

Optimizing and Tweaking Windows NT

By Kent Ward

In my previous FREE PDF's on Tweaking and Optimizing Windows 95 and 98, we jumped straight in, so let's do that here again!

Sysedit and the Win.ini file:

This file is another place to look for stray items loading during the boot up process. This file (Win.ini) is basically a database left over from the Windows 3.x days, it has been replaced by the Registry. The Win.ini file is strictly left over for backward compatibility. This file may launch files or programs during startup, particularly if you upgraded from a legacy (old) version of Windows. The Win.ini file contains two lines that may be used to launch programs: LOAD= (these programs will run minimized) and RUN= (these programs will run normally at startup).

To get to this file go to *Start / Run* then type in *Sysedit* next you need to click on the *win.ini* page.

Avoid deleting anything with which you're unfamiliar but once you know what is loaded and why you can safely remove those items that are no longer needed. To find out what is here, simply write down the name of the file or programs being loaded and then connect to the internet, go to Google (or your favorite search engine) and enter the file or program name in the search box. **I strongly recommend that you check out three or four sites for consistent information about a file before passing a verdict.**

Change your hard drive to NTFS and lose the FAT:

I strongly recommend that you run a scan disk then defrag before and after you convert the drive.

The hard drive in your computer has an organization method. There are several types available for different operating systems. Windows NT can use FAT (File allocation Table) or NTFS (New Technology File System). FAT is an old style without the security or hard drive optimization of NTFS. NTFS reduces the cluster size by using a 64-bit file system instead of the 16 or 32-bit file system that FAT partitions normally use. Changing to NTFS results in more disk space because less space will be wasted within individual clusters. The hard drive has the same capacity, it just uses the existing space more efficiently.

To convert a system you need to go through a few preparatory steps.

- The first thing to do is to **backup all of your data**, hey slips happen. Refer to great web sites like www.TheWeeklyGeek.com if you don't know how to do this properly.
- Next clean up the hard drive of old unneeded files and programs through the "Add/Remove Programs" feature. You can order the first edition of my book and check out chapter 5 for more details on how to do this step.
- The third step is to run a thorough scan disk of your drive(s) to be converted to NTFS. Scan Disk can be accessed either by *Start / Programs / Accessories / System Tools / Scandisk*. I strongly suggest when you run this you choose the *Thorough* option as well as the *Automatically repair problems* option
- Fourth, you need to defragment your hard drive. Since NT does not have a native

(installed by Microsoft) defragmenting program you will need to get one. The problem is that Windows NT is so long in the tooth, you will need to search.

- Now you can actually begin the conversion process.
- Go to the *command* prompt (*Start / Run* then type in *command*)
- Type in *convert /?* This will display your options.
- Next, you will type in *convert x: /FS:NTFS* this means convert to **File System** type **NTFS**. Replace *x* with the drive letter to be converted (usually the *C:* drive).

NTFS also allows much better file protection methods than any FAT system.

Windows NT has a default delay/countdown of 30 seconds every time you start the system. If you dual boot a delay is nice however 30 seconds is still way too long. If you don't dual boot your system then definitely 30 seconds is way too long.

- To change this, log on as normal.
- Right-click the *My Computer* icon and choose *Properties* from the drop down list.
- On the new pop-up menu that appears, choose the *Startup/Shutdown* tab (figure NT-1). You will see *System Startup* as the top part of that page.
- Change the *Show list for* to five or six seconds if you dual boot and to three seconds or less if you don't.

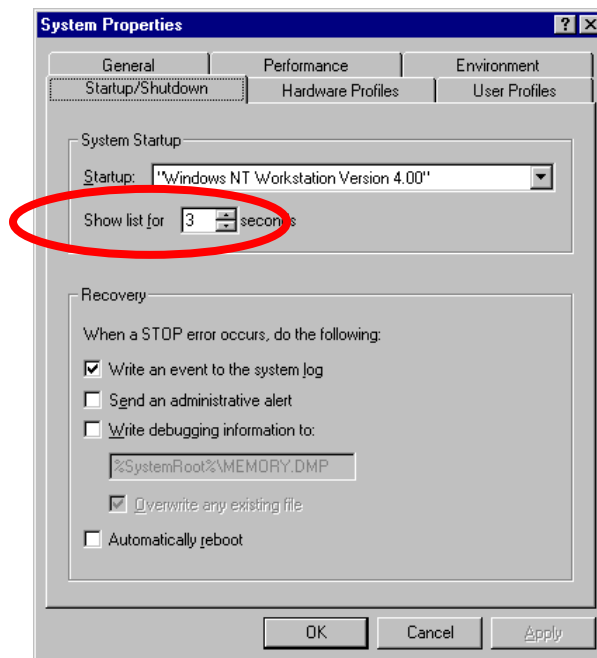


Figure NT-1

Windows NT can also have its boot delay reduced by editing the registry.

- To do so, go to *Start / Run* and type in *regedit*.
- Navigate down the left hand column to *HKEY_CURRENT_USER / Control Panel*
- Click one time on *Desktop*.
- Now on the right hand column double-click *MenuShowDelay* and changing the value to 0 (zero), this removes the delay.

This affects only the currently logged on user, so if you have several users (profiles for you techie types) you will need to log on to each one and make this change on at a time.

