

Lab - System Utilities

Introduction

In this lab, you will use Windows utilities to configure operating system settings.

Recommended Equipment

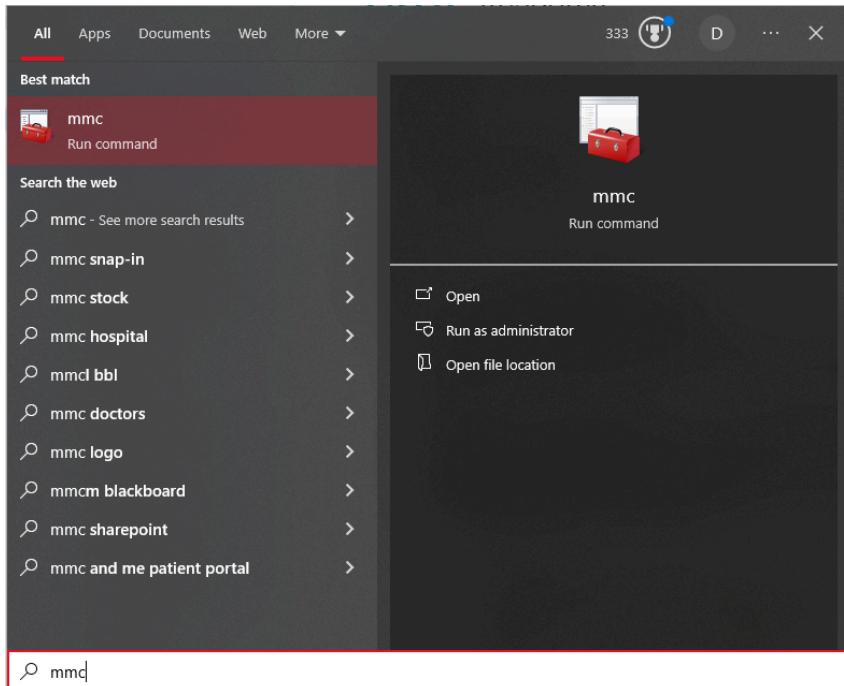
- A computer running Windows

Instructions

Part 1: Custom Management Console

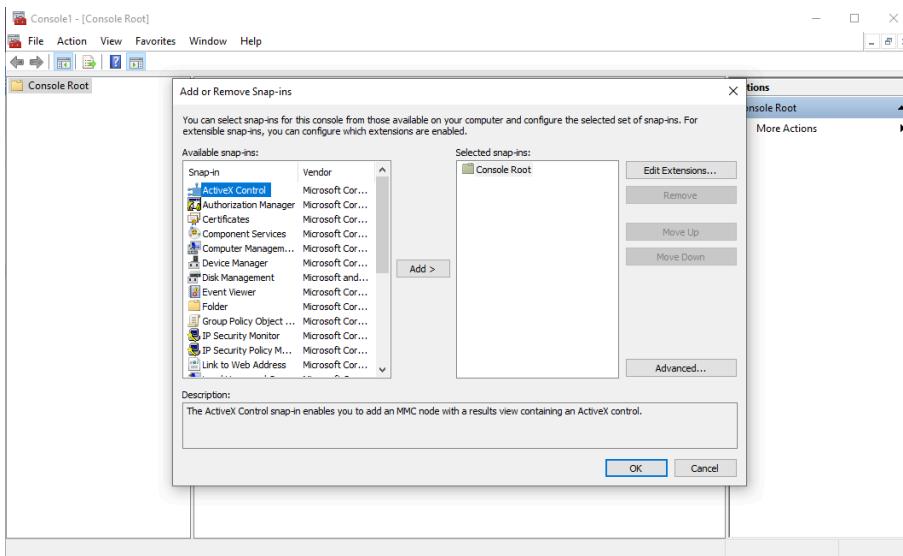
Step 1: Explore the management console.

- To open the Microsoft Management Console, click **Start**, and search for **mmc**. Click **Yes** to allow Microsoft Management Console to make changes to the computer.

