

How to turn off or turn on Windows XP System Restore

Solution:

System Restore, a Windows XP feature, is similar to the "Last Known Good Configuration" in Windows NT and Windows 2000. You can use System Restore to restore the computer to a previous state, using the backups that it makes of selected system files and program files. However, "Last Known Good Configuration" restores the computer back to the last state that Windows determines might work, whereas System Restore gives you a choice of previous states to restore the computer back to. That is, System Restore maintains multiple restore points instead of one last restore point.

While this is a desirable feature, in some cases it should be temporarily turned off. For example, if the computer is infected with a virus, then it is possible that the virus could be backed up by System Restore. By default, Windows prevents System Restore from being modified by outside programs. As a result, there is the possibility that you could restore a virus-infected file, or that on-line scanners would detect the virus in that location.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- You *must* be logged in as an Administrator to do this. If you are not logged in as an Administrator, the System Restore tab will not be displayed. If you do not know how to log in as Administrator, contact your system administrator (if you are on a network), the computer manufacturer, or installer.
- Turning off System Restore will clear out all previous restore points.

To turn off Windows XP System Restore:

NOTE: These instructions assume that you are using the default Windows XP Start Menu and have not changed to the Classic Start menu. To re-enable the default menu, right-click Start, click Properties, click Start menu (not Classic) and then click OK.

1. Click Start.
2. Right-click the My Computer icon, and then click Properties.
3. Click the System Restore tab.
4. Check "Turn off System Restore" or "Turn off System Restore on all drives" as shown in this illustration:

Backup the 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.

1. Click Start...All Programs..Accessories...System Tools...System Restore.
2. Select Create System Restore Point.

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 Registry 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. Select All in the Export range box.
10. 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.

Don't Restore Viruses. If your system's been infected, Win XP and ME's System Restore tool may have backed up a virus in the System volume information folder or in _RESTORE. You'll want to disable System Restore before scanning if you suspect you're infected. Do it by selecting Control Panel, System, System Restore, then checking "Turn Off System Restore." Make sure to turn Restore back on after the scan. BTW, it's not necessary to disable System Restore each time you scan.

ME RESTORATION

SYMPTOMS

When you attempt to restore a checkpoint that you created after September 8, 2001 in Windows Millennium Edition (Me), the restore procedure does not work after you restart your computer and you may receive the following error message:

Restoration Was Unsuccessful

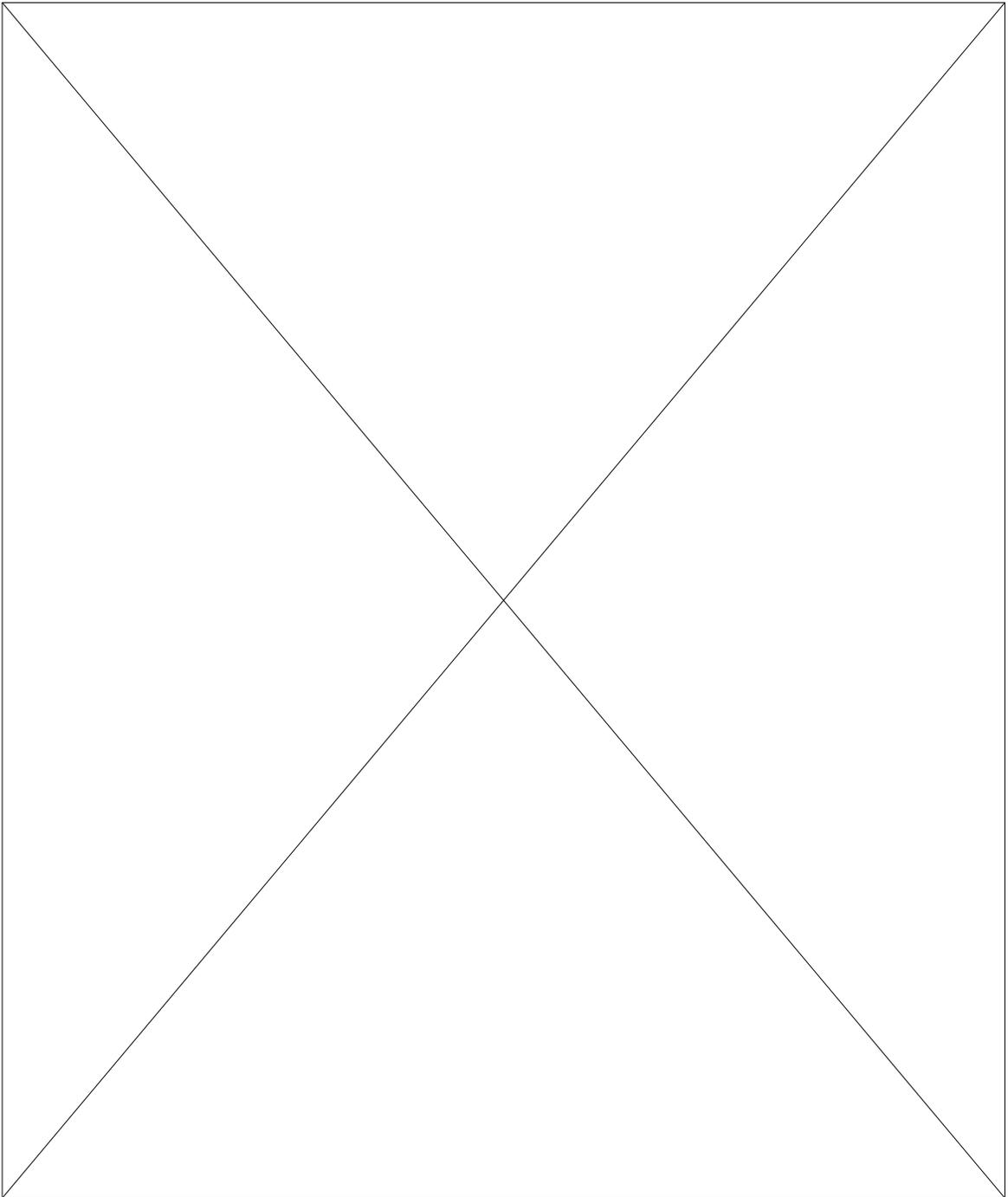
CAUSE: This problem occurs because the algorithm that is used to calculate the checkpoint file name does not work after September 8, 2001.

