

Windows 2000 & XP Enhancements

The following changes may enhance the running of the computer by **changing the appearances of the desktop views** and **canceling behind-the-scenes activities and start-up applications** that may not be critical. An added bonus to these changes would be that they might lessen the chances for application conflicts, which may cause the computer to hang-up or slow-down. Included are two sections dealing with the testing of Broadband Speed and Spyware.

Windows XP typically uses more processing for behind-the-scenes cosmetic issues and updating monitoring than Windows 2000. So, there is a preference by some individuals to use Windows 2000 Operating System over Windows XP.

It would be educationally beneficial for you to review all of the content under **Important Information Sources** prior to any changes.

NOTE: These step-by-step enhancements take a good amount of time to complete. There will be Internet disconnections while making some of these changes. It is advisable that you record and/or back up all your preferences prior to making any changes incase you decide to revert back to your original settings. Print this document prior to starting.

As a disclaimer, the following changes are done at the owner's own risk.
The owner takes full responsibility to any and all changes that they make to those computers.

Important Information Sources

http://www.pacs-portal.co.uk/startup_index.htm

<http://www.3feetunder.com/krick/startup/list.html>

<http://www2.whidbey.net/djdenham/Uncheck.htm>

http://www.answerthatwork.com/Tasklist_pages/tasklist.htm

<http://www1.pcpitstop.com/faq/disable.asp>

<http://www.windowsstartup.com/wso/search.php>

<http://www.bioscentral.com>

<http://www.blackviper.com/AskBV/askBV.htm> → FAQ links → Choose the Look: White → top left-hand corner

<http://www.blackviper.com/Articles/articles.htm> → Links to Operating System Guides

<http://www.blackviper.com/WinXP/strangeservice.htm> → Services/Applications Configurations

<http://www20.tomshardware.com/howto/20050112/index.html>

Software:

<http://www.windowsstartup.com>

<http://www.download.com>

<http://www.majorgeeks.com/>

<http://www.pctools.com/registry-mechanic/?ref=Googleopt>

<http://www.speedguide.net/>

<http://www.speedguide.net/downloads.php>

<http://www.monroeworld.com/pchelp/xptweaks.php>

Set-by-Step Enhancements Outline for Windows 2000

Windows 2000

01. 2000 → Desktop – right click > Properties – left click > Display Properties window > Effects Tab > **Uncheck all choices except: Hide keyboard navigation indicators**
02. 2000 → Desktop – right click > Properties – left click > Display Properties window > **NOTE:** Each change needs to be made to each individual monitor separately. Check your changes! Settings Tab > Colors = High Color (16-bit) > Screen Area typical setting: Single Monitor = 1024 by 768, Multi-Monitor = 1280 by 1024 > Settings Window > Left click on Advanced Tab > Troubleshooting Tab > Hardware Acceleration - Set dial to 3-notches from Full and/or 4-notches from None . **NOTE:** Certain cards will shut off all preferences when going beyond a certain point. The third-notch from Full is typically safe. This item basically regulates the performance the video card for games. **NOTE:** Make notes of your systems preferences through all-of-the Advanced Settings tab windows prior to making any changes. > Monitor Tab > CRT = 75 Hertz, Flat Panel = 60 hertz. **NOTE:** Each change needs to be made to each individual monitor separately. Check your changes for each monitor!
03. 2000 → **NOTE:** The following will cause a **temporary loss of Internet connection**. Do not do while trading!
→ My Computer icon – right click > Properties > Hardware > Device Manager > Networks Adapters - left click on (+) box - **NOTE:** There may be multiple items being displayed under Network Adapters. → Through the following process, you will need to locate the Item that offers **Duplex-Mode** abilities in the Value window.
- **Examples:** Intel® Pro/1000 MTW Network Connection, Intel 8255x-based PCI Ethernet Adapter (10.100), 3Com Integrated Fast Ethernet Controller
- Right click each item under Network Adapters. > Go to their Properties. > Advanced Tab > Property window > Locate the Item that offers **Duplex-Mode** abilities in the Value window. > Duplex Mode - **NOTE:** Property Items may have another name other than Duplex Mode.. → Look for: **Link Speed & Duplex** → Look for networking card operation that offers Duplex Modes. > set to **Full Duplex** and/or **100Mbps/Full Duplex** from Auto Detect or Hardware Default mode. → **NOTE:** At this time, you will temporarily lose Internet connection.
04. 2000 → My Computer icon – right click > Properties > Advanced Tab > Performance Options > Application Response > **Optimize for Applications**
05. 2000 → **NOTE:** The following will change the appearance and functionality of windows. > My Computer icon – left click > Tools – at top of window > Click on Tools Tab > Folder Options > General Tab - set to : Use Classic Windows desktop, Use Windows Classic folders, Open each folder in its own window, Double-click to open an item... > View Tab - **Set to on:** Show Hidden Files, Hide protected operating system files, Remember each folder's view settings, Show My Documents, Show pop-up description for folder > click on **Like Current Folder**
06. 2000 → open Windows Explorer > Tools > Internet Options > General - click on **Delete Cookies** - OK, click on **Delete Files** - delete all offline content – OK ← **NOTE:** Previous two should be done on a regular basis. > Advanced Tab - make sure that at least the following two are unchecked - (there may be others depending on your own preferences): Automatically check for updates, Reuse windows for launching shortcuts – a big one for convenience!
07. 2000 → Go to your Desktop Menu Bar at the bottom of your Main Desktop monitor. Right click in a blank area of that bar. Left click on Task Manager > Applications Tab - shows what main software applications are currently running. Processes Tab → check lower left corner of window. How many **Processes** are running? Over 30 may be causing slow downs and conflicts. → **NOTE:** Additionally, there are many “hidden” applications that are running in the background that will need to be addressed. → See Start-Up Program Notes.
08. 2000 → Go to your Desktop Menu Bar at the bottom of your Main Desktop monitor. > Left click on Start Tab > Programs > Scroll to Start Up folder > **Delete all Shortcuts**

