

# Speeding up Windows XP like never before

Get a Faster Running Windows XP Machine  
in no time



Simple tricks and tweaks to increase the performance of  
your Windows XP computer

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# Windows XP Speed Tips

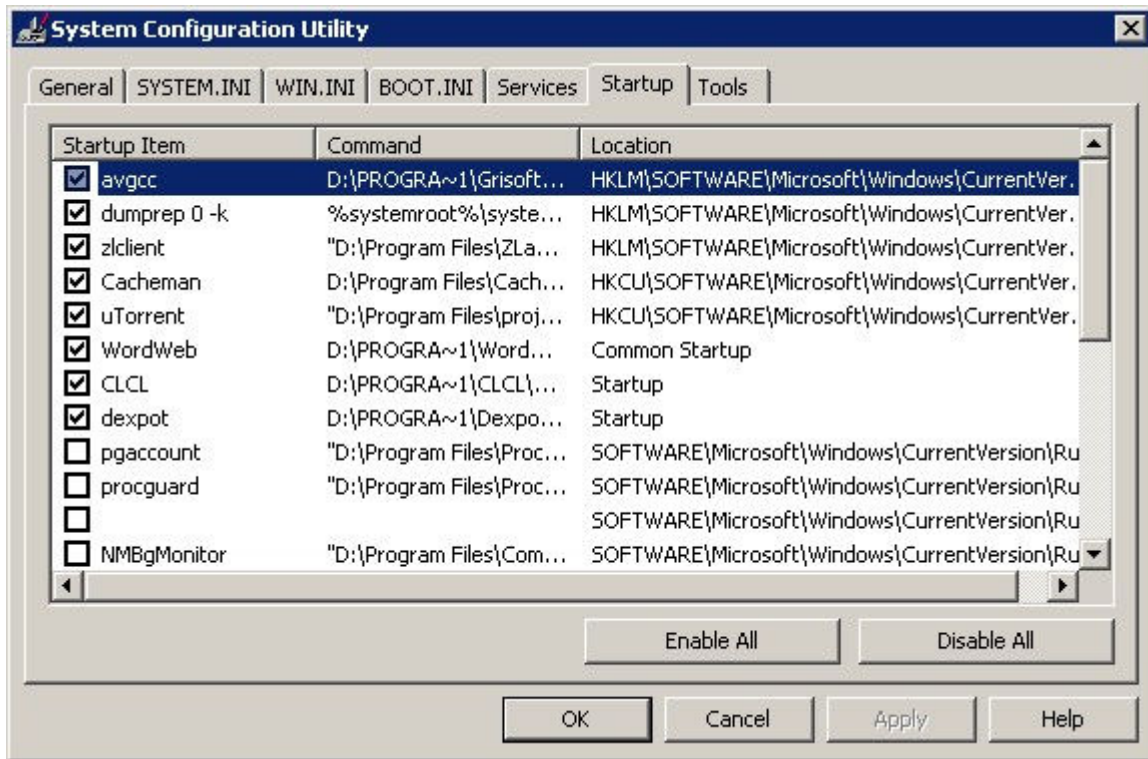
## XP Speed Tip 1

### Check your Start up List

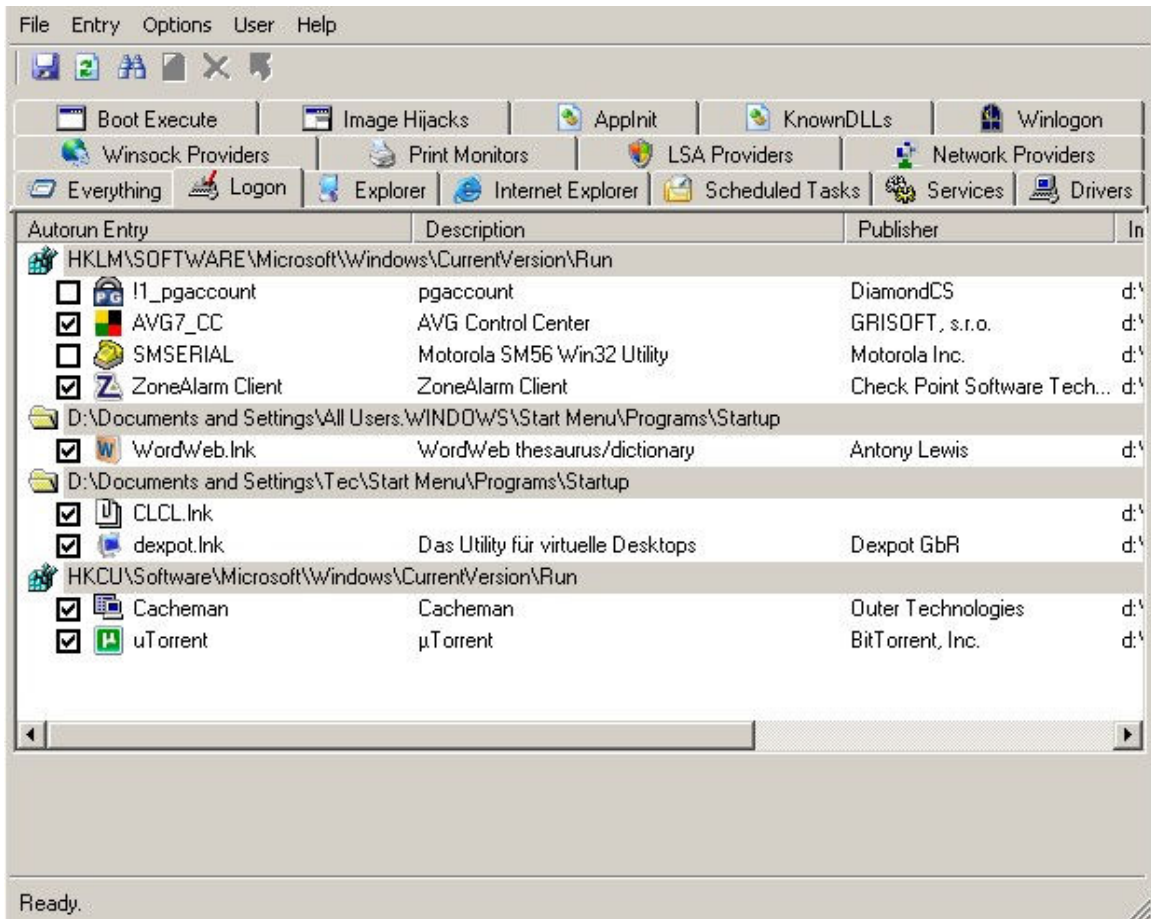
Certain programs are started up during booting up, they all compete for a slice of your CPU speed. Extra or unwanted items in the startup list will definitely increase your startup time, perhaps by several minutes. Some common examples are things related to AOL, RealPlayer, Napster, instant messengers, and video managers.

If you are not sure about an item, no big deal, you can turn it off, restart your PC, and see if everything seems to work. If not, you can always go back and re-enable an item in the Startup list. This tip alone should speed up your start-up by 250%. Here are is what you have to do:

- Go to Start button -> Run
- Type "msconfig", without quotations
- Hit enter key or click the OK button
- A System Configuration Utility window will pop up
- Click the Startup tab
- In the Startup tab you will see several boxes and some of them will be selected (checked). All you have to do is to uncheck extra items that are of no use. If you run an antivirus program it is not recommended to uncheck it.
- After making your choices press the OK button, you will be prompted to restart computer to apply changes.
- After restarting your computer a dialogue will be displayed.
- You can check the option for not showing this dialogue every time your PC reboots.



A better alternative to msconfig utility is Autoruns utility. It can give much more comprehensive information about the programs starting up along with lot more control over them. However, I'll not recommend it to normal users. You can find programs start up list under its logon tab.



