the registry:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Class\{4D36E965-E325-11CE-BFC1-08002BE10318}

[Download Reg File](#)

ReInstalling WindowsXP

Added 5/21/02

If you need to reinstall WindowsXP and want to keep all your current installed applications and settings:

1. Start WindowsXP
2. Go to the location of your source files
3. Run *WINNT32 /unattend*

I've often need to do this to repair something that had gotten corrupted and didn't want to do a clean install.

Setting the Dir Command to Display Filenames on the Left

Added 5/10/02

Previous versions of Windows displayed the filenames on the left hand side when you run the *dir* command.

WindowsXP changes this and the default it to put it on the right.

To change this back:

1. Right click on *My Computer*
 2. Click on *Properties*
 3. Click on the *Advanced* tab
 4. Click on the *Environment Variables* button
 5. Click on *New* button
 6. Enter the Variable name: *dircmd*
 7. Enter the Variable value: */-n*
-

Dell Computer Not Keeping Correct Time

Added 5/5/02

If your Dell computer is losing time while the computer is turned on,
You can run the following commands:

1. Start / Run / CMD
2. Net stop w32time
3. w32tm /unregister
4. w32tm /unregister
5. w32tm /register
6. Net start w32time

You can also download a [Dell Patch](#) to do the same process automatically

Fix Browsing Delay to Win98/ME Computers

Added 5/18/01

If you experience a 30 second or so delay when browsing to Windows98 or WindowsME computers, delete the following registry key on the Windows2000 or WindowsXP computer.

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE / Software / Microsoft / Windows / CurrentVersion / Explorer / RemoteComputer / NameSpace {D6277990-4C6A-11CF-8D87-00AA0060F5BF}

[Download reg file](#)

Formatting a Partition Greater than 32 GIGs with FAT32

Added 4/27/02

WindowsXP will only format a partition greater than 32 GIGs as NTFS.
If you want to format it with FAT32:

1. You can use a regular Win98 Boot disk and use that version of FDISK to create the partition (with Large Hard Drive Support)
 2. Reboot with the same boot disk and format
 3. WindowsXP will then be able to use the partition with no problems
-

Adding SafeBoot to the Boot Menu

Added 4/23/02

You can add Safeboot as an option to the normal XP boot screen

1. Open a command prompt
 2. Copy the current `c:\boot.ini` to another name (just in case)
 3. With your favorite text editor, edit `c:\boot.ini`
 4. Copy then edit the current boot line to another line. For example:
`multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Microsoft Windows XP Professional" /fastdetect`
might copy and then change to:
`multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Microsoft Windows XP Professional Safeboot" /fastdetect`
 5. Start `MSCONFIG`
 6. Click on the `BOOT.INI` tab
 7. Highlight the second line with the additional name of Safeboot
 8. Check the `/SAFEBOOT` box with option you want
Minimal - Minimal set of drivers
Network - With Network Support
Dsrepair - Directory Services Repair
Minimal (Alternate Shell) - Standard Explorer Desktop
 9. You will now have this option every time you start XP
-

No GUI Boot

Added 4/23/02

If you don't need to see the XP boot logo,

1. Run `MSCONFIG`
 2. Click on the `BOOT.INI` tab
 3. Check the box for `/NOGUIBOOT`
-

Speeding the Startup of Some CD Burner Programs

Added 4/23/02

If you use program other than the native WindowsXP CD Burner software, you might be able to increase the speed that it loads.

1. Go to *Control Panel / Administrative Tools / Services*
 2. Double-click on *IMAPI CD-Burning COM Service*
 3. For the *Startup Type*, select Disabled
 4. Click on the OK button and then close the Services window
 5. If you dontYou should notice
-

Getting Rid of *Unread Email Messages*

Updated 4/20/02

To remove the Unread Email message by user's login names:

1. Start Regedit
2. For a single user: Go to
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\UnreadMail
3. For all users: Go to
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\UnreadMail
4. Create a DWORD key called MessageExpiryDays
5. Give it a value of 0

[Download reg file](#)

Using the Internet Explorer Classic Search

Added 4/20/02

If you want to use the classic search engine in the Internet Explorer

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Main
3. If it is not there, create a String Value of *Use Search Asst*
4. Give it a value of *no*

[Download reg file](#)

Logging in as Administrator

Added 4/11/02

If you want to log in as Administrator, but it is not show on the Welcome screen,