09. → **Check for SpyWare** and **check for Start-up Applications** running behind the scenes.
Typically, these cause conflicts and slow down the computer.
One option is to use SpySweeper with a 30-day free trial. - <http://www.download.com/1200-2018-5136615.html>
→ **Download** > **During Set-Up:** do a **Custom Install** → only check the following: Add a shortcut on the desktop & Enable windows Messenger shield... > **Once downloaded** > in **Options** uncheck all except - Automatically Delete Items in Quarantine More than 7 Days Old > run **Sweep Now** - Follow instruction once test is done. This will list all of the SpyWare that is on that computer. - Take the steps to Remove found SpyWare. > go to **Shields** > **Startup Programs** icon in upper right corner > check both **Startup Shield** and **Edit Start Items**. > **Take Caution:** → The following may have a direct impact on the main functionality of the computer systems.
→ Study available content in **Important Information Sources** section prior to making any changes.
→ Uncheck those items that are known to be non-critical to the basic functionality of the system. - Typically, a user may uncheck one non-critical item at a time, restart and check for issues.
→ **Example** of non-critical functionality: Automatic Updating Executables. Applications that are always running in the background connecting to that application companies servers and checking for updates for that application.
→ **NOTE:** Once shut off, the user will need to manually check for those various applications updates.
→ **NOTE:** Do your research and beware of critical system executables that need to running at start-up.
Such As: Windows Systems executables, Keyboard and Mouse executables, Virus executables, Video card executables, etc. → SpySweep allows going back through this Startup Programs feature and re-checking items.
10. → Do a free **Diagnostic Test** on your computer at www.pcpitstop.com > <http://pcpitstop.com/pcpitstop/pitstop.asp>
> **Let's go!** > You may choose to do recommended changes that are explained in the drop-down area's.
11. → Check **Broadband** download connection speed. → **NOTE:** You must Delete Cookies and Temporary Internet Files through the Windows Explorer's before each and every bandwidth speed test to get accurate results.
- **Windows Explorer** > **Tools** > **Internet Options** > **Delete Cookies** Tab and **Delete Files** - Delete all offline content.
-- <http://pcpitstop.com/internet/Bandwidth.asp> - Run Bandwidth Test
-- <http://performance.toast.net> - Shuttle + Text (755k) to Toast.net I > Run Test
-- <http://www.austin.rr.com/speedtest/speed.asp>
-- <http://speedcheck2.optonline.net/speedcheck/speedcheck.html>
-- <http://infospeed.verizon.net> - Start my test
12. → **PC Fixes** - <http://www20.tomshardware.com/howto/20050112/index.html> - PC Fixes - Tom's Hardware
13. → Change **Cursor Size** - Go to your **Desktop Menu Bar** at the bottom of your Main Desktop monitor. Left click on **Start** Tab > **Settings** > **Control Panel** > **Mouse** > **Pointers** - uncheck Pointer Shadow in left bottom corner > **Browse** Tab > locate and highlight - **arrow_im.cur** - click **Open** Tab > click on **Apply** Tab in next window. > **OK**
14. → Again, an over-loaded **Temporary Internet Files folder** & **Cookies folder** in Internet Explorer may cause the computer to act slowly and erratically. So, by keeping these two folders cleaned-up by using the Delete Buttons often, should be considered.
15. → **Recycle Bin** - right click > **Empty Recycle Bin** - left click
16. 2000 → **My Computer** - open > **Local Disk (C:)** - right click > **Properties** > **Tools** Tab > **Defragmentation** > **Defragment Now...** Tab > **Analyze** - wait for analyze process > **Disk Defragment** Window > click on **Defragment** Tab - wait for defragment process to be completed.
17. 2000 → **Windows 2000 Professional Install Guide:**
<http://www.blackviper.com/Articles/OS/Install2kPro/install2kpro1.htm>
18. 2000 → **Windows 2000 Professional and Server Services Configuration Guide**
<http://www.blackviper.com/WIN2K/servicecfg.htm>
<http://www.blackviper.com/WIN2K/win2kservice411.htm>
19. 2000 → **Change Automatic/Manual/Disable Functions:**
<http://www.blackviper.com/AskBV/2k1.htm>