Watch out King Author, that rabbit may look harmless but he has huge fangs that can rip and tear. So backup the registry before beginning this procedure and do not deviate from the path that *Tim the Enchanter* hath lain out before thee. To back up thy registry, open it and select *File / Export* choose a location (usually *C:\Backup*) and follow the *Enchanter* (or *Wizard* in this case).

Virtual Memory (VM) is a place on the hard drive where Windows puts information it needs but does not have room for in RAM (memory). This is a good thing for those without a lot of RAM or whose system limits the amount RAM that can be installed. In years past, I had a couple of Dell PC's that could only hold up to 64MB of RAM, period, end of story. Yes they were Pentium 1-200MHz machines (real old and well used) however they were still in use and I needed them to perform at the top of their game.

Back to VM, when Windows "sees" that something in RAM has not been accessed as Microsoft sees fit, it (Windows) swap it (the files) into VM. Unfortunately this can happen to some of NT's important parts (the kernel for instance). If this part of the operating system is moved to VM it will dramatically slow down the response time of NT's administrative actions (will slow the computers reflexes down).

To prevent this you need to make a simple registry change. As always remember to backup your registry before making any changes, make only one change, reboot your system and test the unit for a day or two.

Warning Captain, editing the registry will lower our shields and we are in the middle of hostile Romulan space. One deviated move from the plan and even Scotty cannot get us out of this one.

1. To back up the registry go to *Start / Run*
2. Type in *Regedit*
3. Now in the upper right hand corner go to *File / Export*.
4. Next choose your export location, I strongly suggest right in the *c:\backup* folder.
5. Give it a name you will remember easily like *RegBU* or *RegBU041708* (the date at the end of the name).
6. Once you have backed up the registry you need to navigate on the left side of the screen by clicking on the "+" symbol through *HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE / SYSTEM / CurrentControlSet / Control / SessionManager / Memory Management*.
7. On the right hand side, double-click on *DisablePagingExecutive* and change the value to *1* (the number one). The default value of 0 indicates that the system is allowed to page the NT kernel and user files out to VM.
8. Select *OK* and then *Exit* the registry and reboot for the changes to take effect.

While we are on the subject of Virtual Memory (VM) we should go ahead and set it according to *Best Practices* instead of the way Microsoft wants it done. You see, Microsoft allocates a certain amount of your hard drive to serve as VM. Most every technician, including myself, has found that, in this instance, Microsoft does not know what is best.

What we are going to do is optimize your VM based on your system, after all that is what this book is all about.

- To set up VM you need to right-click on the *My Computer* icon and select *Properties*.

- The *System Properties* window will appear, click on the *Performance* tab as shown in figure NT-2.

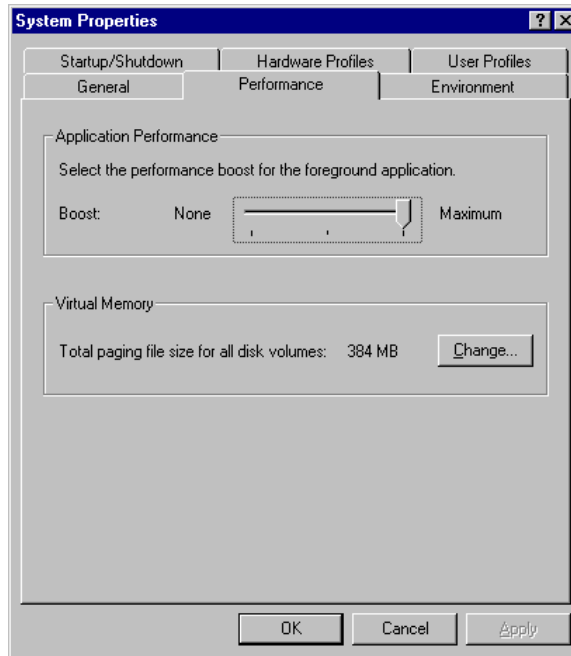


Figure NT-2

- Click on the *Change* button in the middle right hand side of the window and a new window will appear (figure NT-3).

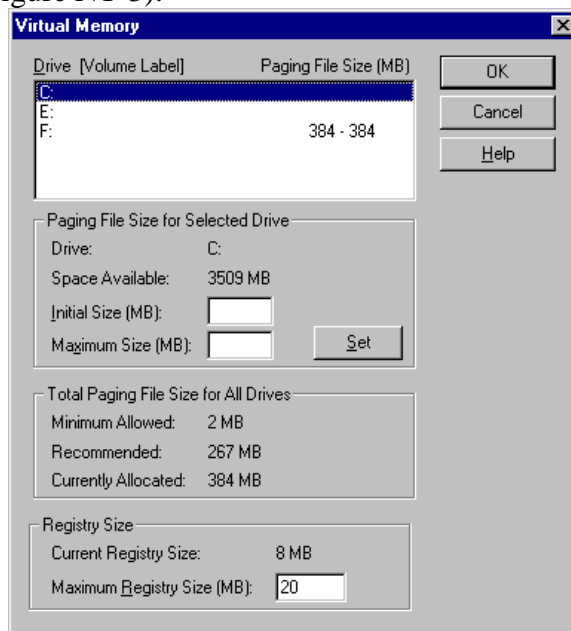


Figure NT-3

- The new window will list all of the hard drives, virtual or physical and the VM set up on each drive. In our example we have one physical drive divided into three virtual drives. *You want to set up only one VM per physical drive.*
- Highlight the drive you want to install the VM on. Under the *Paging Files Size for Selected Drive* and enter the *Initial* (Minimum) and *Maximum* amounts.