1. Hold the Ctrl-Alt key and press Del twice.
2. This will bring up the normal login and you can log on as Administrator

To unhide the Administrator account so it does show up:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SOFTWARE \ Microsoft \ Windows NT \ CurrentVersion \ Winlogon \ SpecialAccounts \ UserList
3. Unhide the Administrator key by giving it a value of 1

[Download reg file](#)

Correcting Fast User Switching Error

Added 4/11/02

If you are getting an error that:

A recently installed program has disabled the Welcome screen and Fast User Switching with a reference to CSGina.DLL

1. Start Regedit
2. HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon
3. Delete the key *GinaDLL*

[Download reg file](#)

Using the Classic Search in Explorer

Added 4/11/02

If you prefer to use the classic search style in Explorer,

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\CabinetState
3. Add a String Key called *Use Search Asst*
4. Give it a value of *no*

[Download reg file](#)

No To All When Overwriting Files

Added 4/5/02

When overwriting files in the Windows Explorer, there is an option for *Yes To All*. This would overwrite any files you would normally be prompted for.

To have *No To All*, simply hold down the Shift key while you click on the *No* option.

Re-Installing User Login Pictures

Added 4/5/02

Normally WindowsXP shows assigned pictures for each user on the system.

If you have deleted your user pictures, want to know the location, or need to reinstall them, they are stored in the C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Microsoft\User Account Pictures\Default Pictures directory.

If you need to reinstall them, they can be expanded from the source CD. The actual files are:

airplane.bmp
astronaut.bmp
ball.bmp
butterfly.bmp
cat.bmp
fish.bmp
pink flower.bmp
guitar.bmp
snowflake.bmp
beach.bmp
car.bmp
chess.bmp
dirt bike.bmp
dog.bmp
drip.bmp
duck.bmp
frog.bmp
horses.bmp
kick.bmp
lift-off.bmp
palm tree.bmp
red flower.bmp
skater.bmp

WINIPCFG for XP

Added 4/1/02

If you like the graphic IP configuration program that comes with Windows98, you can download a similar one for WindowsXP or Windows2000 from Microsoft at: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/techinfo/reskit/tools/existing/wntipcfg-o.asp>

The actual file is at:
[WntIpcfg_setup.exe](#)

Search Companion Error

Added 4/1/02

When doing a file search, if you get the error *A File That Is Required to Run Search Companion Cannot Be Found*

1. Log on as an Administrator
2. Click Start
3. Select Run
4. Enter in the command - `%systemroot%\inf`
5. Right-click the *Srchasst.inf* file
6. Click *Install*

Installing the Backup Program on the Home Version

Added 4/1/02

By default, the NTBACKUP program is not installed on the home version.

You can find it on the CD in the \VALUEADD\MSFT\NTBACKUP directory

Since not all vendors include the actual source code for XP, you can [download a copy](#)

Changing Drive Letters

Added 3/30/02

If you want to change the letters assigned to your fixed or removable drives:

1. Right Click on *My Computer*
2. Select *Manage*
3. Select *Disk Management*

For a Fixed Disk:

1. Select it
2. Right click
3. Select *Change Drive Letter and Path*
4. Click on the *Edit* button
5. Enter in the letter you want to use

For a Removable Disk:

1. In the lower, right hand panel, right click on the Disk or CD ROM #
2. Select *Change Drive Letter and Path*
3. Click on the *Edit* button
4. Enter in the letter you want to use

Note: This can only be done for drives that do not have the Operating System Installed or you are booting to.

Turn off the Windows Picture and Fax Viewer as the Default Image Viewer

Updated 3/29/02

You can also change the file associations for the specific file types you want.

1. Open the Windows Explorer
2. Go to *Tools / Folder Options / File Types*
3. Scroll down to the extension you want to change
4. Click on the *Change* button
5. Select the program you want to associate with that extension
6. Click on the *OK* button

Added 3/4/02

If the *Windows Picture and Fax Viewer* is set as the default for many of your graphic file types, you can remove it so other graphics programs can be used.

1. Run Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT / SystemFileAssociations / image / ShellEx / ContextMenuHandlers
3. Delete the key *ShellImagePreview*

[Download reg file](#)

Allowing Network Access with Blank Passwords

Added 3/23/02

Although you can log in locally without a password, by default, WindowsXP Pro does not allow network users to access the computer without a password. Typically you will receive an *Unknown error 31* if this is the case.