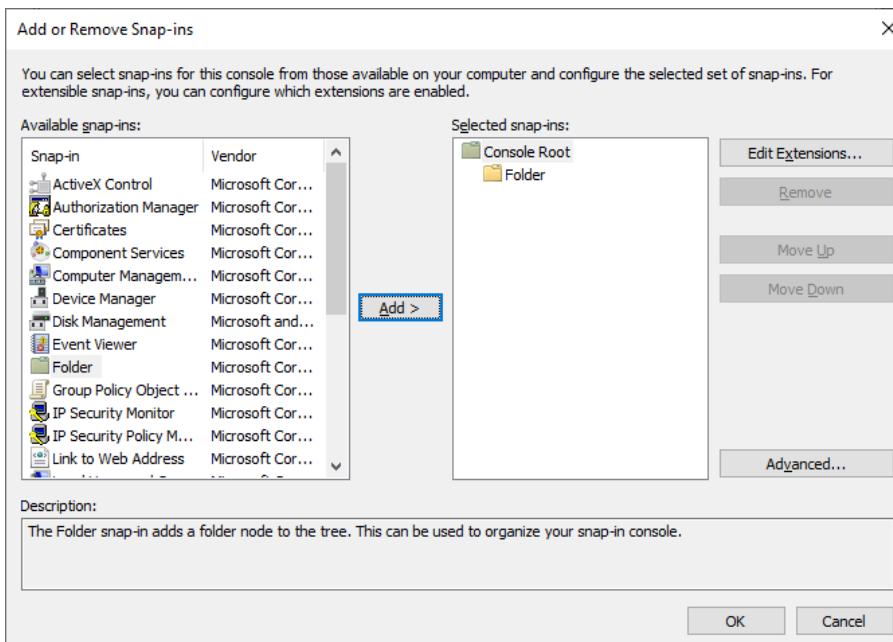


- In the **Console1 - [Console Root]** window, you can build a custom console. Click **File > Add/Remove Snap-in**.

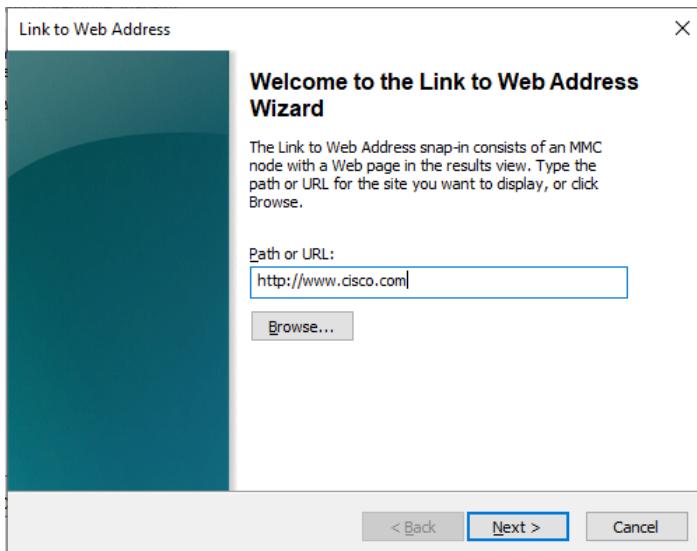
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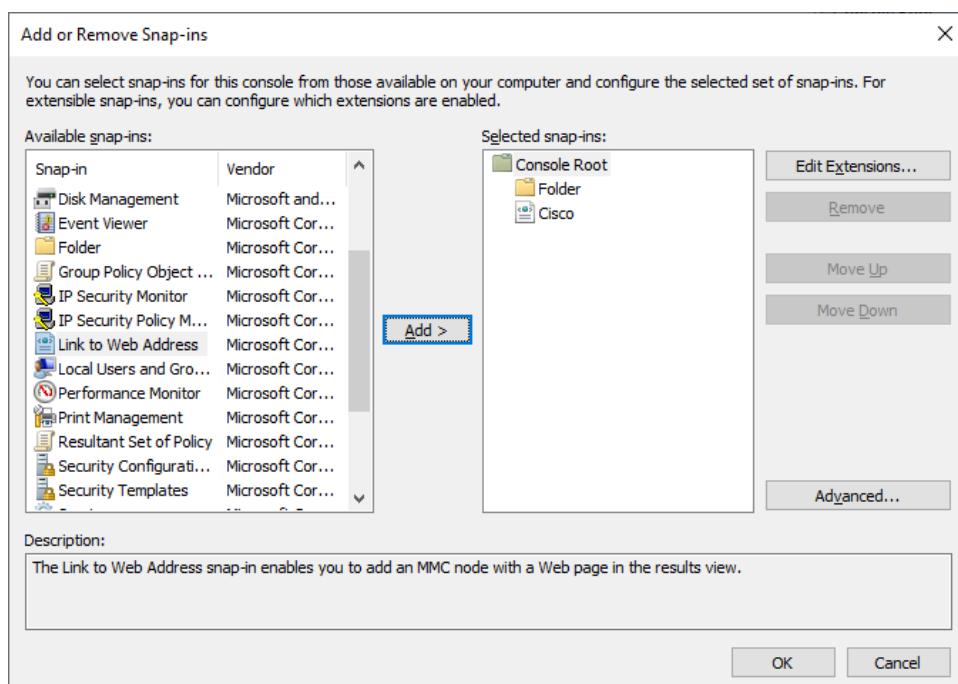
- c. In the **Add or Remove Snap-ins** window, you can add a folder snap-in. Scroll down the Available snap-ins: pane to locate the **Folder** snap-in. Select **Folder** and click **Add>**.



