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## "Load Hive" option grayed out

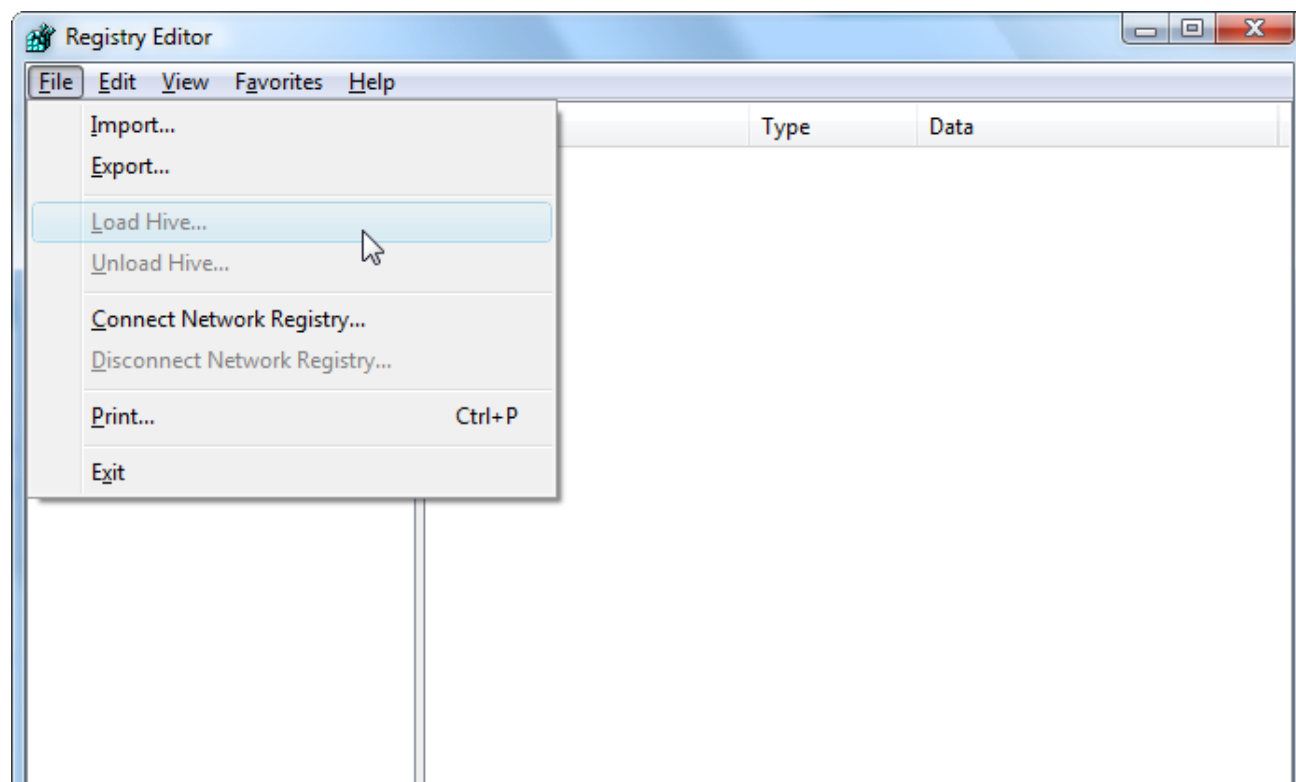
Asked 3 years, 5 months ago Active 1 year, 5 months ago Viewed 22k times



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I want to load the HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE hive from another installation of Windows (e.g. X:\Windows\System32\config\SYSTEM ), but apparently I can't load the hive because the "File -> Load Hive" menu item is disabled:



Loads a hive file to the registry.

regedit

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asked Mar 21 '18 at 15:57



[mwfearnley](#)