To change this setting:

1. Run *gpedit.msc*
 2. Go to *Computer Configuration / Windows Settings / Security Settings / Local Policies / Security Options*
 3. Double click on *Accounts: Limit local account use of blank passwords to console login only*
 4. Disable this option
-

Changing the Default DOS Window Properties

Added 3/22/02

If you want to change the default DOS windows properties like:

- Size
 - Color
 - Font
 - Buffer Size
 - Window / Full Screen
1. Open up a DOS window
 2. Right click on the Title Bar
 3. Select Defaults
 4. Make any of the changes you like
 5. All subsequent DOS windows will assume these defaults
-

Changing the Registered Owner

Added 3/20/02

1. Start Regedit
 2. HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion
 3. From there you can edit the name in the Registered Owner key
-

Opening a Command Prompt to a Particular Directory from Explorer

Added 3/18/02

If you want to open a command prompt to a directory that is selected in the Explorer:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT \Directory \shell
3. Create a new key called *Command*

4. Give it the value of the name you want to appear in the Explorer. Something like *Open DOS Box*
5. Under this create a new key called *command*
6. Give it a value of *cmd.exe /k "cd %L"*
7. Now when you are in the Explorer, right click on a folder, select *Open DOS Box*, and a command prompt will open to the selected directory.

[Download reg file](#)

Adding Time Servers

Added 3/18/02

With WindowsXP, you can double-click on the time in the System Tray and connect to Time Servers on the Internet to synchronize with.

To add to the list of available servers:

1. Start Regedit
 2. Go to
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\DateTime\Servers
 3. Add new string keys named 2, 3, etc. with a value of the time server you want to use.
-

Creating a Boot Floppy

Added 3/14/02

To create a bootable floppy from within WindowsXP:

1. Insert a floppy into the A: drive
 2. Open the Explorer
 3. Right click on the A: Drive
 4. Select Format
 5. Check *Create an MS-DOS startup disk*
 6. Click on the *Start* button
 7. This will create a Millennium boot disk
-

Changing the Login Screen Saver

Added 3/8/02

If you want to change the screen saver that runs at the login prompt:

Start Regedit

1. Go to HK_USERS / .DEFAULT / Control Panel / Desktop
 2. Double click on SCRNSAVE.EXE
 3. Enter in the screen saver you want to use
-

Running NetMeeting

Added 3/8/02

To run NetMeeting:

1. Do a Start / Run
 2. Enter *conf*
 3. Answer the prompts along the way for name, e-mail etc.
-

Set the Online Registration as Being Completed

Added 3/4/02

You can set WindowsXP to assume the online registration has been completed.

1. Run Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SOFTWARE \ Microsoft \ Windows NT \ CurrentVersion
3. Create a String Value called *RegDone*
4. Give it a value of 1

[Download reg file](#)

Decreasing Boot Time

Added 3/4/02

Microsoft has made available a program to analyze and decrease the time it takes to boot to WindowsXP

The program is called [BootVis](#)

1. Uncompress the file.
2. Run BOOTVIS.EXE
3. For a starting point, run Trace / Next Boot + Driver Delays
4. This will reboot your computer and provide a benchmark
5. After the reboot, BootVis will take a minute or two to show graphs of your system startup.

6. Note how much time it takes for your system to load (click on the red vertical line)
 7. Then run Trace / Optimize System
 8. Re-Run the Next Boot + Drive Delays
 9. Note how much the time has decreased
 10. Mine went from approximately 39 to 30 seconds.
-

Re-Enabling System Restore

Added 3/3/02

If you previously disabled system restore through the Group Policy Editor, the option to start it again does not show in the System Properties.

You can re-enable it again by:

1. Run the Group Policy Editor (gpedit.msc)
 2. Go to *Computer Configuration / Administrative Templates / System / System Restore*
 3. Set *Turn off System Restore* and *Turn off Configuration* to *Disable*
 4. Right click on *My Computer*
 5. Select *Manage*
 6. Go to *Services and Applications / Services*
 7. Scroll down to *System Restore Service*
 8. Set it for *Automatic*
 9. Click on the *Start* button to start the service
 10. Close down this window
 11. Go back to the Group Policy Editor and configure both to *Not configured*
 12. Now when you right click on *My Computer*, there should be a tab for System Restore and you can configure how much space will be used.
-

Hide/Unhide Logon Names

Added 3/3/02

If you want to hide or unhide the names of users that are displayed on the initial logon screen:

1. Start Regedit
 2. Go to `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SOFTWARE \ Microsoft \ Windows NT \ CurrentVersion \ Winlogon \ SpecialAccounts \ UserList`
 3. Add a DWORD with the name of the user account you want to hide
 4. Make sure it has a value of 0
 5. If there is an existing account, you can unhide it by giving it a value of 1
-

Reinstalling the TCP/IP Protocol

Added 3/2/02

If you've worked on previous versions of Windows, there are times when you need to completely reinstall the TCP/IP protocol stack. This is typically due to corrupted files.