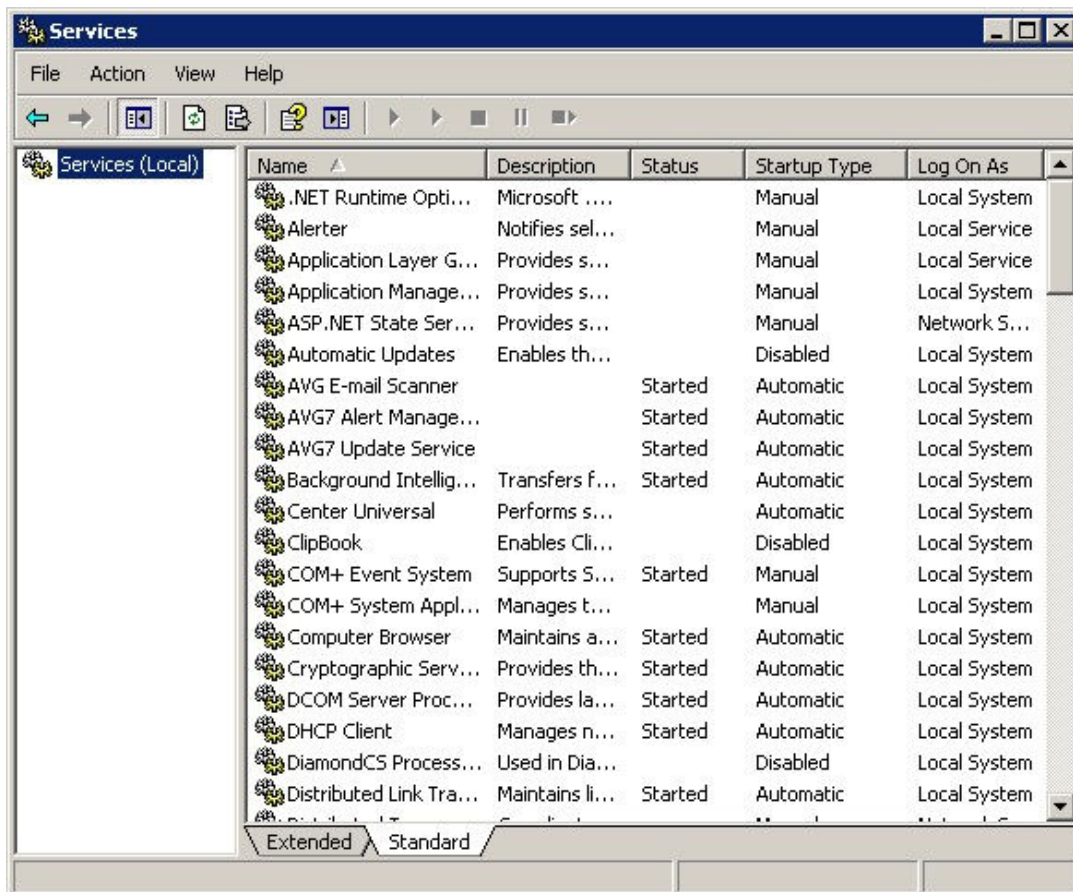
## XP Speed tip 2

### Disabling Unneeded Services

A service is a software application that runs continuously in the background while your computer is on. The Windows operating system has numerous services that run in the background that provide basic functions to the system. Network connectivity, visual support, and external device connectivity such as printer services are all examples of the types of services that the windows services provide. Each of these services that are running in the background take up system resources such as memory and CPU time. Also,

during the booting of the operating system, the service has to be loaded. On most computers, there are nearly 20 services that are loaded upon startup. Of these 20 services only a handful are system critical services. All of the others can be disabled. In order to disable a service, first you will need to know more about what the most common services do.

You can find a list of services launching with Windows Xp by going to start -> run and typing "services.msc" without quotations. You will see the following:



Now here comes the question which of them are system critical and which can be safely disabled.

The following table should help you decide that (courtesy: <http://www.extremetech.com>).

### Common Windows Services in Use

Service Name	Service Use
Automatic Updates	Used to download and then install updates automatically without the user going to Windows Update manually. This service is not system critical and can be disabled but unless you check for updates regularly, it is not recommended to disable this service.
Background Intelligent Transfer Service	A service that transfers data in the background when the connection is not in use. One use of this service is to download updates automatically in the background. This service is not system critical but can impair other services such as automatic updates if it is disabled.
Com+ Event System	Basically controls the notification of certain system events such as log on and log off. The system event notification is dependent on this service. This service is system critical.
Computer Browser	Keeps track of the other computers on your network running the Microsoft Client for networking. This is what provides the list of computers when you are browsing your workgroup computer in My Network Places. This service is not system critical and can be disabled if you do not need the network browsing function.
Cryptographic Services	Basically manages system security certificates as well as provides a database of signatures of key windows files. This service is not system critical but it is required to install many Microsoft programs that want to check system file signatures. It is not recommended to disable this service because doing so would not allow Windows Update to run and install new updates.

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DCOM Server Process Launcher	Basically is in charge of starting various other services. This service is required for RPC which is required for over 39 other services to run. Because of that, it is not a good idea to disable this one.
DHCP Client	Provides support for dynamic network configuration. This service is not system critical but is needed for those that do not set their IP address manually.
Distributed Link Tracking Client	Keeps track of links to files on a NTFS volume on your computer or across a network. This service is not system critical and can be disabled.
DNS Client	Resolves domain names into IP addresses as well as caches lookup results. This service is not system critical but you will not be able to browse the internet without it started.
Error Reporting Service	Allows users to report failures of applications directly to Microsoft so that Microsoft may fix bugs in its software if it is the culprit. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled.
Event Log	Allows event messages to be recorded to be viewed in Event Viewer. This service is system critical and can not be disabled.
Fast User Switching Compatibility	Allows users to switch to other users on the same system without logging off. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled.
Help and Support	Used for the help and support center. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled.
HTTP SSL	Allows the personal web server built into Windows XP (IIS 6.0) to provide secure data transfers over HTTP. This service is rarely used since most people never even setup the personal web server on Windows XP. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled.
Indexing Service	Creates a searchable database of the items on your hard drive. This service is not system critical and can be disabled if you do not search your drive often or can

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wait a few extra minutes to find a file.