- For the *Initial Size* I suggest multiplying 1.5 times your physical RAM so if you had 256MB of RAM then the *Initial* would be 384 (256 * 1.5 = 384).
- For the *Maximum* I suggest double the amount of physical RAM so if we had 256 MB of physical RAM the *Maximum* would be 512*. So we need to change our example.

If Windows has preset the virtual memory on the C drive and you are moving it to another drive highlight C: then under the *Initial* and *Maximum* highlight the amount then press the *Delete* key on your keyboard and then click on the *Set* button and Accept the warning with and *OK*.

- Once you have entered the amounts of VM you want to use, click on the *Set* button (located to the right of *Maximum Size*) to establish the VM.
- While here look down at the *Registry Size* compare its current size with the *Maximum* and adjust as you see fit, I top my NT computers off between 20 and 24MB.
- To complete this project, select *OK* and allow the system to reboot.

* Because hard drives are so slow and as quantities of RAM increase there is less of a need for VM never exceed 1024MB as the *Initial* or *Maximum* sizes. If you have 512MB of physical RAM set both settings of the VM to 1024MB if you have 1 gigabyte (1024MB) of RAM still go no further than 1024 for the VM, the delay is not worth it.

Do you insert CD's frequently but do not want them to automatically start? For instance do you copy a lot of data or need to search on backup CD's for information but do not want it to run when placed in the computer. In addition, on several of my computers, every few seconds Windows goes out and performs and automatic search to see if a CD was slipped into the drive while it was not paying attention. By removing this "feature" and starting any disk you put in manually (by selecting the drive) you save the CPU the cycle time it has set aside.

To remove the CD *auto run* you will need to go to the registry.

Warning – as I have repeatedly stated, messing with the registry can be dangerous, if you improperly change or adjust your registry, the four horsemen of the Apocalypse will be released and all will be doomed, at least on your PC.

1. To open the registry, go to *Start / Run* and type in *regedit*.
2. Now make a backup of the registry (*File / Export*, then through the menu, choose the C: drive). If things go wrong and you can get to the *Command* prompt (C:\) then you can type in the name of your registry backup and things should return to normal. Refer back to chapter 1 of the first edition of my book for an in-depth look at this process.
3. On the left side o the screen you will need to navigate by click on the "+" symbols to *HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE / SYSTEM / CurrentControlSet / Services*. See Figure NT-4.

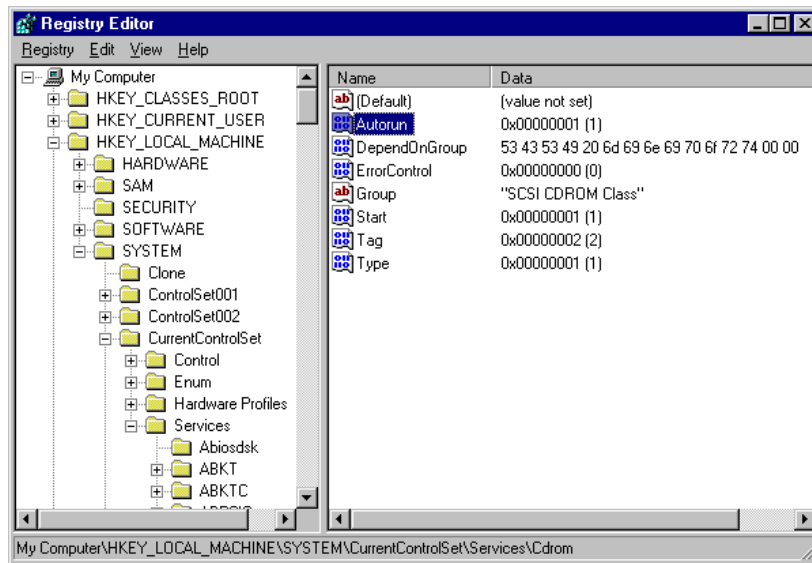


Figure NT-4

4. Click on the *Cdrom* folder under this (*Services*) group. In the right had pane you should see several values.
5. *Double-click* on *Aautorun*. A menu should pop up similar to Figure NT-5.

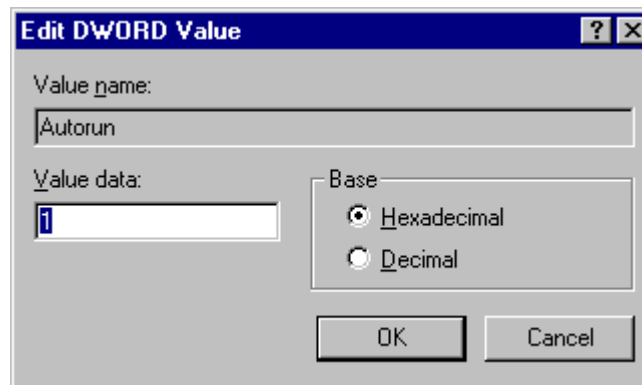


Figure NT-5

6. Change the *Value data* to 0 (zero NOT the letter O), select *OK* and then close the registry (*File / Exit*) the change is automatically saved but not implemented until you reboot the computer.
7. Be sure that you have properly closed all programs and then to reboot go to *Start / Shutdown / Restart*. That is all that is necessary to make this change. Double check by inserting a CD (a music CD works best) and see if it tries to run or if you have to open it yourself.