To do this with XP, you need to run a small script:

```
netsh int ip reset [ log_file_name ]
```

the *log_file_name* needs to be specified.

e.g.

```
netsh int ip reset ip_reset.txt
```

Renaming the Start Button

Added 2/25/02

To rename the start button, you will need a hex editor. My preference is UltraEdit

1. Copy the `\windows\explore.exe` file to a new name (e.g. `explorer_1.exe`)
2. With the hex editor, open that file and go to offset 412b6
3. You will see the word *start* with blanks between each letter
4. Edit it be any 5 characters or less
5. Save the file
6. Boot to DOS
7. Copy the existing `c:\windows\explorer.exe` to `explorer.org`
8. Copy `explorer_1.exe` to `explorer.exe`
9. You will also need to replace the `explorer.exe` in the `c:\windows\system32\dlldatacache` file as well with the new one.

Note: If the partition is NTFS and you can't access the files from DOS:

1. Start Regedit
 2. Go to `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SOFTWARE \ Microsoft \ Windows NT \ CurrentVersion \ Winlogon.`
 3. Change the value of *Shell* from `Explorer.exe` to `explorer_1.exe`
-

Rollback a Device Driver

Added 2/18/02

If you install a device drive that does not work correctly, you can restore the previous one fairly easily.

1. Log in with an administrator account
2. Right click on *My Computer*
3. Select *Properties*
4. Click on the *Hardware* tab
5. Click on the *Device Manager* button
6. Go to the device you want to reconfigure
7. Click on the *Driver* tab
8. Click on the *Roll Back Drive* button

Selecting What Details to Display in the Explorer

Added 2/3/02

To add or remove items to be displayed in the Explorer when using the Details View

1. Start the Explorer
2. Go to *View / Choose Details*
3. Right click on the columns by Name and check or uncheck any item you want displayed

Available options are:

- Owner
- Name
- Size
- Type
- Date Modified
- Status
- Attributes
- Author
- Title
- Subject
- Category
- Pages
- Comments
- Copyright
- Date Created
- Date Accessed
- Attributes
- Artist
- Album Title
- Year
- Track Number
- Genre

- Duration
 - Bit Rate
 - Protected
 - Camera Model
 - Date Picture Taken
 - Dimensions
 - Company
 - Description
 - File Version
 - Product Name
 - Product Version
-

Closing Multiple Taskbar Items

Submitted 2/3/02

If you hold down the Control Key when you click on the taskbar icons, it selects multiple tasks. Then you can simply right-click on the selected items and choose close group.

This tip works with all windows, not just one applications. If you have the cal, ie, notepad and solitaire open, it will close them all, unlike the group similar items command that only lets you close all of one type (ex: all IE or all notepads).

Submitted by [Terry Cadieux](#)

Remembering Outlook / Outlook Express Password

Submitted 1/26/02

On systems, Outlook or Outlook Express will not remember the e-mail password, which would then need to be entered in each time.

To solve the problem:

1. Open Registry Editor
2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Software \ Microsoft
3. Right Click Protected Storage System Provider
4. Choose the *Permissions* option
5. Click the *Advanced* box near the bottom right hand corner. This should open another box, Towards the bottom of this box there should be two tick boxes, make sure that both of them are ticked. Click Apply, another box will open Click Yes, then Click OK and OK again.
6. Left Click the + next to Protected Storage System Provider and Delete any sub folder in this tree. (Right clicking and choose the delete option or press the delete key and choosing yes to delete)

7. Shutdown and Restart Computer.

Submitted by [Naste](#)

Turning Off the Firewall

Added 1/26/02

If you want to turn off the firewall for your computer:

1. Go to *Start / Settings / Network Connections*
 2. Right click on the network connection you want to change
 3. Select *Properties*
 4. Click on the *Advanced* tab
 5. Uncheck the box in Internet Connection Firewall
-

Grouping Similar Taskbar Buttons

Added 1/26/02

When you open more than one document in the same program and then minimize each document, rather than showing separate icons on the taskbar for each document, WindowsXP groups them under a single icon for that application.