- d. To add the **Link to Web Address** snap-in, scroll down the Available snap-ins: pane and select **Link to Web Address**. Click **Add>**. In the **Link to Web Address** wizard window, enter <http://www.cisco.com> in the **Path or URL:** field, click **Next>** to continue.



- e. In the Friendly name for the Link to Web Address snap-in box, enter Cisco and click Finish to continue.

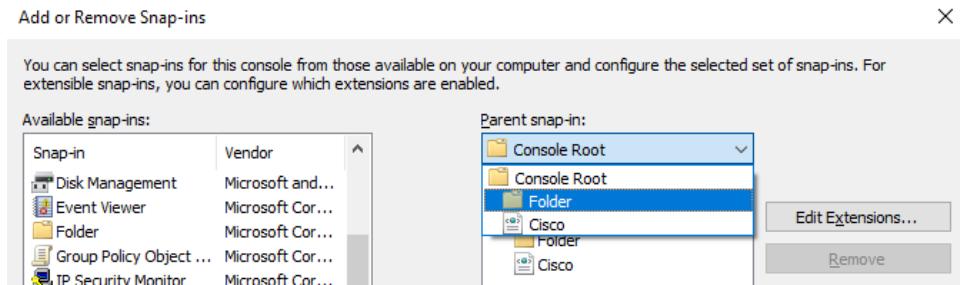


Step 2: Create a custom management console.