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IPSEC Services	Provides IP security for certain secure connections over IP. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled.
Logical Disk Manager	Detects and monitors new hard disk drives. This service is not system critical but it is used when you are upgrading your hardware and installing additional storage devices or using USB storage devices. If you do not plan on using any of the items above, the service may be safely disabled.
Machine Debug Manager	Provides support for program and script debugging. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled for most users.
Messenger	Allows users to send text popup messages to computers on the network. This service is abused by spammers to send you advertisements. It is highly recommended that you disable this service.
Network Connections	Provides support for network connectivity. This service is not system critical but it is recommended that it is not disabled.
Network Location Awareness (NLA)	Provides services to computers that share your internet connection. If you do not use the internet connection feature, then you may safely disable this service since it is not a system critical service.
Plug and Play	Allows your computer to detect hardware. This service is system critical and can not be disabled.
Portable Media Serial Number Service	Detects the serial number of an external media device. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled.
Print Spooler	Provides services to print. This service is not system critical but it is necessary to print from your computer.
Protected Storage	Provides basic security over certain system files. This service is system critical and should not be disabled.

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Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Provides services for other services. This service is system critical and can not be disabled.
Remote Registry (Not included in XP Home)	Allows the system registry to be connected to remotely. This service is not system critical and is recommended that it is disabled.
Secondary Logon	Allows programs to be started under different accounts. This service is system critical.
Security Accounts Manager	A database of local account information. This service is system critical and should not be disabled.
Security Center	Monitors your system security settings to notify you if your settings are insecure. You should keep this service running unless you are confident about your computer's security. No other services depend on this service and it can be safely disabled given you have a good handle on your security.
Server	Provides the ability to share files and your printer over your network. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled if you do not share file over a network.
Shell Hardware Detection	Used to detect external storage devices automatically. If you do not use any external storage devices such as external hard drives or memory cards, this service can be safely disabled.
SSDP Discovery Service	Looks for Universal Plug and Play drives on your network. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled.
System Event Notification	Tracks more system events. This service is system critical and should not be disabled.
System Restore Service	Keeps track of changes made to your system to make restore points. This service is not system critical but it is recommended that it is not disabled.
Task Scheduler	Allows users to schedule and configure tasks. This service is not system critical and can be disabled if you do not need to schedule any tasks to run.

TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper	Allows the NetBIOS network protocol to run over the TCP/IP Protocol. This service is not system critical and can be disabled if you have no use for the NetBIOS protocol.
Terminal Services	Allows users to connect to the computer with remote desktop. This service is not system critical but is used by the remote assistance help feature. It can be safely disabled if you do not need the remote assistance feature.
Themes	This is the service that gives Windows the new look. It allows visual styles to be applied over the normal grey Windows 2000 style windows. This service is not system critical and can be disabled.
WebClient	This service adds support for web-based file management for technologies such as WebDav. Most users will never need to use this service. It is not system critical and can be safely disabled.
Windows Audio	Provides audio support for the operating system. This service is not system critical and can be safely disabled if you would like to give up your sound.
Windows Firewall / Internet Connection Sharing (ICS)	Protects your computer from intruders and malicious programs attacking your computer via your Internet connection. It also provides the ability to share your internet connection among other computers on your local network. This service is not system critical but I do not recommend that you disable it unless you have another personal firewall application installed on your computer.
Windows Image Acquisition (WIA)	Used to acquire data from optical devices such as a scanner or a camera. This service is not system critical and it can be safely disabled if you have no use for it.
Windows Management Instrumentation	Provides system information to applications. This service is system critical and should not be disabled.
Windows Time	This service is in charge of synchronizing the Windows

time. If you do not need to have your time synchronized, this service can be safely disabled.

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Wireless Zero Configuration	Configures wireless 802.11 devices. If you do not have any wireless hardware installed, you may safely disable this service.
Workstation	Allows your computer to make connections to other computers and servers. This service is not system critical but it is needed for any basic networking.

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Disabling unnecessary services will help boost performance without sacrificing functionality.

The common services that can be turned off are:

- Automatic Updates Service
- Computer Browser Service
- Error Reporting Service
- Messenger Service
- Remote Registry Service (must do)
- Server Service
- TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper
- Task Scheduler Service (if you do not use scheduling)
- Upload Manager Service
- Wireless Zero Configuration (if you are using a standalone machine with no wireless LAN connection)
- Indexing Service
- NIndexing service
- Smart card
- Telnet
- Uninterruptible Power Supply

If you are unsure about disabling services, you can simply switch them off to manual. In that case they will only start when called upon or required.