To disable Windows Me System Restore

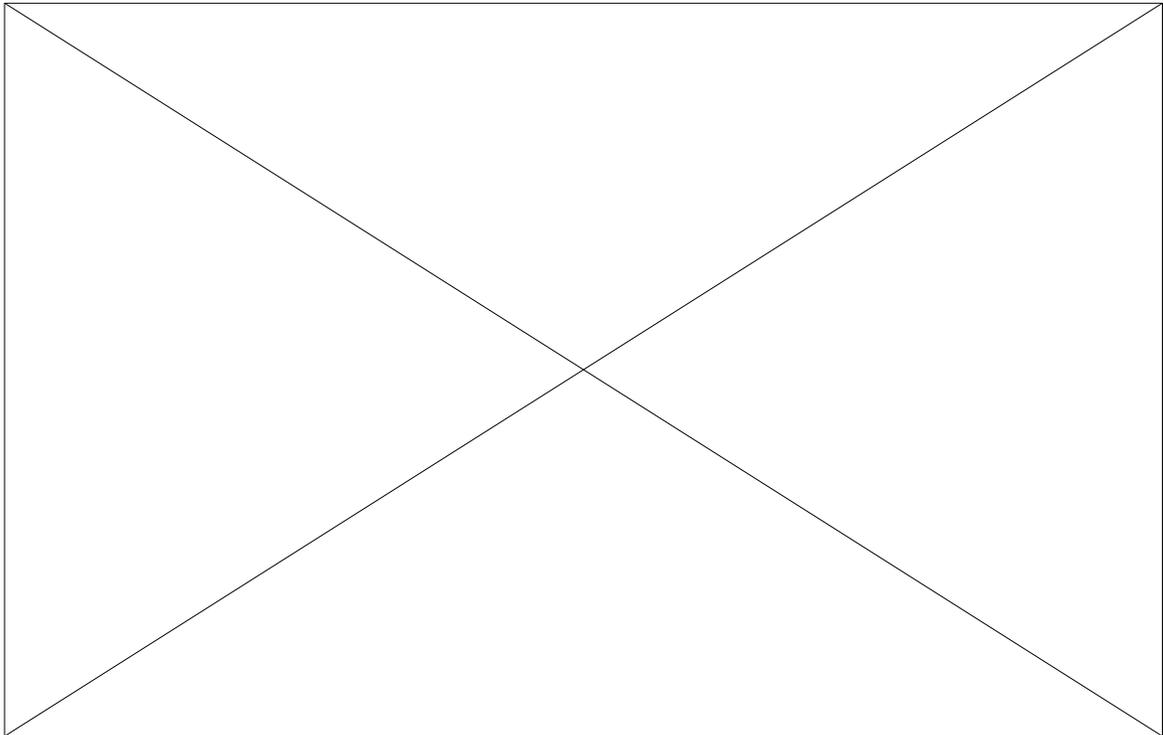
1. Click Start > Settings > Control Panel.
2. Double-click the System icon.

Note: If the System icon is not visible, click "View all Control Panel options" to display it.

3. On the Performance tab click File System.



4. Click the Troubleshooting tab, and then check Disable System Restore as shown in this illustration.



5. Click OK. Click Yes, when you are prompted to restart Windows.
6. Follow the instructions in the document that instructed you to disable System Restore (such as troubleshooting or virus removal). When all instructions have been completed, enable System Restore again by following the instructions below.

To enable Windows Me System Restore

1. Click Start > Settings > Control Panel.
2. Double-click System.
3. On the Performance tab click File System.
4. On the Troubleshooting tab, uncheck Disable System Restore.

Click OK. Click Yes, when you are prompted to restart Windows.

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

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