

# Windows 95 Tips, Tricks, and Secrets

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## Menus & Windows

# Adding Items to the 'New' Menu



## Registry Edit

It is possible to add new document templates to the new menu. This operation does require a registry edit, but you first need to make a document template, then place it into the directory specified below.

1. Create a new file (blank, or with your desired information). This will become the template for all new files when you choose your new entry.
2. Move this file into the **ShellNew** subdirectory under your Windows directory (i.e., c:\windows\ShellNew). The ShellNew directory is hidden, so you may have to change your Explorer options so that hidden files and directories are visible (see Windows' help for more information on viewing hidden files).
3. Open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to **HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT**.
4. Find the extension of the file that you just created.
5. Make a new key under it called **ShellNew**.
6. Under the **ShellNew** key, make a new string value called **FileName**.
7. Type in the name of the new file you created **including the extension**. The complete path is not necessary (i.e. c:\windows\ShellNew\whatever.txt).

**NOTE:** This may not work with some programs and files.

# Adding Popout System Folders to the Start Menu

Have you ever wanted to access a particular applet in Control Panel without having to open Control Panel up?

If you want to add a popout menu with the contents of your **Control Panel**, **Printers** folder, or **Dial Up Networking** folder, it is easy to do by following these instructions:

1. Right click on the start button, then choose **Open** to open its contents within an Explorer window.
2. Create a new folder
3. If you want to create a Control Panel folder, you would name the new folder:

**Control Panel.{21EC2020-3AEA-1069-A2DD-08002B30309D}**

4. If you want to create a new Printers folder, you would name the new folder:

**Printers.{2227A280-3AEA-1069-A2DE-08002B30309D}**

5. If you want to create a new Dial Up Networking folder, you would name the new folder:

**Dial Up Net.{992CFFA0-F557-101A-88EC-00DD010CCC48}**

That's all there is to it. Now, if you click on your Start Menu, and navigate to where you placed your new folder(s), it should pop out, showing the contents of that particular folder (i.e., if you made a new Control Panel folder, you would see all of your Control Panel applets).

# Changing the Explorer Window Defaults

When you open an Explorer window, there are two distinct ways of viewing your computer. By default, you open a window with regular-sized icons representing directories and other aspects of your computer. Alternatively, it is possible to open a "double-paned" version of Explorer instead. This lists the parent items you have selected in the left pane, and the contents of that folder or computer resource in the right pane. To change the default to double-paned mode, follow these instructions.

1. Open a regular Explorer window, then choose **Options...** from the **View** menu.
2. From the dialog box that comes up, choose the **File Types** tab.
3. Scroll down the list of Registered file types and double click on **Folder**.
4. Highlight the **explore** item under the **Actions** list, and choose the **Set Default** button.

Now, each time you open up a drive or folder, you will have a double-paned view of Explorer.

**NOTE:** In some very rare instances, there may be problems with returning the default value to its original state ('open' instead of 'explore').

# Changing the Start Menu and Popout Menu Speed



## Registry Edit

If you want to increase the rate at which the Start menu opens, and popout menus 'pop' it can be done easily by opening up the [Registry Editor](#) (regedit.exe) and navigating to:

**HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Control Panel\Desktop**

1. Create a new string value under the **Desktop** key called **MenuShowDelay**.
2. Edit **MenuShowDelay** and give it a value from 1 to 10, 1 being the fastest.

# Cleaning Up Opened Windows

After you have opened multiple Explorer windows, you can close your current window and its parent window(s) all at once by holding down the **shift** key while closing.



# Clearing the 'Any Folder...OtherFolder' SendTo menu



## Registry Edit

If you are using the 'Any Folder...OtherFolder' context menu that comes in the set of PowerToys, then perhaps you want to clear the "most recent commands" list. To accomplish this, open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to:

**HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\  
Explorer\OtherFolder**

1. Once under the **OtherFolder** subkey, delete all of the values except for **(Default)**. Now your "most recent commands" list will be cleared.

# Clearing the 'Documents' Menu

Are you tired of going to the Taskbar properties screen to clear the Documents menu under the Start menu? If so, here is an easier way to do it:

1. Create a batch file with the following line in it (assuming your copy of Windows 95 is located in a subdirectory named Windows):

```
echo y| del \windows\recent\*.*
```

2. Save the batch file and place it into a directory of your choice.
3. Create a shortcut to the batch file wherever you wish.

**If desired, you can also add these features to the newly created shortcut:**

1. Right click on the shortcut and choose Properties.
2. Select the Program tab.
3. From the Run drop down box, choose Minimized.
4. Click the Close on exit box.

Now, all you have to do is double click on this icon every time you want to clear the contents of the Documents Menu.

# Clearing the 'Run' Menu



## Registry Edit

To remove items from the Run menu, open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to:

**HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows  
\CurrentVersion\Explorer\RunMRU**

Choose the values of the entries that you want to delete, then press **delete**.