Set-by-Step Enhancements Outline for Windows XP

Windows XP

01. XP → **NOTE:** The following will change the appearance and functionality of windows. Go to your Desktop Menu Bar at the bottom of your Main Desktop monitor. Right click on Menu Bar > Properties – left click > Start Menu Tab > check **Classic Start Menu**
02. XP → My Computer – right click > Properties – left click > Advanced Tab > Performance > Settings Tab in the **Performance Options Window** > Advanced Tab > Visual Effects Tab > Custom Settings - uncheck all except: Use drop shadows for icon labels on desktop, Use visual styles on windows and buttons, Smooth edges of screen fonts > **Performance Options Window** - Advanced Tab > **Process Scheduling** – check Programs, **Memory Usage** – check Programs.
03. XP → My Computer – right click > Properties – left click > **Automatic Updates** > click: Turn off Automatic updates.
→ **NOTE:** From this time on, it will be the User's responsibility to manually check for system updates.
04. XP → **NOTE:** The following will cause a **temporary loss of Internet connection**. Do not do while trading!
→ My Computer icon – right click > Properties > Hardware > Device Manager > Networks Adapters - left click on (+) box - **NOTE:** There may be multiple items being displayed under **Network Adapters**. → Through the following process, you will need to locate the Item that offers **Duplex-Mode** abilities in the Value window.
 - **Examples:** Intel® Pro/1000 MTW Network Connection, Intel 8255x-based PCI Ethernet Adapter (10.100), 3Com Integrated Fast Ethernet Controller
 - Right click each item under **Network Adapters**. > Go to their Properties. > Advanced Tab > Property window > Locate the Item that offers **Duplex-Mode** abilities in the Value window. > Duplex Mode - **NOTE: Property Items** may have another name other than Duplex Mode.. → Look for: **Link Speed & Duplex** → Look for networking card operation that offers Duplex Modes. > set to **Full Duplex** and/or **100Mbs/Full Duplex** from Auto Detect or Hardware Default mode. → **NOTE: At this time, you will temporarily lose Internet connection.**
05. XP → Desktop – right click > Properties – left click > Display Properties window > **NOTE:** Each change needs to be made to each individual monitor separately. → Highlight each monitor separately in **Displays Properties** window to make that specific monitors changes, then do each one. Check your changes for each monitor! Settings Tab > Colors = High Color (16- bit) > Screen Area typical setting: Single Monitor = 1024 by 768, Multi-Monitor = 1280 by 1024 > Settings Window > Left click on Advanced Tab > Troubleshooting Tab > **Hardware Acceleration** - Set dial to 3-notches from Full and/or 4-notches from None . **NOTE: Certain cards will shut off all preferences when going beyond a certain point.** The third-notch from Full is typically safe. → This item basically regulates the performance the video card for games. → **Note:** Make notes of your systems preferences through all-of-the Advanced Settings tab windows prior to making any changes. > Monitor Tab > Monitor Settings > Screen Refresh Rate > **CRT** = 75 Hertz, **Flat Panel** = 60 hertz. **NOTE:** Again, each change needs to be made to each individual monitor separately. Check your changes to each monitors settings!
06. XP → open Windows Explorer > Tools > Internet Options > General - click on **Delete Cookies** - OK, click on **Delete Files** - delete all offline content – OK ← **NOTE:** Previous two should be done on a regular basis. > Advanced Tab - make sure that at least the following two are unchecked - (there may be others depending on your own preferences): Automatically check for updates, Reuse windows for launching shortcuts – a big one for convenience!
07. XP → Go to your Desktop Menu Bar at the bottom of your Main Desktop monitor. Right click in a blank area of that bar. Left click on Task Manager > Applications Tab - shows what main software applications are currently running. Processes Tab → check lower left corner of window. How many **Processes** are running? Over 30 may be causing slow downs and conflicts. **NOTE:** Additionally, there are many “hidden” applications that are running in the background that will need to be addressed. → See Startup Program Notes.
08. XP → Go to your Desktop Menu Bar at the bottom of your Main Desktop monitor. > Left click on Start Tab > scroll to Run > Enter **msconfig.exe** into Run window > Service > Startup Tab > You will see a list of all the programs that are auto starting and possibly running behind-the-scenes.