If you want to group, or ungroup, similar taskbar buttons,

1. Right click on the Taskbar
 2. Select *Properties*
 3. Check or Uncheck *Group similar taskbar buttons*
-

Turning Off the Guest Account

Added 1/22/02

For security purposes, you might want to turn off the Guest account

1. Open up the *Control Panel*
2. Click on *User Accounts*
3. Click on *Change an account*
4. Click on the Guest account
5. Click *Turn off the guest account*

Original NT Style Logon Screen

Updated 1/19/02

If you want to have the original NT style windows logon screen with XP, simply hold the Ctrl-Alt keys and press the delete key twice.

The following Update Submitted by:

[Steven Pennypacker](#)

To make a permanent change so the logon screen is always like the traditional NT4/2000 style:

1. Go to the Control Panel
2. Open up *User Accounts*
3. Click *Change the way users log on and off*
4. Uncheck *Use the Welcome screen*
5. Click on *Apply Options*

Turning Off the Built-In CD Burner

Added 1/15/02

If you want to turn off the ability to using the built-in CD burner software that comes with WindowsXP:

1. Open up the Explorer
2. Right click on the drive that is your CD burner
3. Select *Properties*
4. Click on the *Recording* tab
5. Uncheck *Enable CD recording on this drive*

Hiding System Tray Icons

Added 1/10/02

With WindowsXP, you can manually select how you want individual icons in the System Tray to be displayed.

1. Right click on the Taskbar
2. Select *Properties*
3. Check *Hide inactive icons*
4. Click on the *Customize* button

5. This will bring up a dialog box that will allow you to select one of three options for your applications:
Hide when inactive, Always hide, or always show
 6. Highlight current or past applications and make any changes you like.
 7. A small arrow will now appear in the System Tray that will allow you to show or hide these icons.
-

Faster Task Switching

Added 1/6/02

If you installed WindowsXP Power Tools from Microsoft, when you press Alt-Tab to switch between running applications, you get a screen that shows a small graphic of the window that is of that application along with its icon.

This also takes a long time to display. (Or at least longer than I'm comfortable with)

You can speed this up and revert back to previous ways task switching is displayed.

To Turn This Off After Your Reboot:

1. Run MSCONFIG
2. Click on the *Startup* tab
3. Uncheck *Taskswitch*
4. Click on the *OK* button
5. If you want to keep working, click on *Exit without Restart*

To Turn This Off Immediately:

1. Press Ctrl-Alt-Delete
 2. Click on the *Processes* tab
 3. Highlight *TaskSwitch.exe*
 4. Click on the *End Process* tab
 5. Click on the *Yes* button
-

WindowsXP Command Line Utilities

Added 1/5/02

While there are a lot of command line utilities in WindowsXP, here are some that I have been using lately.

bootcfg - Configures, queries, or changes Boot.ini file settings.

driverquery - Displays a list of all installed device drivers and their properties.

getmac - Returns the media access control (MAC) address and list of network protocols associated with each address for all network cards in each computer

gpresult - Displays Group Policy settings and Resultant Set of Policy (RSOP) for a user or a computer

netsh - You can use commands in the Netsh Interface IP context to configure the TCP/IP protocol

schtasks - Schedules commands and programs to run periodically or at a specific time

systeminfo - Displays detailed configuration information about a computer and its operating system

Disabling Error Reporting

Added 12/5/01

By default, WindowsXP will request to report application errors to Microsoft.
To turn this off:

1. Right click on the *My Computer* icon on the desktop
 2. Select *Properties / Advanced*
 3. Click on the *Error Reporting* tab
 4. Check *Disable error reporting*
-

Adding a Title for the Command Prompt Title Bar

Added 11/27/01

If you create a batch file that might take a while to run,
you can add a title to the command prompt title bar it by simply adding the line:

title YOUR TEXT

where YOUR TEXT would be replaced by whatever text you want to show.

Increasing Graphics Performance

Added 11/27/01

By default, WindowsXP turns on a lot of shadows, fades, slides etc to menu items.
Most simply slow down their display.