Is the floppy drive accessed each time *My Computer* opens? Do you have to wait while your computer tries to read what, if anything is in the floppy drive each time you double-click *My Computer*? If this is happening to you, the probable cause is an incorrect registry value. This is fairly simple to correct.

Before you make the following changes to the registry, be sure to first back it up. Even though Lara Croft and Indiana Jones always escape with minor bruises, improperly

editing the registry will leave you stuck to the walls of the Temple of Doom or submerged in the Luna Temple.

1. Click *Start / Run* and type in *regedit*. Click *OK*.
 2. Backup the registry as explain in the previous sections.
 3. Navigate the left column to: *HKEY_CURRENT_USER / Software / Microsoft / Windows / CurrentVersion / Policies / Explorer*.
 4. In the right hand window pane double-click on the *NoDriveTypeAutoRun* entry and change the *Value data* to *95*. The data box you change will look like Figure NT-6.
 5. Select *OK* and close the registry. Restart your computer for the changes to take effect.
- When your computer has restarted, open *My Computer* and check to see if your drives appear immediately in the window, without the system first attempting to access the floppy drive.

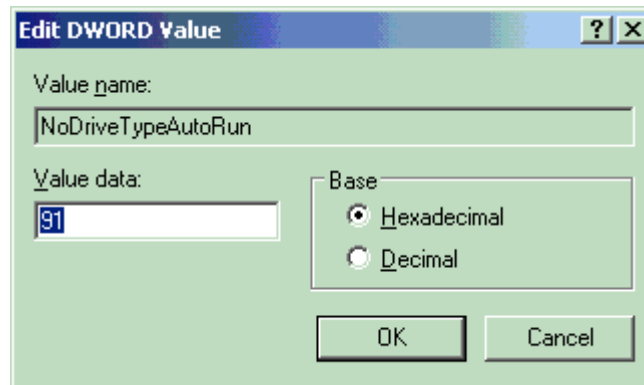


Figure NT-6

There are several Microsoft Services to turn off (Just like that last blind date you had).

A Service is a small file or program that loads when you turn on your computer. A Service will perform a specific task such as turn on Wireless configuration or Event and Boot Logs. Services run in the background of your computer and are stored in RAM upon boot up. If you do not need the Service having it running is a waste of RAM, processor time and quite possibly a security issue.

To get to the Services window go to *Start / Settings / Control Panel* double-click on *Services*. Your screen should have a window like Figure NT-7.

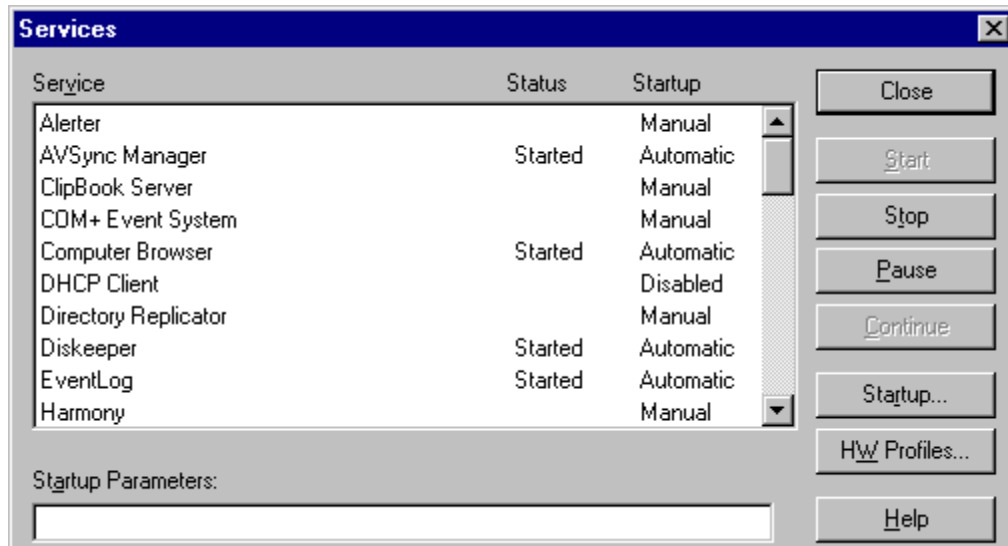


Figure NT-7

To turn off a Service you will need to scroll to it and double-click on the one you want to change. Figure NT-8 gives you an example of the *Messenger* service used by administrators.

