Backup the Computers Registry

If you're running XP, you can create a new System Restore Point **which is a backup of your registry** for the day on which you created the SRP.

First I recommend that you create a Registry Backup folder. Here's how:
1. RightClick START…click EXPLORE.
2. Scroll up to the Local C: Drive, click once to select, then click File…New…Folder.
3. Name the new Folder AReg Backup. (The A in front of Reg Backup just makes the folder be listed near the top of the list of folders in your C: drive, making it easy to find.
4. Click ENTER.

Backing up the Registry

1.Click START….RUN
2.Click on Run from the Start menu.
3. Type REGEDIT and then click OK.
4. The Registry Editor window will appear.
5. Click on File on the menu bar.
6. Click on Export Registry File.
7. In the screen box that appears, locate the AREG Backup folder by doubleclicking the C:\ Drive, then doubleclick the AReg Backup folder so that AReg Backup appears in the top box.
8. In the File Name field type Reg and the date such as Reg 02 14 2006
9. Click on the Save button.
You now have a backup copy of your Registry saved in the AReg Backup Folder on your hard drive.
NOTE: If you need to restore the Registry, you can double-click on the AReg Backup folder and then doubleclick on the Reg file you just created and it will be restored. Once restored, when everything is working great for a few days, make a new Registry Backup and delete the old one. It is also a good idea to copy this file to a CD if you have a CD-Writer.

Information About Editing the Registry

(Not for new users)

To edit the registry, Microsoft recommends that you follow the steps in the Microsoft documentation only. If possible, use the Windows user interface instead of directly editing the registry.

You can edit the registry by using Registry Editor (Regedit.exe or Regedt32.exe). If you use Registry Editor incorrectly, you can cause serious problems that may require you to reinstall your operating system. Microsoft does not guarantee that problems that you cause by using Registry Editor incorrectly can be resolved. Use Registry Editor at your own risk. For additional information about the differences between Regedit.exe and Regedt32.exe, click the article number below to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

141377 Differences Between Regedit.exe and Regedt32.exe

Before you modify the registry, make sure to back up the registry, and make sure that you understand how to restore the registry if a problem occurs. For additional information about backing up and restoring the registry, click the following article numbers to view the articles in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

322756 HOW TO: Back Up, Edit, and Restore the Registry in Windows XP and Windows Server 2003

322755 HOW TO: Backup, Edit, and Restore the Registry in Windows 2000

323170 HOW TO: Backup, Edit, and Restore the Registry in Windows NT 4.0

322754 HOW TO: Backup, Edit, and Restore the Registry in Windows 95, Windows 98, and Windows Me

Back Up, Edit, and Restore the Registry in Windows XP

The information in this article applies to:
Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition
Microsoft Windows XP Professional
Microsoft Windows XP 64-Bit Edition
For a Microsoft Windows 2000 version of this article, see Q322755.

IN THIS TASK

Summary

This step-by-step article describes how to back up, edit, and restore the registry in Windows XP. Microsoft recommends that before you edit the registry, you back up the registry and understand how to restore it if a problem occurs.

back to the topHow to Back Up the Registry

Before you edit the registry, export the keys in the registry that you plan to edit, or back up the whole registry. If a problem occurs, you can then follow the steps in the How to Restore the Registry section of this article to restore the registry to its previous state.

back to the topHow to Export Registry KeysYou can follow these steps to export a registry key before you edit it.

NOTE: Do not follow these steps to export a whole registry hive (for example, the **HKEY_CURRENT_USER** hive). If you must back up whole registry hives, back up the whole registry instead.
Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
In the **Open** box, type regedit, and then click **OK**.
Locate and then click the key that contains the value that you plan to edit.
On the **File** menu, click **Export**.
In the **Save in** box, select a location in which to save the .reg file. In the **File name** box, type a file name, and then click **Save**.back to the topHow to Back Up the Whole RegistryTo back up the whole registry, use the Backup utility to back up the System State (which includes the registry, the COM+ Class Registration Database, and your boot files). For additional information about using the Backup utility to back up the System State, click the article numbers below to view the articles in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:
Q308422 HOW TO: Use Backup to Back Up Files and Folders on Your Computer in Windows XP
Q320820 How to Use the Backup Utility to Back Up Files and Folders in Windows XP Home Edition back to the topHow to Edit the Registry

To edit the registry, Microsoft recommends that you follow the steps in the Microsoft documentation only.

If possible, use the Windows user interface instead of directly editing the registry.

Using Registry Editor incorrectly can cause serious problems that may require that you reinstall your operating system. Microsoft cannot guarantee that problems that result from incorrectly using Registry Editor can be solved. Use Registry Editor at your own risk.

For more information about editing the registry, follow these steps in Registry Editor:
On the **Help** menu, click **Help Topics**.
On the **Contents** tab, double-click **Registry Editor**.
Double-click **How To**.
Double-click **Change Keys and Values**, and then click the topic that you want.back to the topHow to Restore the Registry

How to Restore Registry KeysTo restore registry keys that you exported, double-click the .reg file that you saved.

back to the topHow to Restore the Whole RegistryTo restore the whole registry, restore the System State from a backup. For additional information about how to restore the System State from a backup, click the article number below to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base: Q309340 HOW TO: Use Backup to Restore Files and Folders on Your Computer in Windows XP **NOTE**: Backing up the System State also creates updated copies of the registry files in the %SystemRoot%\Repair folder. If you cannot start Windows XP after you edit the registry, you can replace the registry files manually by using the steps in the "Part One" section of the following Microsoft Knowledge Base article:Q307545 How to Recover from a Corrupted Registry that Prevents Windows XP from Starting back to the top

References

For additional information, click the article numbers below to view the articles in the Microsoft Knowledge Base: Q310516 HOW TO: Distribute Registry Changes to Computers in Windows XP Q314837 How to Manage Remote Access to the Registry Q310595 Description of HKEY_CURRENT_USER Registry Subkeys Q310593 Description of the RunOnceEx Registry Key Q307545 How to Recover from a Corrupted Registry that Prevents Windows XP from Starting back to the top
First Published: May 9 2002 11:28AM
Keywords: kbAudITPro kbHOWTOmaster kbhowto

Revised 2 13 2006 jmm