To turn these off selectively:

1. Right click on the *My Computer* icon
 2. Select *Properties*
 3. Click on the *Advanced* tab
 4. Under Performance, click on the *Settings* button
 5. To turn them all off, select *Adjust for best performance*
 6. My preference is to leave them all off except for *Show shadows under mouse pointer* and *Show window contents while dragging*
-

Creating an Automated Install of WindowsXP

Added 11/12/01

On the WindowsXP CP, in the SUPPORT\TOOLS directory, there is a file called DEPLOY.CAB.

1. Extract the programs DEPLOY.CHM (help file) and SETUPMGR.EXE (main program)
 2. Run SETUPMGR and answer the prompts.
 3. This will create both a unattend.bat and unattend.txt file you can use for automated installs.
 4. Note: The batch file might need some minor modification for file locations but it is fairly basic.
-

Creating a Shutdown/Reboot Icon

Added 11/11/01

WindowsXP has a program called SHUTDOWN.EXE which allows you to easily create icons to shutdown or restart your computer.

To create a shutdown shortcut on the desktop:

1. Right click on an open area of the desktop
2. Select New / Shortcut
3. Enter in "shutdown -s -t 00" - no quotes
4. Press the Next button
5. For the name, enter in anything you like. I just use shutdown. Click on the Finish button.

For a reboot, enter "shutdown -r -t 00"

Shutdown [{-l|-sl-rl-a}] [-f] [-m [\ComputerName]] [-t xx] [-c "message"] [-d[u][p]:xx:yy]

Parameters

- -l - Logs off the current user, this is also the default. -m ComputerName takes precedence.

- -s - Shuts down the local computer.
 - -r - Reboots after shutdown.
 - -a - Aborts shutdown. Ignores other parameters, except -l and ComputerName. You can only use -a during the time-out period.
 - -f - Forces running applications to close.
 - -m [\ComputerName] - Specifies the computer that you want to shut down.
 - -t xx - Sets the timer for system shutdown in xx seconds. The default is 20 seconds.
 - -c "message" - Specifies a message to be displayed in the Message area of the System Shutdown window. You can use a maximum of 127 characters. You must enclose the message in quotation marks.
-

Command Line Help Reference

Added 11/11/01

To get a quick help for all the commands you can enter from WindowsXP, simply create a shortcut:

hh.exe ms-its:C:\WINDOWS\Help\ntcmds.chm::/ntcmds.htm

Using the System File Checker

Added 11/11/01

You can run the System File Checker to verify protected system files.

Command line switches are:

`sfc [/scannow] [/scanonce] [/scanboot] [/revert] [/purgecache] [/cachesize=x]`

- /scannow - Scans all protected system files immediately.
 - /scanonce - Scans all protected system files once.
 - /scanboot - Scans all protected system files every time the computer is restarted.
 - /revert - Returns the scan to its default operation.
 - /purgecache - Purges the Windows File Protection file cache and scans all protected system files immediately.
 - /cachesize=x - Sets the size, in MB, of the Windows File Protection file cache.
-

Disabling Balloon Tips

Added 11/9/01

To turn off balloon tips in applications that support XP Themes:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced\
3. Create a DWORD value of *EnableBalloonTips*
4. Give it a value of 0

[Download reg file](#)

Speeding Up the Display of Start Menu Items

Added 11/8/01

An easy way to speed up the display of the Start Menu Items is to turn off the menu shadow.

1. Right click on an open area of the Desktop
 2. Select *Properties*
 3. Click on the *Appearance* tab
 4. Click on the *Effects* button
 5. Uncheck *Show shadows under menus*
-

Installing the NetBEUI Protocol

Added 11/7/01

Microsoft no longer supports the NetBEUI protocol as part of WindowsXP.

You can add it as a installable protocol by going to the *VALUEADD\MSFT\NET\NETBEUI* directory on the CD ROM.

Note: *%SYSTEMROOT%* refers to the drive and directory where you installed WindowsXP. Typically this is in the C:\WINDOWS directory

1. Copy the nbf.sys into the *%SYSTEMROOT%\SYSTEM32\DRIVERS* directory
2. Copy netnbf.inf into the *%SYSTEMROOT%\INF* directory
3. Open the Network connection properties for your local area network and use "Install..." button to add NetBEUI protocol

I included a [zipped file](#) with the above files and a simple batch file to copy both to the appropriate directories

This is only if you absolutely need NetBEUI. It is not at all a necessary requirement for most networks.

Setting System Time Over the Internet

Added 11/5/01

You can set your system clock to a time server on the Internet.