09. XP → Go to your **Desktop Menu Bar** at the bottom of your Main Desktop monitor. > Left click on **Start** Tab > **Programs** > scroll to **Start Up** folder > **Delete all Shortcuts**
10. → **Check for SpyWare** and **check for Start-up Applications** running behind the scenes.
Typically, these cause conflicts and slow down the computer.
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→ **NOTE:** Once shut off, the user will need to manually check for those various applications updates.
→ **NOTE:** Do your research and beware of critical system executables that need to running at start-up.
Such as: Windows Systems executables, Keyboard and Mouse executables, Virus executables, Video card executables, etc. → SpySweep allows going back through this Startup Programs feature and re-checking items.
11. → Do a free **Diagnostic Test** on your computer at www.pcpitstop.com > <http://pcpitstop.com/pcpitstop/pitstop.asp>
> **Let's go!** > You may choose to do recommended changes that are explained in the drop-down area's.
12. → Check **Broadband** download connection speed. → **NOTE:** You must **Delete Cookies** and **Temporary Internet Files** through the Windows Explorer's before each and every bandwidth speed test to get accurate results.
- **Windows Explorer** > **Tools** > **Internet Options** > **Delete Cookies** Tab and **Delete Files** - Delete all offline content.
-- <http://pcpitstop.com/internet/Bandwidth.asp> - Run Bandwidth Test
-- <http://performance.toast.net> - Shuttle + Text (755k) to **Toast.net I** > **Run Test**
-- <http://www.austin.rr.com/speedtest/speed.asp>
-- <http://speedcheck2.optonline.net/speedcheck/speedcheck.html>
-- <http://infospeed.verizon.net> - **Start my test**
13. → **PC Fixes** - <http://www20.tomshardware.com/howto/20050112/index.html> - PC Fixes - Tom's Hardware
14. → Change **Cursor Size** - Go to your **Desktop Menu Bar** at the bottom of your Main Desktop monitor. Left click on **Start** Tab > **Settings** > **Control Panel** > **Mouse** > **Pointers** - uncheck Pointer Shadow in left bottom corner > **Browse** Tab > locate and highlight - **arrow_im.cur** - click **Open** Tab > click on **Apply** Tab in next window. > **OK**
15. → Again, an over-loaded **Temporary Internet Files folder & Cookies folder** in Internet Explorer may cause the computer to act slowly and erratically. So, by keeping these two folders cleaned-up by using the Delete Buttons often, should be considered.
16. XP → **Recycle Bin** - right click > **Empty Recycle Bin** - left click
17. XP → **My Computer** - open > **Local Disk (C:)** - right click > **Properties** > **Tools** Tab > **Defragmentation** > **Defragment Now...** Tab > **Analyze** - wait for analyze process > **Disk Defragment** Window > click on **Defragment** Tab - wait for defragment process to be completed.
18. XP → **Additional Information:** <http://www.blackviper.com/WinXP/supertweaks.htm>
<http://www.blackviper.com/WinXP/servicecfg.htm>