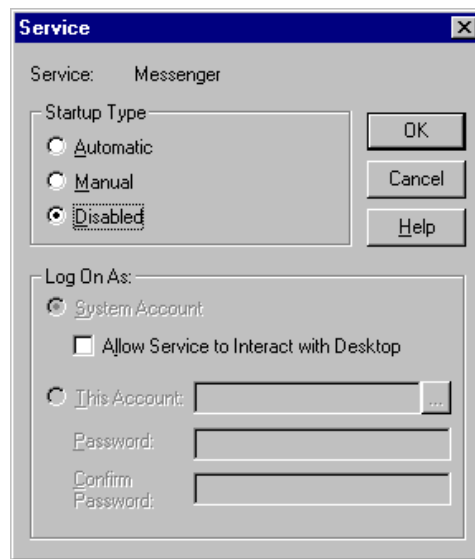


Figure NT-8

By selecting *Disable* or *Manual* you turn the service off after the computer is rebooted. If you highlight the Service and then select *Stop* in figure NT-7 you immediately stop the service however the next time the computer boots it will restart, this is why you must choose *Disable* or *Manual* in figure NT-8.

The services that I suggest you consider turning off are:

DHCP client: Only turn off if you are

- 1.) Not on any network or
- 2.) Your network uses static IP addresses, if you do not know what this is, then leave it (DHCP Client) alone.

Messenger: This is not MSN instant Messenger that is used for chatting. This is for Administrator to send pop up alerts to you. Since most Administrators communicate via e-mail and the majority of readers here are not on a *client/server* network there is no need for it. Besides an exploit has been found where advertisers use this to send you pop-up ads, even when you are not on the internet.

Computer Browser: This service is not needed if you are not on a network or are on a *Client/Server* network (where you are required to log on with a user name and password). The **only** reason to have this *enabled* is if you are on a small *Peer to Peer* network (Like a home network). This service maintains an updated list of computers on the network and supplies this list to computers on the network. If your peer-to-peer network consist of 10 or more computers then let another one be the *Computer Browse Master* and search for your system.

There are also some components that Microsoft has decided that you need that I haven't used in well, er, never. They (Microsoft) install OS/2 and POSIX automatically. What? You don't know what OS/2 or POSIX means? All the better to eat you with my dear! Oh, sorry flashback to story time last night. Now where am I, oh yeah, typing on a PC helping you, the brilliant people of America out. Back to removing OS/2 and POSIX. To do this requires a threefold approach.

1. First delete the *os2* directory, you can find it under *c:\winnt\system32*. Don't worry all values will not be deleted; we will take care of that in step three. To do this open *Windows Explorer* and navigate on the left column to the *System32* folder and click one time on it. In the right window pane you should see many folders, look for the one labeled *OS2*. Click on time on it and press the *Delete* key on your keyboard and select *Yes* to confirm deletion.
2. Next you need to edit the registry.

Houston we have a problem. Editing the registry is a dangerous task. Following my steps exactly will result in success; failure to follow my steps will lead you to a painful and horrid death on the island if Reinstall in the dungeon of LostAllOfYourData.

3. To edit the registry go to *Start / Run / Regedit* and back it up (*File / Export*) to your backup folder. Once again, refer back to earlier in this PDF a detailed explanation.
4. Next go to *Edit / Find* and enter *OS/2* and select the *Find Next* key as shown in figure NT-9.

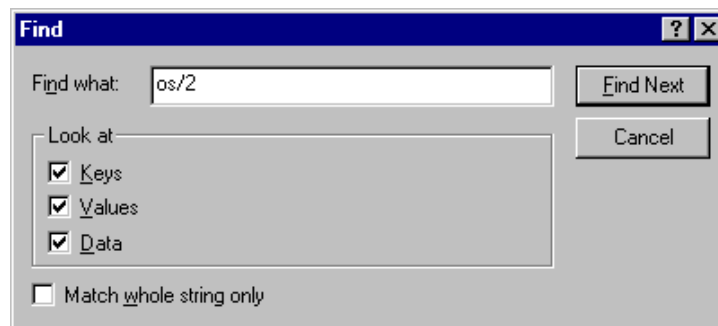


Figure NT-9

5. As the values and folders are found (on the left or right side of the Registry Editor windows) delete them by pressing the *Delete* key on your keyboard and selecting *Yes* to confirm the *Are you sure* box.
6. To continue the search, press the *F3* key.

- After removing all OS/2 values go back to the top of the left hand window pane and click one time on *My Computer* (Figure NT-10). This will take you to the beginning of the search area; otherwise you will be starting from where you left off.

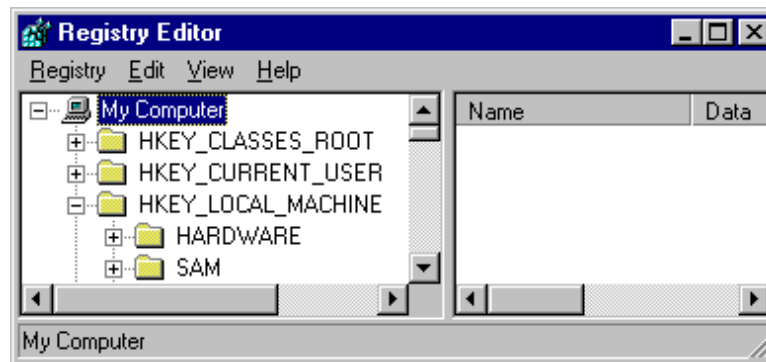


Figure NT-10

- Select *Edit / Find* and enter *OS2* (notice no slash), follow the same steps. Sometimes *os2LibPath* will show up, you can delete this too.
- Finally go back again and enter *POSIX* in the *Find* command and do the same, if the search comes up with something besides *POSIX* do **not** delete it. When complete exit the registry.
- The final step is to go back to the *c:\winnt\system32* folder in *Windows Explorer*. Manually delete any *OS2* files or folders as well as *posix.exe* and *psxss.exe*.
- Exit *Windows Explorer* and reboot for the changes to take effect.