1. Double-click the time on your taskbar
2. Click the *Internet Time* tab
3. Check *Automatically synchronize with an Internet time server*
4. Click on the *Update Now* button

Creating a Password Recovery Disk

Added 11/5/01

In case you forget your password, you can create a password recovery floppy disk beforehand to help you out of this problem.

1. Single-click Start menu
2. Go to the Control Panel / User Accounts
3. Click the User Account
4. On the left hand side, click on *Prevent forgotten password*
5. You will need to know your password to create the disk.
6. If you don't remember your password sometime in the future, click on the green arrow like normal at the login and you will be prompted to insert the password recover disk.

Changing the Default Search Settings

Added 11/5/01

By default, when you start a search, you are prompted for what you want to search for. (e.g. Pictures, Documents, Files, Computers)

To change the preferences, simply click on *Change preferences*

From here you can:

1. Turn off the animated screen character
2. Change files and folders search behavior (setting it to Advanced changes the default search screen to be for simply files)
3. Internet search settings

4. Turn off balloon tips
-

Opening an Explorer Window to the Directory You Want

Added 9/4/01

If you want to create a shortcut for the Explorer to a specific directory, include the directory you want in the Target.

For example:

%SystemRoot%\explorer.exe /n, /e, d:\internet

would open the Explorer to the D:\INTERNET directory

Disabling Hibernation

Added 8/20/01

If you don't want to use up the disk space taken by Hibernation, or don't need to use it at all, you can easily disable it.

1. Open up the *Control Panel / Power Options* icon
 2. Click on the *Hibernation* icon
 3. Uncheck *Enable Hibernation*
-

Locking the Workstation

Added 8/19/01

There are two ways you can lock the workstation.

1. With a Windows key + L
 2. Create an shortcut *rundll32.exe user32.dll,LockWorkStation*
-

Changing the Picture Displayed for a User

Added 8/19/01

You can change the picture that gets displayed for a particular user

1. Go to the Control Panel
 2. Select *User Accounts*
 3. Click on the Account to change
 4. Click on *Change my picture*
 5. You can then browse to the picture you want to use
-

Displaying the QuickLaunch Toolbar

Added 8/16/01

By default, WindowsXP does not show the QuickLaunch toolbar.
To enable it again:

1. Right click on an open area of the toolbar
2. Select Toolbars
3. Select Quick Launch

Now you can add programs like with Win98

Increasing System Performance

Added 8/16/01

If you have 512 megs or more of memory, you can increase system performance by having the core system kept in memory.

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Memory Management\DisablePagingExecutive
3. Set the value to be 1
4. Reboot the computer

[Download reg file](#)

Removing the MSN Messenger

Added 8/16/01

If you want to remove the MSN Messenger from always starting in the system tray, do

1. Start / Run

2. Then enter in the following string: `RunDll32 advpack.dll,LaunchINFSection %windir%\INF\msmsgs.inf,BLC.Remove`

To remove it completely, see the section [Adding / Removing Additional Programs](#)

Remove the *hide* from the line:

```
msmsgs=msgrocm.dll,OcEntry,msmsgs.inf,hide,7
```

Common Command Console Utilities

Added 8/16/01

WindowsXP comes with quite a few console utilities you can easily run from the command line:

Computer Management - `compmgmt.msc`
Disk Management - `diskmgmt.msc`
Device Manager - `devmgmt.msc`
Disk Defrag - `dfrg.msc`
Event Viewer - `eventvwr.msc`
Shared Folders - `fsmgmt.msc`
Group Policies - `gpedit.msc`
Local Users and Groups - `lusrmgr.msc`
Performance Monitor - `perfmon.msc`
Resultant Set of Policies - `rsop.msc`
Local Security Settings - `secpol.msc`
Services - `services.msc`
Component Services - `comexp.msc`

Automatically Ending Non-Responsive Tasks

Added 8/16/01

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to `HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Desktop\AutoEndTasks`
3. Set the value to be 1
4. In the same section, change the `WaitToKillAppTimeout` to the number of milliseconds you want.

[Download reg file](#)

Changing the Internet Explorer Title

Added 8/16/01

1. Start Regedit
 2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Main\Window Title
 3. Enter what you want appear in the title bar
-

Changing Visual Effects

Added 8/16/01

To change visual effects such as fade menus, mouse shadow, visual styles on buttons, drop shadows for icons, slide open boxes and buttons etc.:

1. Right click on *My Computer*
 2. Select *Properties*
 3. Click on the *Advanced* tab
 4. Under Performance, click on the *Settings* button
 5. From here you have a list of items you can select
-

Changing System Restore Settings

Added 8/16/01

By default, WindowsXP uses a large amount of hard drive space for storing system restore points. If this is not necessary, you can change the settings.