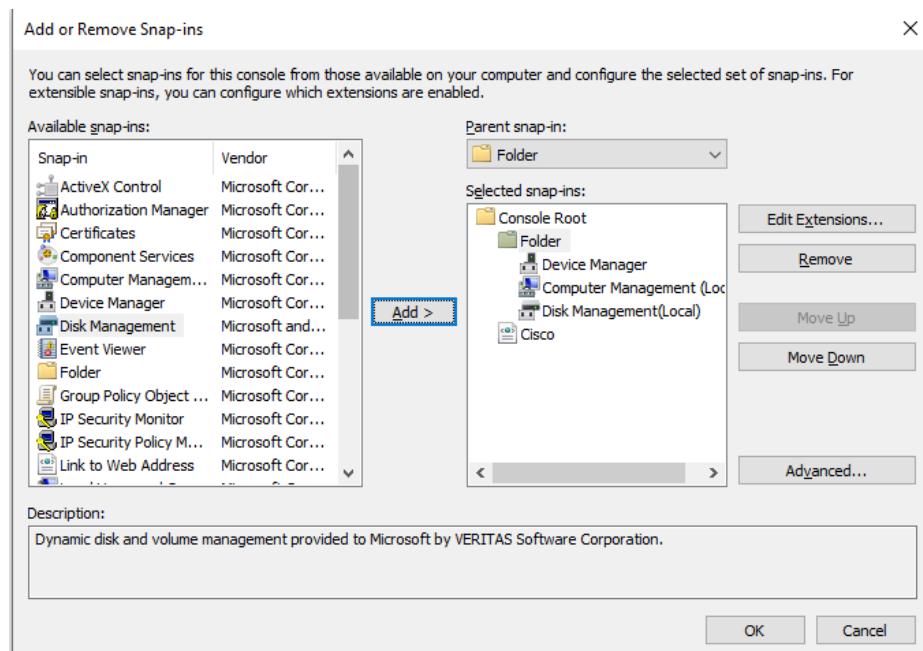
- To add snap-ins to the folder snap-in, click **Advanced**.
- The Advanced window opens. Select Allow changing the parent snap-in. Click **OK**.

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- c. A drop-down menu appears for **Parent snap-in**. In the **Parent snap-in** box, select **Folder**.

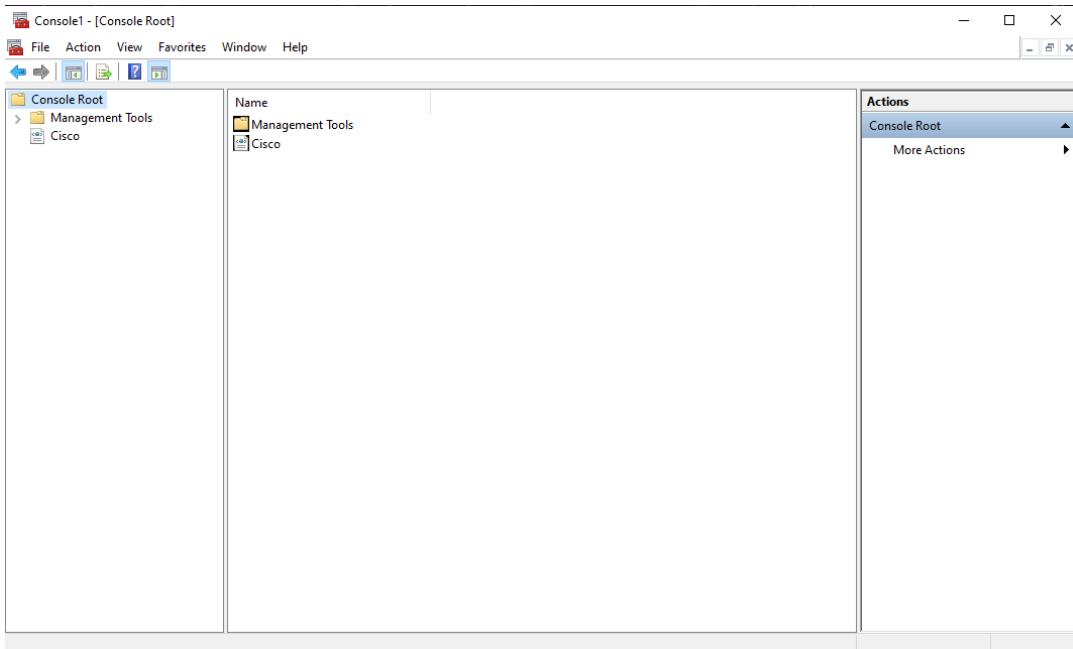


- d. Add the following snap-ins from the Available snap-in pane: **Computer Management**, **Device Manager**, and **Disk Management**. In each of the snap-in windows, click **Finish** to select to use the snap-in to manage the Local Computer or This computer.

