

The Young Person's Guide to Windows XP Performance Tweaks

<http://www.tweakxp.com>

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Lock Down and Tighten WinXP

- Go to Run / gpedit.msc and go through the options all through the menus
- Go to Run / msconfig and go through the Startup Tab and uncheck all nonessential services ([qttask](#), [PDVDServ](#), and [checker](#))
- Download, install, and configure TweakUI from <http://download.microsoft.com/download/f/c/a/fca6767b-9ed9-45a6-b352-839afb2a2679/TweakUiPowertoySetup.exe>

Disable Hibernation

Windows XP uses a file called [hiberfil.sys](#) to save everything it needs when it goes into hibernation. If you are like me, and never use the Hibernate function, you can turn it off. By turning hibernation off, WinXP deletes [hiberfil.sys](#). This can free up the as much disk space as the amount of ram that you computer has.

- Go to *Control Panel / Power Options / Hibernation* and uncheck the box

Disable File Access Info

Windows XP automatically updates the date and time stamp with information about the last time you accessed a file. Not only does it mark the file, but it also updates the directory the file is located in as well as any directories above it. If you have a large hard drive with many subdirectories on it, this updating can slow down your system.

- Go to Run / regedit
- *HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE / SYSTEM / CurrentControlSet / Control / Filesystem*
- In the right pane, look for the value named [NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate](#). If the value exists, it's probably set to 0. To change the value, double-click it. You'll then see the Edit DWORD Value screen. Enter 1 in the Value Data field and click OK.
- If the value doesn't exist, you'll need to add it. Select *New / DWORD Value* from the Edit menu. The new value will appear in the right pane, prompting you for a value name. Type [NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate](#) and press [Enter]. Double-click the new value. You'll then see the Edit DWORD Value screen. Enter 1 in the Value Data field and click OK. When you're done, close Regedit. Your registry changes will be saved automatically. Reboot.

Speed up Start Menu Display

When using the Start Menu, you will notice a delay between different tiers of the menu hierarchy. For the fastest computer experience possible, I recommend changing this value to zero. This will allow the different tiers to appear instantly.

- Go to Run / regedit
- *HKEY_CURRENT_USER / Control Panel / Desktop*
- Select *MenuShowDelay* from the list on the right. Right-click on it and select Modify. Change the value to something lower. Note that a setting of zero (0) is virtually instantaneous. Experiment with other settings (200, 300 or 400 perhaps) to see what you are most comfortable with. Reboot your computer.

Minimize Icon Lag

Are you experiencing icon lag, while browsing through all your Start Icons and programs? Do you have a smaller menu delay and your icons take ages to load? Check this out.

- Refresh the icon cache by deleting the *IconCache.db* file from your profile directory and it will be recreated
- *Go to Documents and Settings / Username / Local Settings / Application Data*

Clear DNS Cache

I've personally found a dramatic increase in web browsing after clearing the Windows XP DNS cache.

- Go to *Start / Programs / Accessories / Command Prompt*
- To clear it type *ipconfig / flushdns*

L2 Cache Tweak

The L2, or second-level cache, is an integral part of your CPU. However, WinXP is very beat at detecting it, so setting it manually is sometimes necessary.

- Go to Run / regedit
- *Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SYSTEM \ CurrentControlSet \ Control \ Session Manager \ Memory Management*
- Find the value *SecondLevelDataCache*. You must then adjust it to the value (512 kilobytes) of the L2 Cache of your processor.

Nonessential Services

Adobe LM Service – *Manual*
Antivir Service – *Manual*
Antivir Updater – *Manual*
Application Management – *Manual*
ClipBook – *Disabled*
Distributed Link Tracking Client – *Disabled*
Error Reporting – *Disabled*
Help and Support – *Manual*
Human Interface Device Access – *Disabled*
Indexing Service – *Disabled*
IPSEC Service – *Disabled*
Messenger – *Disabled*
Network DDE – *Disabled*
Network DDE DSDM – *Disabled*
PDEngine – *Manual*
PDScheduler – *Manual*
Remote Registry Service – *Disabled*
Routing and Remote Access – *Disabled*
Security Center – *Disabled*
SSDP Discovery - *Disabled*
Task Scheduler – *Manual*
Telnet – *Disabled*
Themes – *Disabled*
Uninterruptible Power Supply – *Disabled*
Universal Plug and Play – *Disabled*
Windows Time – *Disabled*
Wireless Zero Configuration – *Disabled*

De-Regulate Downloads

Increase the number of downloads possible at one time from 2 to X.

- Go to Run / regedit
- Go to *HKEY_CURRENT_USER / Software / Microsoft / Windows / CurrentVersion / Internet Settings*
- Select New / DWORD from context menu
- Name the value *MaxConnectionsPer1_0Server*
- Modify the DWORD and put 10 (or whatever number you want) into the Value Data Box using the Decimal setting
- Reboot

Open up the Pipe

Use this to take back the bandwidth being reserved for unused telephony services.

- Go to Run / gpedit.msc
- Go to *Local Computer Policy / Computer Configuration / Administrative Templates / Network / QoS Packet Scheduler*
- Double-Click **limit reservable bandwidth** in the right pane
- Check enabled
- Change Bandwidth limit % to 0
- Reboot

Improve the Context Menu

Add “Send To Folder” and “Move To Folder” to the file context menu.

- Go to Run / regedit
- Go to *HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT / AllFilesystemObjects / shellx / ContextMenuHandlers*
- Create a new Key called “CopyTo”
- Set its value to {C2FBB630-2971-11D1-A18C-00C04FD75D13}
- Create a new Key called “MoveTo”
- Set its value to {C2FBB631-2971-11D1-A18C-00C04FD75D13}

Kill Compression

Disable Disk Keeper from checking to see how much drive space will be saved by using file compression.

- Go to Run / regedit
- Go to *HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE / SOFTWARE / Microsoft / Windows / CurrentVersion / Explorer / VolumeCaches / CompressOldFiles*
- Clear the value from the default key

Kill Program Compatibility Check

Speed up program boot time by stopping WinXP from checking program compatibility.

- Go to Run / gpedit.msc
- Go to *Computer Configuration / Administrative Templates / Windows Components / Application Compatibility*
- Enable the States of **Turn Off Application Compatibility Engine** and **Turn Off Program Compatibility Wizard**