1. Go to Start / Programs / Accessories / System Tools
 2. Run System Restore
 3. For each drive or partition, you can click on the *Setting* button to change how much hard drive space is devoted to each one.
 4. There is even the option to turn it off for all drives.
-

Configuring the Firewall

Added 8/16/01

WindowsXP has firewall capabilities built into the operating system.

1. For your network connection to the Internet, select *Properties*
2. Click on the *Advanced* tab
3. Check the *Internet Connection Firewall* section
4. Click on the *Settings* button to change the settings

Changing Programs That Start Automatically

Added 8/16/01

WindowsXP has a similar program, *MSCONFIG*, that was available in Windows98. This allows you to view and change what programs are automatically started each time you log in.

The new version also allows you to view and edit the boot.ini file (as well as check for errors and use several advanced switches)

Adding / Removing Additional Programs

Added 8/16/01

By default, WindowsXP does not display all the programs you can add or remove. To show this list:

Edit the \Windows\Inf\sysoc.inf file

In the Components section, simply remove the word *hide*.

This will leave two commas together (like on the rest of the items).

Then you can go to the Control Panel / Add or Remove Programs / Add/Remove Windows Components and the new items will be displayed.

[Components]

```
NtComponents=ntoc.dll,NtOcSetupProc,,4
WBEM=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,wbemoc.inf,hide,7
Display=desk.cpl,DisplayOcSetupProc,,7
Fax=fxsocm.dll,FaxOcmSetupProc,fxsocm.inf,,7
NetOC=netoc.dll,NetOcSetupProc,netoc.inf,,7
iis=iis.dll,OcEntry,iis.inf,,7
com=comsetup.dll,OcEntry,comnt5.inf,hide,7
dte=msdtestp.dll,OcEntry,dtent5.inf,hide,7
IndexSrv_System = setupqry.dll,IndexSrv,setupqry.inf,,7
TerminalServer=TsOc.dll, HydraOc, TsOc.inf,hide,2
msmq=msmqocm.dll,MsmqOcm,msmqocm.inf,,6
ims=imsinsnt.dll,OcEntry,ims.inf,,7
fp_extensions=fp40ext.dll,FrontPage4Extensions,fp40ext.inf,,7
AutoUpdate=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,au.inf,hide,7
msmsgs=msgrocm.dll,OcEntry,msmsgs.inf,hide,7
msnexplr=ocmsn.dll,OcEntry,msnmsn.inf,,7
smarrtgs=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,msnsl.inf,,7
RootAutoUpdate=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,rootau.inf,,7
```

Games=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,games.inf,,7
AccessUtil=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,accessor.inf,,7
CommApps=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,communic.inf,HIDE,7
MultiM=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,multimed.inf,HIDE,7
AccessOpt=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,optional.inf,HIDE,7
Pinball=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,pinball.inf,HIDE,7
MSWordPad=ocgen.dll,OcEntry,wordpad.inf,HIDE,7
ZoneGames=zoneoc.dll,ZoneSetupProc,igames.inf,,7

Displaying and Configuring the Classic Start Menu

Added 8/16/01

If you prefer the original Start Menu, you can easily switch it back.

1. Right click on the Taksbar
 2. Select *Properties*
 3. Click on the *Start Menu* tab
 4. Select *Classic Start Menu*
 5. If you click on the *Customize* button you can choose to display Administrative Tools, Favorites, Run, and expanding many of the sub-menus like the Control Panel.
-

Increasing File System Caching

Added 8/16/01

To increase the amount of memory Windows will locked for I/O operations:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Memory Management
3. Edit the key *IoPageLockLimit*

4096 - 32megs of memory or less

8192 - 32+ megs of memory

16384 - 64+ megs of memory

32768 - 128+ megs of memory

65536 - 256+ megs of memory

Enabling NumLock on by Default

Added 8/16/01

To have numlock turned on for each user:

1. Start Regedit
2. Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Keyboard\InitialKeyboardIndicators
3. Change the value from 0 to 2
4. Turn Numlock on manually
5. Log off and back on again.
6. For all users, make the same change to HKEY_USERS\DEFAULT\Control Panel\Keyboard\InitialKeyboardIndicators

[Download reg file](#)