**NOTE:** Do not delete the **(Default)** or **RunMRU** values.

# Closing the Start Menu

If you wish to temporarily remove the Start Button (and menu) from the taskbar, take the following steps:

- 1.** Give the Start button focus. This can be done by opening the start menu, then hitting **ESC**.
- 2.** Press **Alt + -** (press the **minus** key while holding **Alt**)
- 3.** Select **Close** from that menu.

The Start button will not appear again until you restart Windows.

# Turning Window Animation On and Off



## Registry Edit

Window animation is the "zoom" effect you get when opening, closing, maximizing, or minimizing a window. To turn window animation off, open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to:

**HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Control Panel\desktop  
\WindowMetrics**

1. Under the **WindowMetrics** subkey, create a new string value called **MinAnimate**.
2. Edit this value and enter **0** to turn off window animation. Entering **1** will turn on window animation, as will deleting the **MinAnimate** key altogether.

## Icons & Graphics

# Changing the Shortcut Icon



## Registry Edit

### Changing the Shortcut Icon

By default, the shortcut icon is a small black and white arrow in the lower left corner of a shortcut. To change it, open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to:

**HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows  
\CurrentVersion\explorer**

If there is not a key under the **explorer** key called **Shell Icons**, then it needs to be created. If there is a **Shell Icons** subkey, then you are ready to proceed.

1. Create a new string value named **29**.
2. Edit the string then enter the path to the icon file, followed by a comma and the index of the icon. For example, "c:\windows\system\shell32.dll,30" would change the shortcut icon to the 31st icon in the shell32.dll file (the index of the first icon in an icon file has an index of 0). In this case, the new shortcut icon would be a larger gray-colored icon.

# Changing Windows 95 System Screens

**There are a total of three Windows 95 system screens:**

- The startup screen (logo.sys)
- The "Please wait while your computer shuts down" screen (logow.sys)
- The "It is now safe to turn off your computer" screen (logos.sys)

**It is possible to change these screens to an image of your choice. However, there are certain requirements for these system screens. They are as follows:**

- The image must be a valid 256 color RGB encoded bitmap
- The image must have dimensions of 320 x 400 pixels
- The filename of the image must have a .sys extension.

**Here are the steps to making a desired image your startup or shutdown screen:**

1. Obtain a bitmap image which meets the above criteria.
2. After the file is saved, change the .bmp extension to .sys (i.e., logow.sys)

**NOTE:** If you changed the startup screen (logo.sys), it should be placed in the root of your boot drive. If you changed any of the other two system screens, they should be placed in your Windows directory (i.e., c:\windows).

If all of the following is adhered to, you should see a new startup/shutdown screen.

**NOTE:** Because the ratio of the image at 320 x 400 is different than when you may be viewing it in Windows, it may be hard to have your image look proportional once it goes into effect. However, by following these steps using an image editor such as Paint Shop Pro or Lview Pro, you can resolve this problem:

1. Create a new image with dimensions of 640 x 480.
2. Open the image that you wish to make a system screen.
3. Center this image on the newly created image.
4. Resize the 640 x 480 image to 320 x 400.
5. At this point, the image should look out of proportion (not wide enough)\*
6. Save the image as a 256 color RGB encoded bitmap.
7. Change the file extension from .bmp to .sys if necessary.



\* (Once it appears as a system screen, however, it will be proportional).

**ONCE AGAIN--NOTE:** If you changed the startup screen (logo.sys), it should be placed in the root of your boot drive. If you changed any of the other two system screens, they should be placed in your Windows directory (i.e., c:\windows).

# Changing System Icons



## Registry Edit

You probably are already aware that you can change the icons for shortcuts. However, what about the icons for Folders, the Recycle Bin, and others? This can be done by opening up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigating to:

**My Computer\HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft  
\Windows\CurrentVersion\explorer\Shell Icons**

Once there, you will see a list of string values numbered from 0 to 40. The number is the default index number of the icon in the file **shell32.dll**, which should be located in your windows directory (i.e., c:\windows). The data assigned to each value is the icon file, or icon library file and index number. For example, the data assigned to the string value "3" will be the icon that is normally a closed folder icon (i.e., the closed folder icon is the 4th icon in **shell32.dll**). I realize that may sound somewhat confusing, so here is a step by step example. Reference the end of this topic for a complete list of the values and their respective icon assignments.

**Example:** Changing the yellow folder icon to the Windows flag.

1. Locate the value "3", because it is the index of the actual folder icon in **shell32.dll**. By default, it would be a yellow folder icon.
2. Find another icon that you want the yellow folder to be replaced with. If the icon you want is in a library, you will be entering in the path to the icon library file, followed by a comma, and then the index of the icon you want (see step 4).
3. The Windows flag that we want to change to be the yellow folder replacement is the 40th icon in **shell32.dll**, so the index number is 39 (because the first icon in an icon file has an index number of 0).
4. Edit the value "3" and enter in **c:\windows\system\shell32.dll,39**.
5. After exiting the Registry Editor and restarting Windows, all of the icons that used to be yellow folders should now be Windows flags.