To view specific system information on your Windows NT computer, go to:

Start / Programs / Administrative Tools / Windows NT Diagnostics this will show you much more information than when you right-click on the *My Computer* icon.

Downloading and using Clean Manager:

The Clean Manager program is a safe way to have Microsoft clean off some basic extra files from your hard drive. Unfortunately Windows NT does not come with this feature. If you have Windows 2000 or access to a computer with Windows 2000 on it, you should copy *cleanmgr.exe* to your NT machine into the folder *c:\winnt\system32*. It is not as full functioned as in Windows 2000 but still saves time and energy.

To copy the file you have two choices.

- If your computers are networked** and the hard drives are shared, log onto the Windows NT machine, double-click on the *Network Neighborhood* icon on the desktop and browse to the Windows 2000 machine.
- Open the Windows 2000 machine by double-clicking on it and browse to the *C:\Winnt\System32* (or *C:\Windows\System32* whichever the case may be) folder.
- In this folder you will find a file named *Cleanmgr.exe* (the .exe extension might not be seen depending on how your system is set up). Click one time on *cleanmgr* to highlight it and then select *Copy* from the tool bar at the top of your screen.
- Next you will need to *Minimize* the *Network Neighborhood* screen by clicking the middle box in the upper right hand corner of the screen.
- Open *My Computer* and browse to the *C:\Winnt\System32* folder and click one time on the *System32* folder to highlight it.
- Go back up to the tool bar and select paste.

If you are not on a network or cannot access a Windows 2000 machine hard drive over the network you will need to do the floppy shuffle. You need a floppy disk with at least 42k of free space on it to make the file transfer.

1. Go to the Windows 2000 machine, log on, insert the floppy and open *Windows Explorer* (to do this press and hold the *Windows* key [located between the *Ctrl* and *Alt* keys on your keyboard] and pressing the *E* key then releasing both at the same time.
2. You will need to browse to *C:\Winnt\system32* or *C:\Windows\system32* whichever is the case for your machine.
3. Next, in the right windows pane navigate to and click on *cleanmgr.exe* (the *.exe* extension may not be visible) right-click on the file one time and choose *Copy* from the drop down list.
4. Now In the left hand column navigate up to *3 ½ floppy A:* and right-click one time on it.
5. On the pop-up menu that appears select *Paste*. In a couple of seconds the file will be finished coping to the floppy disk.
6. Once the transfer is complete, remove the floppy disk and take it to your NT machine and insert it in the floppy drive.
7. Open *Windows Explorer*, as described earlier, and navigate to the *3½ floppy A:* drive and click one time on it.
8. In the right had window pane look for *cleanmgr* or *cleanmgr.exe* right-click one time on it and choose *Copy*.
9. Next you will need to navigate on the left hand window to the *C:\Winnt\System32* folder.
10. Click one time on the *System32* folder to open it up in the right hand window pane.
11. On the toolbar select *Paste*.

Installing Clean manager: Once you have completed one of the above ways to install *Cleanmgr* on your Windows NT computer you should continue from here. Now, we could have chosen to paste the file almost anywhere in the system but by installing it in the *System32* file we are following *Best Practices* in keeping system files in their proper location. Double-clicking on the file *Cleanmgr* will bring up a new window similar to figure NT-11.

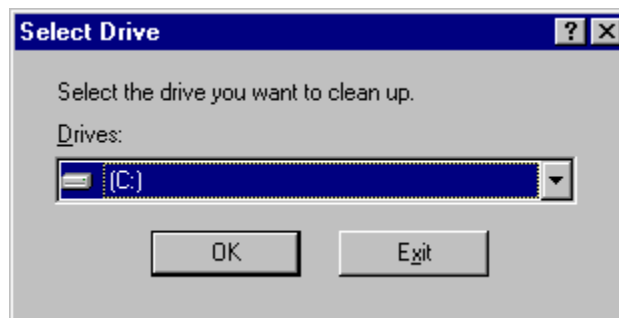


Figure NT-11

If you have only one hard drive and only one partition (drive C: only) then you can select *OK*. If you multiple hard drives or partitions then you can select the down arrow and choose the drive that you would like to run a disk cleanup on.

After selecting the drive you want to clean a new window labeled *Disk cleanup for X:* where *X* is the drive you are cleaning click on *OK*. After scanning for a few seconds figure NT-12 will

appear. You will need to place a check mark in each of the two or three choices you have (Downloaded Program Files, Temporary Internet Files, and Recycle Bin) and then select *OK* at the bottom of the screen. An *Are you sure* screen will appear, simply select *Yes* to begin the clean-up process.