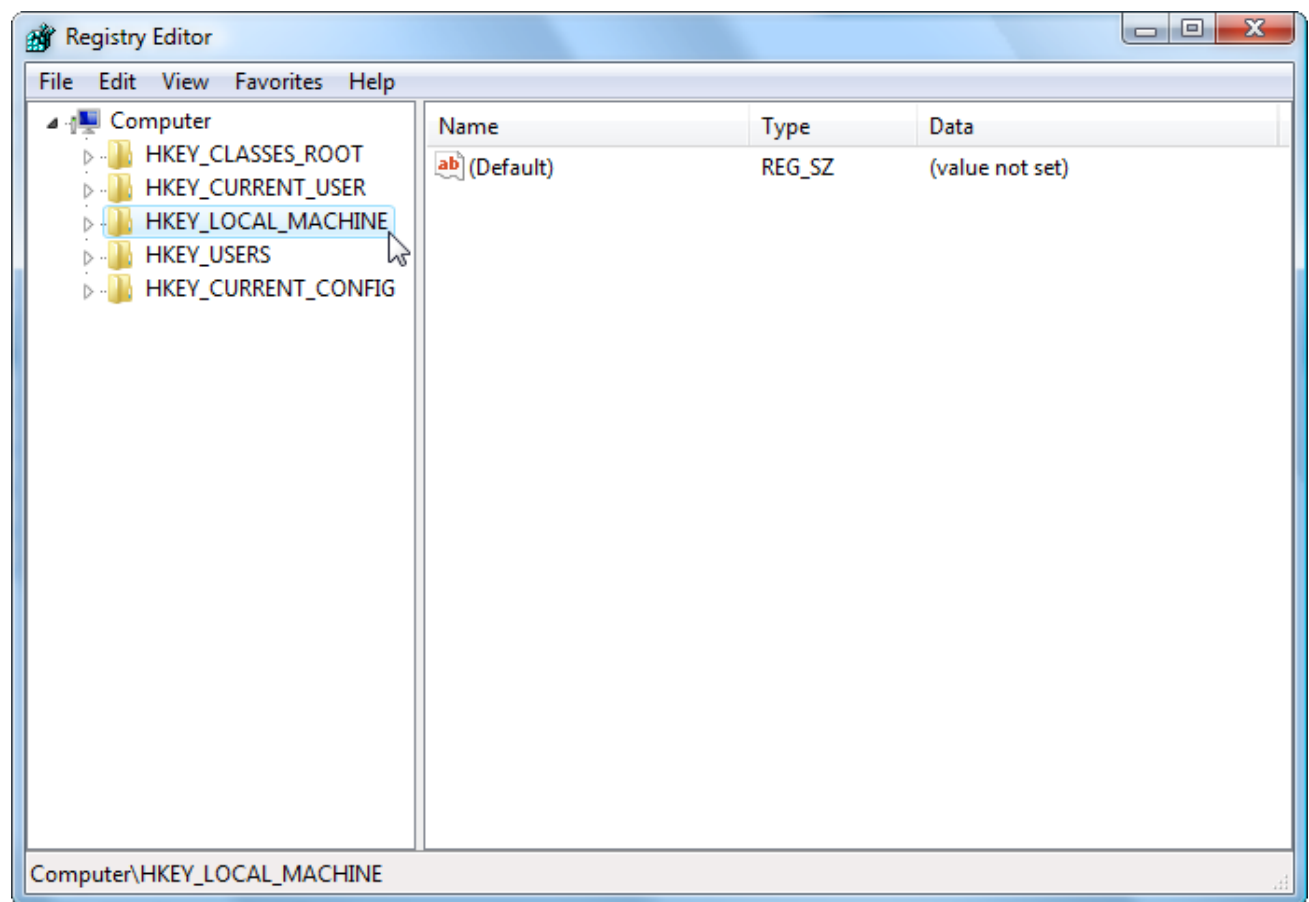
6,375 5 19 29

2 Answers

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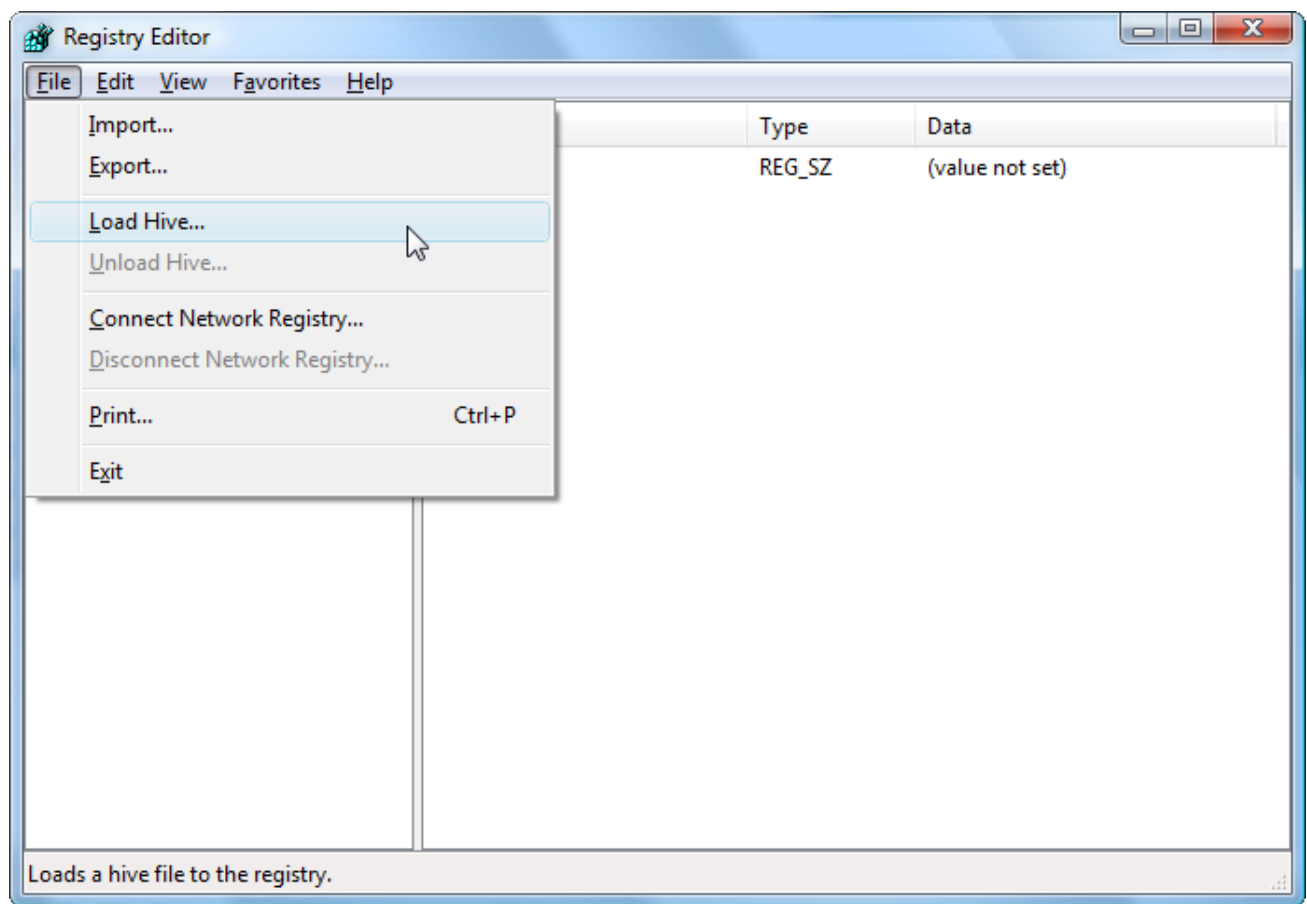
You need to load a hive into a specific key, so it's necessary to select a key first:

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You can load hives into HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE or into HKEY\_USERS.

Once you've clicked HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE, the "Load Hive" menu item will immediately become available:



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answered Mar 21 '18 at 15:57



**mwfearnley**

**6,375** 5 19 29

It may also be greyed out if you don't have sufficient rights. – Tobias Knauss Apr 2 '20 at 13:58

@TobiasKnauss Regedit generally needs to be run as Administrator anyway, doesn't it? – [mwfearnley](#) Apr 7 '20 at 7:55

No, in my business Win 10 computer I can start regedit with my user account (no local admin rights) and no UAC prompt is shown. So I can start regedit, but I cannot do a lot. – [Tobias Knauss](#) Apr 8 '20 at 9:32



1



Even if you chose the correct key to load a hive into, this may result from insufficient user rights. If you're running under a user account and open regedit without admin rights, you may not be able to load a hive.

I have seen that on my own business laptop, in which I have a user account without local admin rights.



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answered Apr 8 '20 at 9:32



[Tobias Knauss](#)

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