## Updating your icons to view your changes

After making your icon change, you probably won't see the changes. In fact, restarting Windows also won't work in most cases. This is because of the way that Windows caches icon images (stores there images for quick and convenient retrieval). Located in your Windows directory is a file called **ShellIconCache** (its short filename equivalent is **shellico**). This file has a

hidden attribute to it, so it isn't visible if you do a regular file list in an MS-DOS window by typing **dir**. Follow these steps to update your icon cache and your registry icon changes:

1. Shut down your computer to MS-DOS Mode (from the Start button, choose **Shut Down**, then choose the "Restart your computer in MS-DOS Mode" option.
2. Once at a DOS prompt in your Windows directory, type **attrib -h shellico**. This will remove the hidden attribute from the icon cache file so that you can delete it.
3. Type **del shellico** to delete the file.
4. Restart Windows from the DOS prompt by typing **win**.

After completing the above steps, your icons should be updated.

**NOTE:** Deleting the icon cache file while still in Windows and then restarting Windows will not update your icons.

### **List of values and their respective icons (the number represents the index of the icon in shell32.dll):**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 0  | Default icon for unassigned file types     |
| 1  | Document                                   |
| 2  | Window                                     |
| 3  | Closed yellow folder                       |
| 4  | Opened yellow folder                       |
| 5  | 5 1/4" disk                                |
| 6  | 3 1/2" disk                                |
| 7  | Removable drive                            |
| 8  | Hard drive                                 |
| 9  | Network drive                              |
| 10 | Network drive (disconnected)               |
| 11 | CD-ROM drive                               |
| 12 | RAM chip                                   |
| 13 | Globe                                      |
| 14 | Network cable connection                   |
| 15 | Network computer                           |
| 16 | Printer                                    |
| 17 | Networked computers (1 of 2)               |
| 18 | Networked computers (2 of 2)               |
| 19 | Small folder & window                      |
| 20 | Small open yellow folder with paper inside |
| 21 | Yellow gear                                |
| 22 | Find file(s)                               |
| 23 | Help                                       |

- 24 Window and hourglass cursor (1 of 2)
- 25 Computer monitor (1 of 2)
- 26 External hardware/removable disk drive
- 27 Computer monitor (2 of 2)
- 28 Shared drive/folder (white hand with blue shirt)
- 29 Black & White shortcut arrow
- 30 Larger gray arrow
- 31 Empty Recycle Bin
- 32 Full Recycle Bin
- 33 Dial-Up Networking folder
- 34 Desktop
- 35 Control Panel folder
- 36 Start menu folder
- 37 Printers folder
- 38 Fonts folder
- 39 Windows flag
- 40 Music CD
- 41 Green tree
- 42 Multiple documents
- 43 Find file(s)
- 44 Find on networked computer
- 45 Monitor on case
- 46 Control Panel folder (again)
- 47 Printers folder (again)
- 48 Printer image on pad of papers
- 49 Network printer
- 50 Print to file (3 1/2" disk)
- 51 Alternate full Recycle Bin (1 of 3)
- 52 Alternate full Recycle Bin (2 of 3; with light green recycle arrows)
- 53 Alternate full Recycle Bin (3 of 3)
- 54 From document to document
- 55 Documents going from folder to folder
- 56 Pen writing label for folder
- 57 Computer, yellow gear, and small open yellow folder
- 58 Configuration file
- 59 Text file
- 60 Window with yellow gear
- 61 Gears image on document
- 62 Font file
- 63 True Type font file
- 64 Window with larger hourglass cursor (2 of 2)
- 65 Are you sure you want to delete these files?
- 66 Tape backup (hard drive, yellow cassette tape, 3 1/2" disk)
- 67 Cutout of CD in drive
- 68 Defragment
- 69 Printer (again)

- 70 Network printer (again)
- 71 Print to file (again)

As an alternative to editing the registry to change your icons, take a look at Microangelo, an icon editor and tool. Look towards the bottom of the article, [About this Help File](#) for more information.

# Making BMP Files Their Own Icons



## Registry Edit

It is possible for an icon to actually be a .bmp image of itself. To make this enhancement, open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to:

**HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT\Paint.Picture\DefaultIcon**

Edit the value that is under the **DefaultIcon** key and change it to **%1**.

## Network & Internet

# FTP Batch Commands

If you find yourself logging on often to a FTP site, and repeatedly doing the same commands, then this tip is for you. By making a simple text file with desired FTP commands in it, you can speed up everyday tasks.

