

Windows Server 2008/2003/XP/2000/NT

Windows Program Startup Locations

- RunServiceOnce subkey: designed to start service programs before user logs on and before other registry subkeys start.
 - [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServicesOnce](#) registry key
 - [HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServicesOnce](#) registry key
- RunServices subkey: loads immediately after RunServicesOnce and before user logon.
 - [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServices](#) registry key
 - [HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServices](#) registry key
- Run subkey: The Run subkey in HKLM runs immediately before the Run subkey in HKCU.
 - [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run](#) registry key
 - [HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run](#) registry key
- RunOnce subkey: primarily used by Setup programs. The HKLM subkey version of RunOnce runs programs immediately after logon and before other registry Run entries. The HKCU subkey version of RunOnce runs programs after Run subkeys and after the Startup folder.
 - [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce](#) registry key
 - [HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce](#) registry key
 - [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnceEx](#) registry key (XP only)
- RunOnce\Setup subkey: specifies programs to run after the user logs on
- Explorer\Run subkey:
 - [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\Explorer\Run](#) registry key
 - [HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\Explorer\Run](#) registry key
- Userinit subkey : there is an entry for userinit.exe but subkey can accept multiple comma-separated values. Can't find where program starting? Look here.
 - [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Userinit](#) registry key
- load subkey :
 - [HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows\load](#) registry key
- All Users Startup folder : very common place to find autostart programs for whoever logs on
 - [Documents and Settings\All Users\Start Menu\Programs\Startup](#) folder (2000, XP, and 2003)
 - [Program Data\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup](#) folder (Vista, 2008, and Windows 7)
- Startup folder : the most common location for programs to automatically boot from
 - [Documents and Settings\%usersprofile%\Start Menu\Programs\Startup](#) folder (2000, XP, and 2003)
 - If you migrated from NT, the path is [Profiles\user\Start Menu\Programs\Startup Users\%userprofile%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup](#) folder (Vista, 2008, and Windows 7)