Other services that can be turned to manual are:

- .NET runtime optimization service
- Alerter

- Application Management
- ASP.net state service
- Health Key and Certificate Management Service
- MS Software Shadow Copy Provider
- Net Logon
- Netmeeting remote desktop sharing
- Network DDE
- Network DDE DDSM
- Network Provisioning Service
- Performance Logs and Alerts
- QoS RSVP
- Remote Desktop Help Session manager
- Removable Storage
- Routing and Remote access
- Volume Shadow Copy
- Web Client
- Help and Support
- Human Interface Device Access
- Windows Firewall/Internet connection sharing (if you are using a standalone firewall)

### **Xp Speed Tip 3**

#### **Disable File Indexing service to increase performance.**

Indexing Services is a small little program that uses large amounts of memory and can often make a computer endlessly loud and noisy. This system process indexes and updates lists of all the files that are on your computer. It does this so that when you do a search for something on your computer, it will search faster by scanning the index lists. If you don't search your computer often, this system service is completely unnecessary. To disable do the following:

- Click Start button
- Select the Control Panel
- Double-click Add/Remove Programs

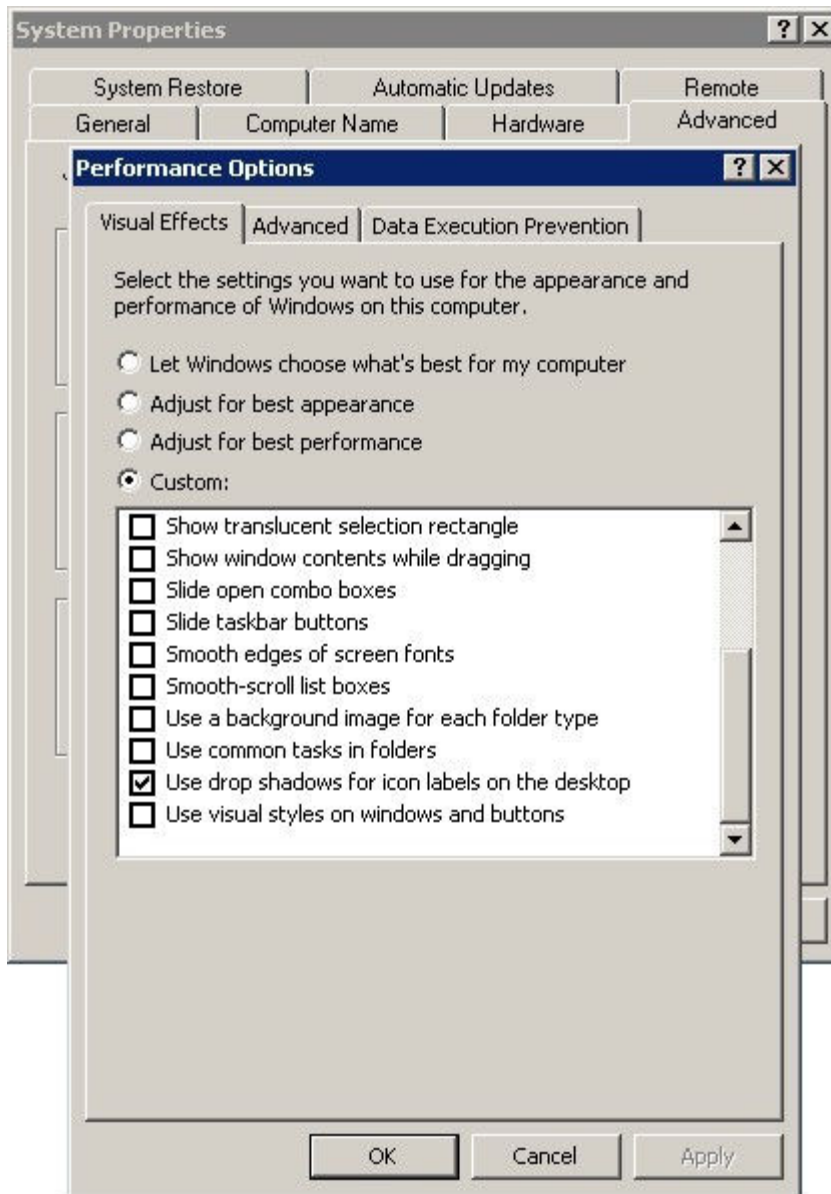
- Click the Add/Remove Window Components icon on the left side of the window
- This may take a few seconds to load. Be patient.
- Look for the “Indexing Services” component in the list
- Uncheck the Indexing Services
- Click Next
- Click Finish

## XP Speed tip 4

### Turn off Windows Visual Cosmetics

Windows XP looks very appealing but displaying all the visual items can waste system resources. To turn off the visual themes and all:

- Click the Start button
- Select Control Panel
- Double-click the System icon
- Click the Advanced tab
- In the Performance box click Settings, click Custom
- Leave only the following checked:
- “Use drop shadows for icons labels on the desktop “
- Finally, click Apply and OK
- If you want a little of Windows XP’s default look without all the bells and whistles, keep the following checked
- “Use visual styles on windows and buttons “
- You may also want to disable your wallpapers and other themes to free up some system resources.