1. Create a text file using an ascii text editor such as Notepad.
2. In this text file, place a desired list of ftp commands, one on each line (see example below).
3. When you run **ftp.exe** all that is needed is a simple command switch:  
**c:\windows> ftp -s:textfile.txt** (where textfile.txt is the file with your FTP commands)

**NOTE:** The -s switch can include the full path to your desired text file. For example:

**c:\windows> ftp -s:c:\windows\textfile.txt** (where textfile.txt is the file with your FTP commands)

**NOTE:** As far as I know, **ftp.exe** will automatically exit after all of the commands in your text file are carried out. I currently do not know of a way to avoid this from happening.

Here is an example of what your text file with FTP commands might look like: (The text in bold **should not** be included in the text file).

```
-----  
login  
    (Your login name)  
password  
    (Your password)  
cd files  
    (Change to the files directory on your account)  
binary  
    (Set binary mode for file transfers)  
send test.zip  
    (Sends your desired file, 'test.zip')
```

**Here is the same file without the comments:**

```
login  
password  
cd files  
binary  
send test.zip
```





# Netdde

**Netdde.exe** is a great program that works in conjunction with Winchat. If someone calls you, and your copy of Winchat is not already loaded, it will be loaded automatically.

The best way to use **Netdde.exe** is to place it in your **Startup** folder. **Netdde.exe** runs quietly in the background, taking very little memory.

**See Also:** Winpopup; Winchat

# Sharing Invisible Folders

It is possible to share folders on a network from your computer without having them visible to others that happen to be browsing the network. Folders shared in this way can still be accessed by manually mapping a network drive and typing in the entire computer name and share (i.e., \\ComputerName\SecretShare).

To share folders in this manner, follow these simple instructions:

1. Share a folder as you normally would by right clicking on it and choosing **Sharing**.
2. Simply add a dollar sign (\$) to the end of the **Shared As** name.

For example, a folder shared as **Incoming** will be visible to others. A folder shared as **Incoming\$** will not be visible to others. Assuming the computer name that this share is on is called **Centurion**, one would have map this network share to a desired drive letter and enter **\\Centurion\Incoming\$** as the path to connect this hidden shared folder.

# Tracing Internet Routes

Did you ever wonder how you actually connect to a site on the Internet? By typing **tracert** followed by the IP address or number at an MS-DOS prompt, you can find out exactly which computers your connection goes through along the way. Using **tracert** can also help you to find out which computer along the way is causing you connect errors.

## Example:

```
C:\WINDOWS> tracert www.example.com
```

# Winchat

## Introduction

- Winchat is a program used to communicate with other people by typing messages using a networked connection (such as a LAN or the Internet).
- Winchat is not installed with Windows 95, but is included on the Windows 95 CD-ROM. It is also available with documentation via anonymous ftp at **ftp.microsoft.com**.

## Placing and Receiving Calls

- **Calling someone at another computer:**  
To call or dial someone else, press the dial button (or choose **Dial** from the **Conversation** menu). All you need to know is the other computer's name.
- **Receiving calls if Winchat is already loaded:**  
When someone calls you, the Chat icon in the Taskbar will flash. To answer the incoming call, simply restore Winchat from its minimized state. If Winchat was not minimized, you may have to minimize it, then restore it again in order to answer the call.
- **Receiving calls if Winchat is not already loaded:**  
The handyness of Winchat comes into play in that it does not have to be loaded in order to receive incoming calls. For this feature to work, Netdde must be previously loaded. To my knowledge, Netdde only works with Winchat, and not with other network communication programs such as Winpopup.

## Chatting with Others

- **The interface:**  
Once a connection is made between you and the person you are talking to, the screen will be split into two horizontal or two vertical frames; the horizontal layout is the default. The option between horizontal and vertical can be changed by choosing **Preferences** from the **Options** menu. Fonts can also be changed through the preferences dialog.

## A Tip for using Winchat

- If you find yourself calling the same computer on a regular basis, you can make a small change to the shortcut for Winchat. If, for example, the computer you are calling is named **Centurion**, then the command line for the shortcut would be: **winchat.exe Centurion**.

**See Also:** [Winpopup](#); [Netdde](#)

# Winpopup

**Winpopup** is a small program used to send quick messages to another user, computer, or workgroup on a networked connection (such as a LAN or the Internet). In order for Winchat to work properly, it must be running on your machine, as well as the machine(s) where you are sending the message.

Winpopup comes with Windows 95, but may not have been installed with a default Windows 95 installation. If it was installed, it should be located in the Windows root directory (winchat.exe). If it was not installed, open up **Control Panel** and go to **Add/Remove Programs**. Once there, go to the **Windows Setup** tab, and add Winpopup from the **Accessories** program set.

**See Also:** [Winchat](#)

# Starting the Screen Saver on Demand

If you so desire, you can start the screen saver whenever you want by simply making a shortcut to the Windows screen saver file of your choice. For example, to make a shortcut that will invoke the "Curves and Colors" screen saver, the path in the **Target** line of your shortcut would be "**C:\Windows\System\Curves and Colors.scr**" (assuming your Windows directory is c:\windows). Note that because **Curves and Colors.scr** is a long filename, the target path must be in quotes.