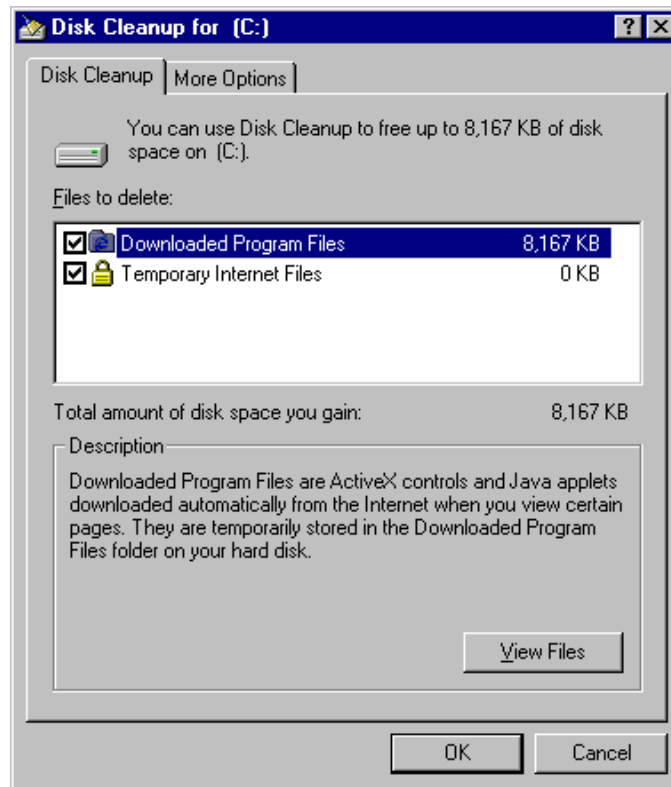


Figure NT-12

After all of this you will have to remember where *Cleanmgr* is and how to run it. It does not appear under the *Disk Tools* you might already use. That is fine because once again we have two choices each one depends upon you. The first is to place a shortcut to *Cleanmgr* on your desktop and the second is to place a shortcut of a complete routine on your desktop.

First let's go over how to place a basic shortcut on the desktop. You will need to be in *Windows Explorer* and navigate to the *C:\Winnt\System32* folder.

1. Find *Cleanmgr* in the right window pane and right-click one time on it.
2. Choose *Send To* and then *Desktop as a Shortcut* a shortcut will automatically be sent.
 - a. If you do not have *Desktop as a Shortcut* as an option you will need to select *Create Shortcut* instead of *Send to*. The shortcut will be created under the *C:\Winnt\System32* directory so you will need to move it to the desktop.
 - b. To do this, be sure *Shortcut to Cleanmgr* is highlighted and select *Cut* from the toolbar.
 - c. Now close *Windows Explorer* (*File / Close* from the menu bar) and on an empty area of the desktop right-click one time.
 - d. From the menu that appears select *Paste*.
3. I prefer to keep the names of icons as clean (get it *clean – cleanmgr* well, never mind) but useable as possible. To change the name right-click on the shortcut and choose *Rename*.
4. Press the right arrow key until you are just past the *C* in *Cleanmgr*.
5. Next you need to press the *Backspace* key until you have removed *Shortcut to*.

6. The final thing to do is simply press the *Enter* key and there you have it, a basic disk cleanup utility at your fingertips.

But wait, there is more, for just a little extra time we will throw in the autographed baseball by Nolan Ryan, three sets of Gucci kitchen knives, and if you act right now you will get four extra Teflon toilet bowl covers. Alright, maybe that is not what you want (hey I'll take the baseball any day) but we can make the disk cleanup even easier for you. How? You might be asking. Well as of this point you have to select each drive and place the check marks beside each cleanup choice every time you run the program. How about we make a double-click of the mouse do it all at once.

Running Disk Clean: Here is the second, and in my humble but correct opinion the best, way to run your new founded disk cleanup utility.

1. First you will need to go to the *Command* prompt.
 - a. Go to *Start / Run* and type in *command* and press the *Enter* key.
 - b. A black DOS window will appear on the screen (this is the command screen). If you are at *C:\Winnt\system32* then take a break while the rest of us catch up.
 - c. The rest of us need to type in *cd winnt\system32* there is a space between the *d* in *cd* and the *w* in *Winnt*. This is the only space in what you type and be sure to use the forward slash “/”.
 - d. Press *Enter* after you have finished typing in the line. You should now be at the *C:\Winnt\System32* prompt.
2. All together now, Type in *Cleanmgr /sageset:1* where the last digit is a one (1) and the only space is between the *r* and the */*. Now press the *Enter* key. This will bring up the *Disk Cleanup Setting* menu.
3. Select all of the available check boxes and then choose *OK* at the bottom of the menu. What you have done is create a *rule* named 1 under the *cleanmgr* program. This rule will automatically clean all drives with the preferences that you have selected in the check boxes.
4. To run this rule, open *Notepad* (*Start / Run* type in *notepad* or go to *Start / Program / Accessories / Notepad*).
5. Type in *cleanmgr /sagerun:1* (again the only space is between the *r* and the */* and the last digit is a one).
6. From the notepad menu bar select *File / Save As*. There will be a dropdown menu labeled *Save In:* it will most likely have *C:* already selected. Use this menu to browse to *C:\winnt\system32* and click one time on the *system32* folder.
7. Now go to the *Save as Type* box at the bottom of this menu and select the down arrow and choose *All Files*. Right above this box is the *File Name* box.
8. In the *File Name* box type in *DiskClean.bat* with no spaces and you must enter the extension *.bat*. Capitalization does not matter.
9. Choose *Save* and exit notepad (*File / Exit* from the menu bar) and also exit the *command* prompt (click one time inside the command box and type in *Exit* and press *enter*).
10. You will need to open *Windows Explorer* and navigate to *C:\Winnt\System32*.
11. Create a shortcut on the desktop by right-clicking one time on your new file (*DiskClean.bat*).
12. Choose *Send To* and then *Desktop as a Shortcut* a shortcut will automatically be sent.
 - a. If you do not have *Desktop as a Shortcut* as an option you will need to select *Create Shortcut* instead of *Send to*. The shortcut will be created under the *C:\Winnt\System32* directory so you will need to move it to the desktop.