## XP Speed tip 5

### Enable DMA for all your Drives

- Right-click on My Computer, select Properties

- Select the Hardware tab
- Click the Device Manager button
- Double-click IDE/ATAPI controllers
- Double-click on the Primary IDE Channel
- Click on the Advanced Settings tab The tab may or may not be available for each option. It is only available in Primary and Secondary Channels.
- Set the Transfer Mode to "DMA if Available" both for Device 1 and 0
- Click OK
- Do the same for secondary channel if you are using DVD or CD drives



## XP Speed Tip 6

### Get rid of Virus, Spyware or other Malware

Malware makes your machine act badly, makes it sluggish, prone to hacking and crops up whole lot of problems.

Majority of computers have some sort of Spyware or Malware! They dramatically slow down your computer because they use resources to generate popup ads, send spam, and often interfere with the operation of good programs.

Download one or two good antispysware tools to get rid of pests. Stand-alone specialized programs do a much better job than the "all-in-one" packages (eg. Norton Internet Security) at detecting spyware, adware, and malware.



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As a rule of thumb, invest in a good antivirus software and keep at least two antispymalware utilities installed all the time. I'll recommend SuperAntispyware and MalwareBytes Anti-malware. Download and install both, don't worry they are freeware.

Similarly, you should either purchase a good antivirus software like Kaspersky or Nod32. In freeware, AVG Antivirus is free for home and personal use. Download it run a thorough scan. You will find your system running a lot smoother once the pests are flushed out.

## **XP Speed Tip 7**

### **Remove Unnecessary programs.**

You may have a bunch of software packages on your hard drive that are no longer needed, or they were installed when you downloaded some other package. Toolbars, file-sharing programs, free email enhancers, online shopping "companions" and download managers are notorious for this practice. These uninvited guests can put a big drag on your startup time, cause web pages to load slowly, and generally bog down your computer. There might be other programs as well that you have stopped using and are sitting there taking up space. Remove unnecessary programs to give your system a breath of fresh air.

#### **Let us remove unnecessary stuff the pro way:**

Download and run Revo Uninstaller (google it). It is a freeware and does the good job of properly removing programs and any unnecessary junk from your system.

A word of caution: In moderate remove mode, Revo uninstaller asks to remove registry values. Do not delete any registry keys if you are unsure of what you are doing.

## XP Speed Tip 8

### Clean up additional junk

Now that you are done with removing unnecessary programs, why not rid up the system further of unnecessary files.



Download Glary Utilities and thoroughly clean system of unnecessary junk files by running disk cleaner, shortcut fixer and duplicate files finder.

## XP Speed Tip 9

### Clean up System Registry

Registry cleaning is one of the most effective and easiest way to give your computer a good speed boost.

Your computer is like your car: it needs periodic maintenance to

keep it running at optimum performance. Installing and un-installing programs, surfing the Internet, emailing, and other everyday activities create a sort of “sludge” that builds up in your computer over time, much like an automobile engine. After a while, it doesn't startup like when it was new, it stalls unexpectedly, shows up errors and becomes sluggish.

Use the same Glary utilities to clean up system registry. Click repair your registry once it is done scanning it.

## **XP Speed Tip 10**

### **Speed up Windows Explorer**

You may have noticed that every time you open “My Computer” to browse folders that there is a slight delay. This is because Windows XP automatically searches for network files and printers every time you open Windows Explorer. To fix this and to increase browsing speed significantly:

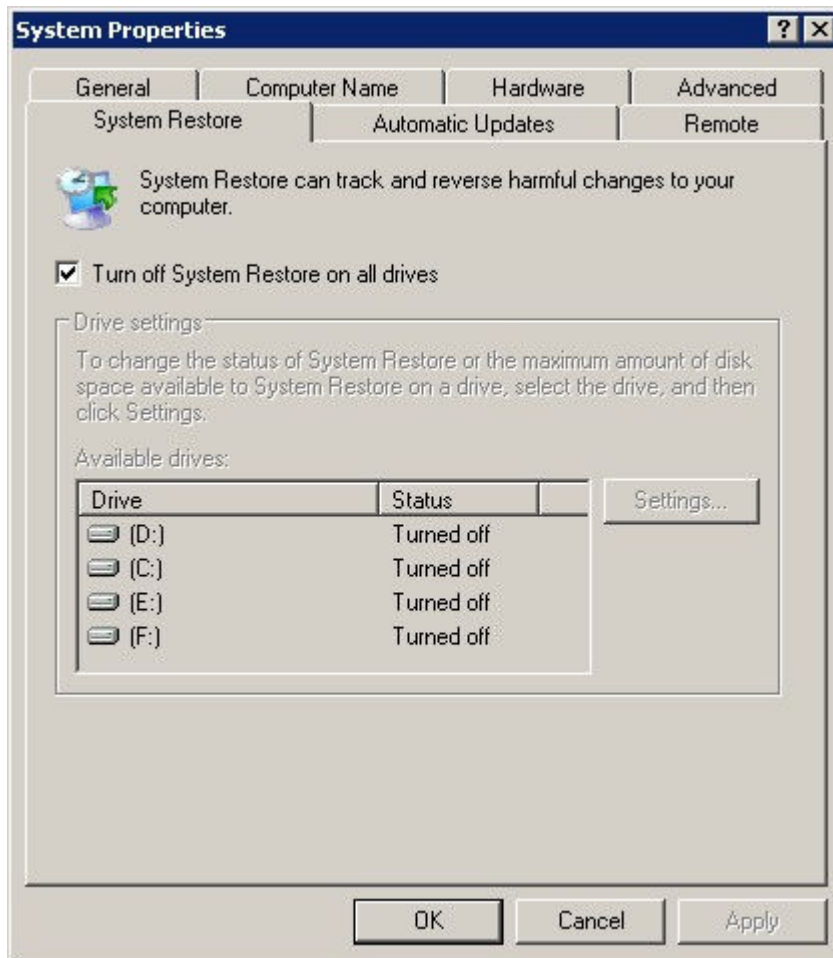
- Double-click on My Computer to open explorer
- Click the Tools menu
- Select Folder Options
- Click on the View tab.
- Uncheck the Automatically search for network folders and printers check box
- Click Apply
- Click OK