This tip works great if you maintain a password on your screen saver and you need to leave your computer unattended for a short period of time.



# Editing the Msdos.sys File

The Msdos.sys file is an ascii text file which holds some basic system information which is needed when Windows 95 boots up. It should be located in your boot drive's root directory (i.e., c:\ ).

By editing the Msdos.sys file, you can change the startup behavior of Windows 95.

**NOTE:** The msdos.sys file has hidden and read-only attributes. To remove these attributes before editing, type **attrib -r -h -s msdos.sys** at a MS-DOS prompt.

Please click on one of the items below for more detailed explanations on individual topics:

- [Booting to the Graphical User Interface \(GUI\) or to MS-DOS Mode](#)
- [Booting to Windows 95 or Your Previous Version of MS-DOS](#)
- [Changing How Long Until the Default Selection Takes Effect in the Boot Menu](#)
- [Changing How Long You Have to Press a Function Key when booting Windows](#)
- [Displaying the Boot-up Menu by Default](#)
- [Displaying the Windows 95 Logo at Startup](#)

# Booting to the Graphical User Interface (GUI) or to MS-DOS Mode

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

Are you still a DOS user that was pressured somehow to migrate to Windows 95? If so, you can still boot your computer up to MS-DOS mode (Windows 95's version of MS-DOS).

1. Using Notepad or any other ascii text editor, change the line that reads **BootGUI=1** to **BootGUI=0** under the **[Options]** section of the msdos.sys file.

Here is an example of the items that might be under the [Options] section in your msdos.sys file after the editing (you may have more or less of the following entries):

```
[Options]
BootMulti=1
BootGUI=0
DoubleBuffer=1
Network=1
BootKeys=1
BootDelay=2
BootMenu=0
BootMenuDelay=30
Logo=1
```

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

# Booting to Windows 95 or Your Previous Version of MS-DOS

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

If you are running Windows 95, but still have your old MS-DOS and Windows 3.x combination installed, it is possible to access it. In some cases, Windows 95 will load up without a chance to load your old version of DOS and Windows. This edit to the msdos.sys file allows you the chance to bypass the normal loading of Windows 95 and load into DOS instead.

After making the change to the msdos.sys file, simply press **F4** when you see "**Starting Windows 95**" on your screen.

1. Using Notepad or any other ascii text editor, change the line that says **BootMulti=0** to **BootMulti=1** under the **[Options]** section of the msdos.sys file.

**NOTE:** If you upgraded to Windows 95 (i.e., you already had DOS and Windows) then the **BootMulti=** setting might have already been set to 1.

Here is an example of the items that might be under the [Options] section in your msdos.sys file after the editing (you may have more or less of the following entries):

```
[Options]
BootMulti=1
BootGUI=1
DoubleBuffer=1
Network=1
BootKeys=1
BootDelay=2
BootMenu=0
BootMenuDelay=30
Logo=1
```

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

# Changing How Long Until the Default Selection Takes Effect in the Boot Menu

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

If you ever get faced with a boot menu when starting Windows 95, by default, you have 30 seconds to make a selection until the default selection is made automatically. Changing the time you have to make a selection is easy:

1. Using Notepad or any other ascii text editor, enter a number in seconds that you would like to have for the default wait period after the text, **BootMenuDelay=** in the **[Options]** section of the msdos.sys file. By default, this value is set to 30.

Here is an example of the items that might be under the [Options] section in your msdos.sys file if you changed the setting to have a 15 second delay (you may have more or less of the following entries):

```
[Options]
BootMulti=1
BootGUI=1
DoubleBuffer=1
Network=1
BootKeys=1
BootDelay=2
BootMenu=0
BootMenuDelay=15
Logo=1
```

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

# Changing How Long You Have to Press a Function Key when booting Windows

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

When you start up your computer and see the text, "Starting Windows 95", there are two primary function keys that you might desire to press. One of them is **F4** (boots up your old version of MS-DOS) and the other is **F8** (brings up the Windows 95 boot menu) (See Booting to Windows 95 or Your Previous Version of MS-DOS for more information).

The problem is, you may not have enough time to press one of those keys. Making the delay longer is quite simple.

1. Using Notepad or any other ascii text editor, change the line that reads **BootDelay=2** to **BootDelay=x**, where x is the number of seconds you want to be able to press one of those function keys. This is done in the **[Options]** section of the msdos.sys file.

Here is an example of the items that might be under the [Options] section in your msdos.sys after the changes, if you changed the delay to 5 seconds (you may have more or less of the following entries):

```
[Options]
BootMulti=1
BootGUI=0
DoubleBuffer=1
Network=1
BootKeys=1
BootDelay=5
BootMenu=0
BootMenuDelay=30
Logo=1
```

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

# Displaying the Boot-up Menu by Default

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

When you start up Windows 95, you generally have your default options set, and Windows 95 loads as usual. However, you can choose different modes of loading from a menu that appears by pressing **F8** when you see "**Starting Windows 95**" on your screen. Options you have in the boot menu vary from starting in Safe Mode (a minimal set of drivers), loading to an MS-DOS prompt only, and more.