- b. Be sure *Shortcut to Diskclean* is highlighted and select *Cut* from the toolbar.
 - c. Now close *Windows Explorer* (*File / Close* from the menu bar) and on an empty area of the desktop right-click one time and from the menu that appears select *Paste*.
13. Since I prefer to keep the names of icons as neat but useable as possible I want to remove the *shortcut to* portion of the name.
- a. To change the name, right-click on the shortcut and choose *Rename*.
 - b. Press the back arrow key until you are just past the *D* in *Diskclean*.
 - c. Next you need to press the *Backspace* key until you have removed *Shortcut to*.
 - d. The final thing to do is simply press the *Enter* key and there you have it, an advanced disk cleanup utility that will clean all of your drives by double-clicking on the desktop icon.

Besides being *Best Practice* you may be wondering why we put the above files into a sub directory instead of straight on the desktop. The reason is fairly simple, sometimes others use your computer or you get in a cleaning mood and wipe out a bunch of “worthless” icons on the desktop. If you had copied the files straight on the desktop there is a fair chance that you or someone else might accidentally delete them. If they are under the *system32* folder they should be safe and easily replaceable if the shortcut should be deleted.

The *cleanmgr* or *diskclean* programs should be run monthly as and don't forget to semi-annually go through by hand and clean up the files and such that Windows misses. For in depth detail see Chapter 5 – Manually cleaning your hard drive of the first edition of my book.

Removing old DOS 8.3 extensions:

If you have your hard drive formatted as NTFS then you can turn off the old DOS 8.3 file system. If you do not know what this is, the 8.3 file system allowed users to only have eight digits or characters for the file name, a period and then a three character extension. The NTFS file system duplicates every filename you have to maintain backward compatibility to DOS and Windows 9x computers. The folder *Documents* is also saved as *docu~1* for backward compatibility. If you do not have any Windows 9x or DOS computers or programs that you are networked to or using, or if you are not on a network then you can disable this duplicating feature and free up not only some hard drive space but system resources like RAM and CPU time.

To make this change you will need to edit the registry again.

1. To do so go to *Start / Run* and type in *regedit*.

Watch out Odo, by improperly editing the registry you will be caught by the Dominion and sent to their home world for lots of fun torture in the chamber of SpendAllWeekLateAtWork for re-indoctrination into the land of TryNotToGetFiredForLosingThatProposal. So back up that registry, all of your critical data, and call Captain Benjamin Sisko for support.

2. Once in the registry and you have backed it up as explained previously, navigate the left column by clicking on the plus (+) signs next to *HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE / System / CurrentControlSet / Control* in the left window.
3. Click one time on *FileSystem*. There should be several lines of data now in the right hand window.
4. Double-click on *NtfsDisable8dot3NameCreation* and change the value in the box to 1 (the number one).

5. Select *OK*.*
6. Close the registry and restart the computer.

* In the above paragraph you disabled the old DOS extensions. In the same registry setting turn off the *LastAccess* time stamp. This action marks the time and date every time you click on a folder. This feature is nice for files but in this instance it is updating folders not files. In my humble but correct opinion this “feature” is totally unnecessary for most users and network administrators. To change this setting, if you are still not in the registry follow the below steps starting at 1 below, if you are still in the above edit by the asterisks (*) then skip to step 4 below.

Warning Col. O’Neil, you have relied heavily upon Dr. Jackson and Major Carter for a long time, but don’t forget what happened on Nasya. So prepare for the worst and backup that registry and follow your mission plan and procedure step by step.

1. To disable the last access stamp go to *Start / Run* and type in *regedit*.
2. Once in the registry navigate the left column by clicking on the plus (+) signs next to *HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE / System / CurrentControlSet / Control* in the left window.
3. Click one time on *FileSystem* There should be several lines of data now in the right hand window.
4. Add the following value: *NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate* by right-clicking in an empty space in the right hand window of the registry.
5. Click one time on *New* and choose *DWORD Value*.
6. Type in *NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate* for the name (spelled and capitalized exactly as done here. There are no blank spaces.
7. Press the *Enter* key on your keyboard.
8. Double-Click on the new value and change the value to 0 (zero).
9. Select *OK*.
10. Close the registry and restart the computer.

Well, I think that is enough Windows NT adventure for now.

I hope you are enjoying these PDF documents on tweaking your computer(s).

Check back regularly at www.TheWeeklyGeek.com for new articles and tips about computer related life.

Until we meet again, have a virus free week!