You may also want to select “Use Windows classic folder” to give file browsing a little speed boost.

## **XP Speed Tip 11**

### **Turn off System restore & Automatic Updates**

If you do not use system restore feature much you can turn it off completely to save on some space and processing cycles.



Right click on My computer, click properties and under system restore tab, turn it off. Same way turn off automatic updates. You can always update manually.

## XP Speed Tip 12

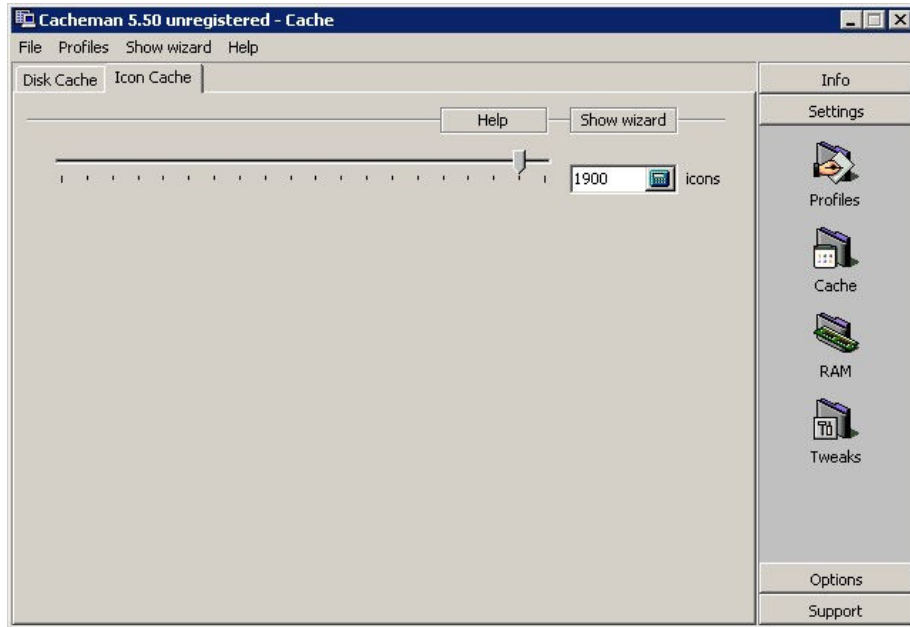
### Increase Disk and Icon Cache

Download Cacheman from outertech.com website. There are two programs listed Cacheman and Cacheman XP.