If you wish to display the boot menu by default each time you start Windows 95, make the following change to the **[Options]** section of the msdos.sys file using Notepad or any other ascii text editor:

1. Change the line that reads **BootMenu=0** to **BootMenu=1**.

Here is an example of the items that might be under the [Options] section in your msdos.sys file after the editing (you may have more or less of the following entries):

```
[Options]
BootMulti=1
BootGUI=1
DoubleBuffer=1
Network=1
BootKeys=1
BootDelay=2
BootMenu=1
BootMenuDelay=15
Logo=1
```

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

# Displaying the Windows 95 Logo at Startup

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

If you do not want to view the Windows 95 startup logo when you start Windows 95, a simple text editing job is all that is needed to make this adjustment.

Using Notepad or any other ascii text editor, add a line which reads **logo=0** under the **[Options]** section.

**NOTE:** If you already have a line that reads **logo=1**, then simply change the **1** to **0** (zero); do not add an additional logo= line.

Here is an example of the items that might be under the [Options] section in your msdos.sys file after the editing (you may have more or less of the following entries):

```
[Options]
BootMulti=1
BootGUI=1
DoubleBuffer=1
Network=1
BootKeys=1
BootDelay=2
BootMenu=0
BootMenuDelay=30
Logo=0
```

## Msdos.sys File Editing Contents

Other



# Adding Sounds to Application Events



## Registry Edit

Wav sound files can be added to many aspects of your favorite and most-used applications. To make this enhancement, open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to:

**HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\AppData\Schemes\Apps**

Under the **Apps** subkey, create a new key with the name of the .exe file that you want to assign sounds to. The program that you wish to assign sounds to does not have to be in the Windows directory or in your computer's path. All that you need to enter is the name of the .exe file without the .exe extension (for example, name the key **notepad** and not **notepad.exe**).

Create any or all of the following keys under the key for the program that you just created:

<b>Name of Key</b>	<b>What causes the sound</b>
--------------------	------------------------------

<b>AppGPFault</b>	Application General Protection Fault error
<b>Close</b>	Close Program
<b>Maximize</b>	Maximize Program
<b>MenuCommand</b>	Selection from a menu
<b>MenuPopup</b>	Menu Popout
<b>Minimize</b>	Minimize Program
<b>Open</b>	Open Program
<b>RestoreDown</b>	Restore Down
<b>RestoreUp</b>	Restore Up
<b>SystemAsterisk</b>	Asterisk Message Box
<b>SystemExclamation</b>	Exclamation Message Box
<b>SystemHand</b>	Stop Message Box
<b>SystemQuestion</b>	Question Message Box

That is the extent of the registry editing that you have to do for this feature. Now, load up **Control Panel** and then **Sounds**. Scroll down to find the new program that you just entered. To assign sounds to the events, simply do so as you would with the regular Windows system events (see Windows' help if you need more information).

# Changing the Tips of the Day



## Registry Edit

If you want to change the tips that come up by default each time you start Windows 95, open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to:

**HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows  
\CurrentVersion\explorer\Tips**

Within the Tips key are all 48 tips that are chosen at random each time you start Windows 95. To insert your own tips or thoughts, just change any or all of the keys numbered 0-47.

# Changing the Truncation of Long Filenames



## Registry Edit

This registry edit will change the way that Windows 95 truncates (cuts short) long filenames. To make this change, open up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigate to:

**HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet  
\control\FileSystem**

1. Create a new binary value called **NameNumericTail**.
2. Edit this value, and add a zero to the existing four zeros that are already present.

The final result in the Data field should appear as follows:

**0000 00**

### Before the Registry edit:

**Windows 95 filename:** This is a test.txt

**MS-DOS filename:** thisis~1.txt

### After the Registry edit:

**Windows 95 filename:** This is a test.txt

**MS-DOS filename:** thisisat.txt

# Command Prompt Commands

While you are at a MS-DOS prompt, try these things you can do to speed things up and make things easier:

**cd ...** Moves two directories up within the root directory you are currently in. For example, if you are in C:\Windows\Start Menu\Programs, typing **cd ...** will move you to c:\Windows.

**cd ....** Same as above, except that you would be moved to c:\. You can type up to six dots after the "cd" command (which would move you back five directories).

**start .** Typing **start .** will bring up an Explorer window of the directory that you are currently in at the MS-DOS prompt. **start ..** brings up the parent directory of the one that you are in.

## **Starting Windows-based programs from a MS-DOS prompt**

Type **start** followed by the windows-based program you wish to start. For example, type **start notepad.exe** to run Notepad.