<http://forum.pcsecurityworld.com>

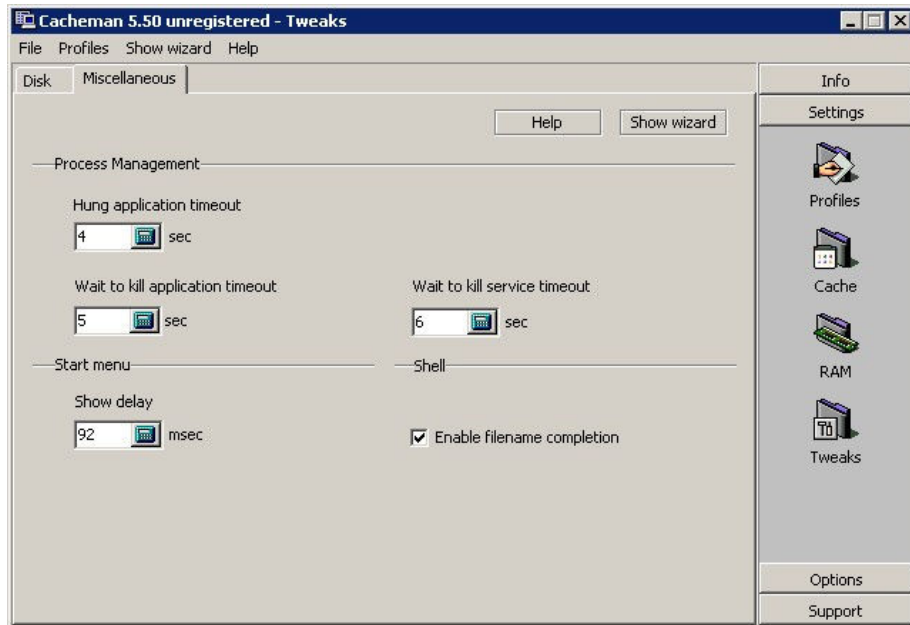
Do not download Cacheman XP (Although it has its own significance). Get cacheman for now and run it.

The interface should look like below:



Slide the icon cache slider to up right to 2000 icons. Also under tweaks, disable NTFS last update if you are running on NTFS file system. Also under Miscellaneous tab, make sure to set the following values:

Hung Application Time out to: 5-7 seconds  
Wait to Kill application time out to: 6-8 seconds  
Wait to Kill service time out to: 5-7 seconds  
Start Menu Show Delay to around: 70-90.

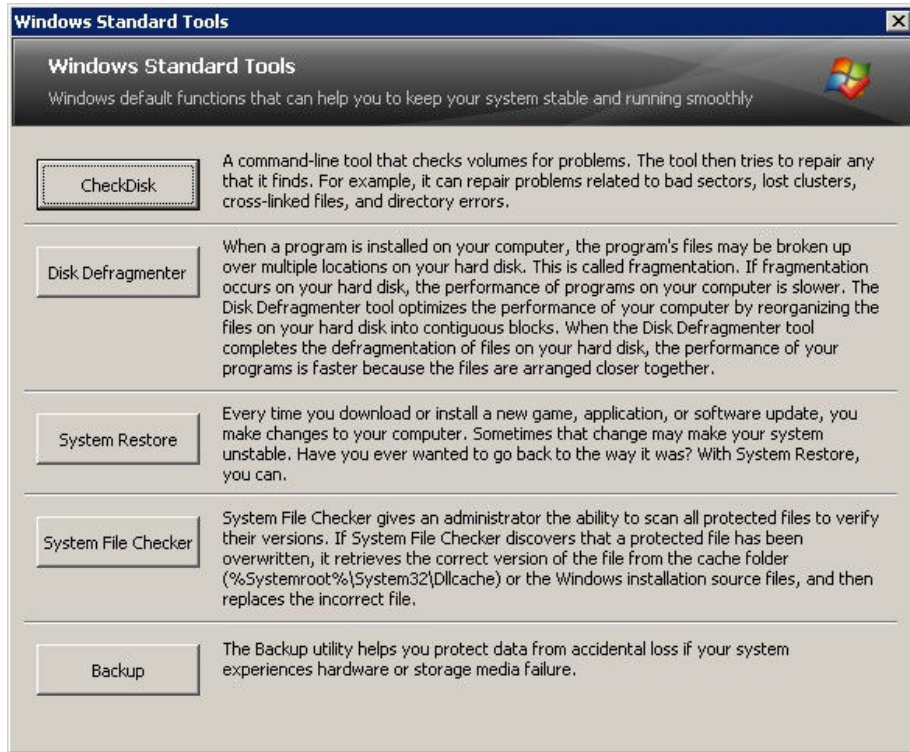


Save settings under File -> save settings and restart if asked.

## XP Speed Tip 13

### Defragment your Registry and Hard Drives

Both registry and hard drive can get fragmented over time. This makes system run slower. Excessive fragmentation can slow it down to a good extent.



Make a habit of defragmenting hard drive and registry every two month. If you are continuously installing and uninstalling programs, clean up and defragment registry every month. Glary utilities has a built in registry defragmenter.

You can run Windows built in disk defragmenter from Glary utilities System Tools modules menu in Windows Standard Tools.

## XP Speed Tip 14

### Special Tip

### Invest in Computer Memory

If possible, get more ram for your computer. This tip isn't specific to Windows XP. However, XP will appreciate if you feed it with more RAM. You will be able to run many programs simultaneously

without any performance bottlenecks. This will also save on time and will make you efficient more than ever.

Note: Your system will only accept a particular type of memory. So make sure you know exact make and model of your computer before heading out to buy RAM for it.

Once excellent free utility I will mention is CPUz. You can run it to determine your motherboard and memory specification and Mainboard and SPD tabs.