## **Starting programs associated with a particular file type**

Type **start** followed by a file that has an associated program, and that program will load up with the file. For example, type **start c:\windows\readme.txt** to load up the readme.txt file in Notepad.

## **Dragging and Dropping files into a MS-DOS prompt**

Try dragging a file or shortcut into an active MS-DOS window. Its filename with the full path will appear at the command prompt.

# Disabling Autoplay

If you do not wish to have audio CD's automatically play, and data CD's automatically load, hold down the **Shift** key while loading the CD into your drive for a few seconds.

# Keyboard Shortcuts

Keyboard shortcuts often increase your efficiency in Windows 95. Here is a list of common Windows 95 shortcuts to speed things up:

<b>Shortcut Key</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>F1:</b>	Help
<b>F2:</b>	Rename
<b>F3:</b>	Find
<b>F4:</b>	Gives combo box focus in an Explorer window
<b>F5:</b>	Refresh
<b>F6:</b>	Switches between panes in an Explorer window
<b>F10:</b>	Menu mode
<b>Shift+F10:</b>	Context menu for selected item
<b>Shift+Enter*:</b>	Explore the object (such as a directory)
<b>Backspace:</b>	Goes to the parent folder (in an Explorer window)
<b>Shift+Close:</b>	Closes folder and all parent folders
<b>Ctrl+A:</b>	Select all (in an Explorer window)
<b>Ctrl+C:</b>	Copy
<b>Ctrl+X:</b>	Cut
<b>Ctrl+V:</b>	Paste
<b>Ctrl+Z:</b>	Undo
<b>Alt+Tab:</b>	Switches between applications
<b>Shift+Del:</b>	Delete files immediately without putting them into the Recycle Bin
<b>Shift+Drag a file:</b>	Forces a move
<b>Ctrl+Drag a file:</b>	Forces a copy
<b>Shift+Ctrl+Drag a file:</b>	Creates a shortcut of an object
<b>Ctrl+Esc:</b>	Brings up Start menu

\* The **Shift+Enter** keyboard combination can also be performed by holding **Shift** while double clicking.

## Windows 95 keyboard specific:

<b>Shortcut Key</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Win+R:</b>	Run dialog
<b>Win+M:</b>	Minimize All
<b>Shift+Win+M:</b>	Undo Minimize All

**Win+F1:** Windows Help  
**Win+E:** Explorer (opens in 'My Computer')  
**Win+F:** Find Files or Folders  
**CTRL+Win+F:** Find Computer  
**Win+Tab:** Cycle through taskbar buttons  
**Win+Break:** PSS Hotkey... (System properties)

# Making Your Logitech Mouse Double Click



## Registry Edit

If you have a three-button Logitech mouse, and you're not using the middle button to double click, then you're not using your mouse's full potential! This registry edit seems to vary depending on your Logitech mouse version and/or your Windows setup. Try these locations in the registry for starters, or simply search for **DoubleClick**.

- 1) HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\software\logitech\version???
- 2) HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Logitech\MouseWare  
  \CurrentVersion\MouseMan\0000
- 3) HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Logitech\MouseWare  
  \CurrentVersion\MouseMan2\0000

In all locations when you find the **DoubleClick** value, it should be changed from **000** to **001**.

**NOTE:** After making this registry change, it is no longer necessary to run any external software such as Logitech's Mouseware or Mouseware Enhanced.



# Restarting Windows Quickly

To restart Windows 95 quickly without having to reboot your whole system, follow these simple instructions:

1. Choose **Shut Down** from the Start Menu.
2. Choose the **Restart the Computer** option button.
3. Hold down the shift key while clicking **Yes**.

**NOTE:** Holding down the shift key while pressing enter has the same effect as described above.

# Shut Down Screen Commands

After you have successfully shut down Windows 95, your only options are not to turn off or reboot your computer. In actuality, you are just at a MS-DOS prompt displaying the shut down screen image. Next time you are at the shut down screen ("It is now safe to turn off your computer."), try these handy commands:

## **Command:**

**win**                 Restarts Windows 95 without re-booting your computer.

**mode co80**       Returns you to a MS-DOS prompt.

**NOTE:** For unknown reasons, these commands don't always work. Try them out for yourself to find out.

**See also:** [Changing Windows 95 System Screens](#)

# **Speeding up Microsoft Backup**

By minimizing the Microsoft Backup program that comes with Windows 95 while backing up, restoring, or comparing files, your backup may possibly run up to 25% faster.

# Taking a Screen Shot

By pressing the **Print Screen** button on your keyboard while in Windows, you can place an image of what you see on your screen into the Windows clipboard. Then, this image can be pasted into any number of Windows applications which support image editing and manipulation (such as Microsoft Paint, Paint Shop Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Word, etc.).

By pressing **Alt+Print Screen**, an image of the current window, instead of the entire screen will be placed into the clipboard.

Help File

# Using the Registry Editor

## General Information:

The Registry Editor is used to edit the Windows 95 system registry (contained in the system.dat and user.dat files). The registry file is basically just a mass of information that Windows 95 uses for its various settings. By changing these settings, you can change the way Windows 95 looks and acts.

To load up the Registry Editor, run **regedit.exe**, which is in your windows directory (i.e., c:\windows).

**NOTE:** I do not recommend making any changes to the Windows 95 registry unless you are comfortable with the information contained in this topic. One slight typing error could potentially hamper the operation of Windows 95.

## Creating New Keys:

All of the folders on the left pane of the Registry Editor are called keys. Each key may contain more keys within it, along with at least one value named **(Default)**. To create a new key, right click then choose **Key** from **New** the popout menu. This action can also be done through the Registry Editor's Edit menu. To create a key within an existing key, right click on the parent folder.

## Creating New Values:

Values are plentiful throughout the Registry Editor, and control a lot of what goes on in Windows 95. There are three types of values that can be created: **String**, **Binary**, and **DWORD**. For all practical purposes, you will most likely only be dealing with the **String** and **Binary** value types. To create a new value, right click on the right pane of Registry Editor and choose New String, Binary, or DWORD value.

## Renaming Keys and Values:

To rename a key or value, either right click on the key or value and select Rename, or simply hit **F2** on your keyboard (F2 is the shortcut key for renaming objects throughout Windows 95).

## Editing Values:

To edit a registry value, simply double click on the name of the value. Depending on the type of the value (i.e., String or Binary), you will get a different interface through which to edit.

### **Important Information About the Registry:**

Every time you successfully boot up Windows 95, copies of your system.dat and user.dat files (the two main registry files) are made. If you are working in Windows 95, and something "fatal" goes wrong, **DO NOT** reboot and let Windows 95 load up again. Instead, restore the registry from the backups that are automatically made. For detailed information on how to restore the system registry, refer to the help file accompanying regedit.exe, or do a text search from within Windows help. Often, if you return to Windows 95 with a registry error, you will receive a message telling you there is an error, and your backup copies will automatically be restored. It is still a good idea though to be prepared to manually restore the registry.

# About this Help File

Thank you for choosing one of the most valuable and well-written guides to tips, tricks, and secrets found throughout Windows 95!

New users and experienced users of Windows 95 alike can benefit from the contents of this help file. Perhaps you have seen other Windows 95 compilations with so called "Tips and Tricks." This one is just a little bit different. With the exception of a few entries in this help file, most of the information cannot be found by using Windows 95 from day to day. Other "Tips and Tricks" resources usually tend to dwell on simple things that most people will eventually figure out. One of the goals of this help file is to avoid that redundant approach to getting the most out of Windows 95.

For information on some of the more basic features of Windows 95, refer to the text file **tips.txt**, which can be found in your Windows directory (i.e., c:\windows).

If you are somewhat apprehensive about changing system settings and editing your system's registry, then you can take heart in the fact that many of these changes can be done by using a variety of programs. Take a look at these programs next time you are on the WWW. Some, if not all of them are available from my WWW PC Shareware page at **<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~tsolin/share>**.

- **Powertoys/TweakUI.** The Powertoys are a set of great programs and utilities written and distributed for free from Microsoft. They are easy to install and easy to use. The Powertoys home page can be found at **<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/software/powertoy.htm>**.
- **Microangelo.** Microangelo is a great icon editor and tool. It does everything from edit and create 256 color icons to making your own icon library files. At the time of this publication, the newest version was 2.0. The Microangelo home page can be found at **<http://www.impactsoft.com/muangelo/muangelo.html>**.

**The author of this help file is not responsible in any way for any type(s) of unwanted result(s) from the use of the tips, tricks, and/or secrets obtained from this help file.**

[Contacting the Author](#)



# Changes in Version 1.3

## Changes in Version 1.3:

1. Changed the format of title page to allow easier browsing of help file by categorizing the topics.
2. Proofread the entire file, fixing various formatting and typographical errors.

## Changes in Version 1.21:

Topics added:

- Changing System Icons---covers changing nearly all of the icons you might come across while using Windows 95, including the icons for folders, My Computer, and the Recycle Bin.

Other changes:

1. Changed the font on the title page and in article headings to Times New Roman (was Arial).
2. Added references to Powertoys and Microangelo in the article, About this Help File.
3. Other miscellaneous bug fixes & typo corrections.

About this Help File

Regedit.exe is the program file which runs the Windows 95 Registry Editor. It is located in the windows directory (i.e., c:\windows).




# Contacting the Author

Any comments, suggestions, or tips of your own are encouraged  
and welcome.

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## **Title Bar Buttons**

-  Minimizes the current window
-  Maximizes/restores the current window
-  Closes the current window

One or more MS-DOS commands contained in a text file with a .bat extension. When run, a batch file will carry out the MS-DOS commands. For more information on batch files and batch file commands, refer to your MS-DOS manual or online help.