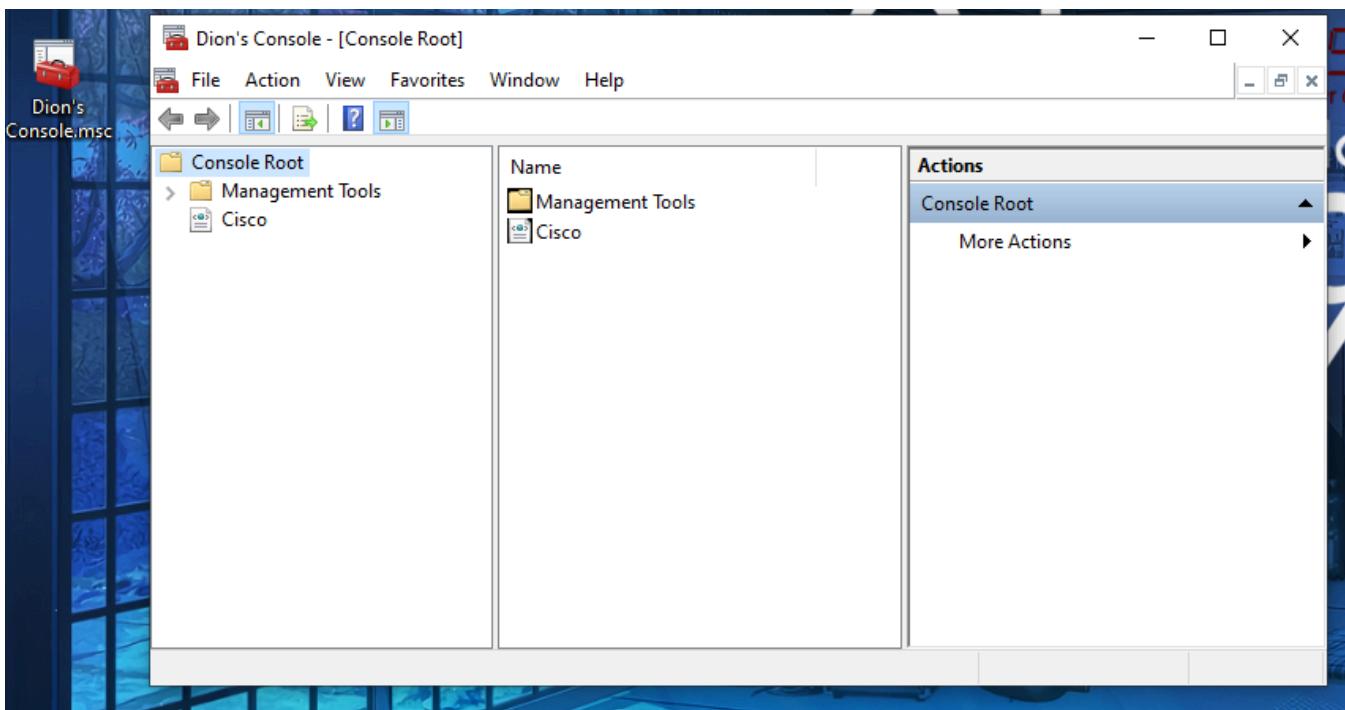


- e. Click **OK** to continue to exit the Add or Remove Snap-ins window.
f. In the **Console1** window, right-click the **Folder** icon and select **Rename**. Change the name of the folder to **Management Tools**.

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- g. To save the custom console, click **File > Save As**. Change the file name to your name. Example: **John's Console**. Change the **Save in** box to **Desktop**. Click **Save**.



- h. Close all open windows.
i. On the desktop, double-click the **Console** icon that contains your name to re-open the console with your snap-ins. Click **Yes** to allow this application to make changes to your device as necessary.
j. Review the **Management Tools** folder by double-clicking on the tools.
k. Within your custom console, navigate to the Event Viewer.

Question:

What was the path you use to navigate to the Event Viewer?

The Path that I used to find the Event Viewer was through the Management Tools/Computer Management (Local)/System Tools

- I. Close the **Console** window when you finish your review. Click **No** when prompted to save the changes.

Part 2: Registry Editor

Step 1: Change your desktop background settings.

- a. Right-click the Desktop > select **Personalize**.

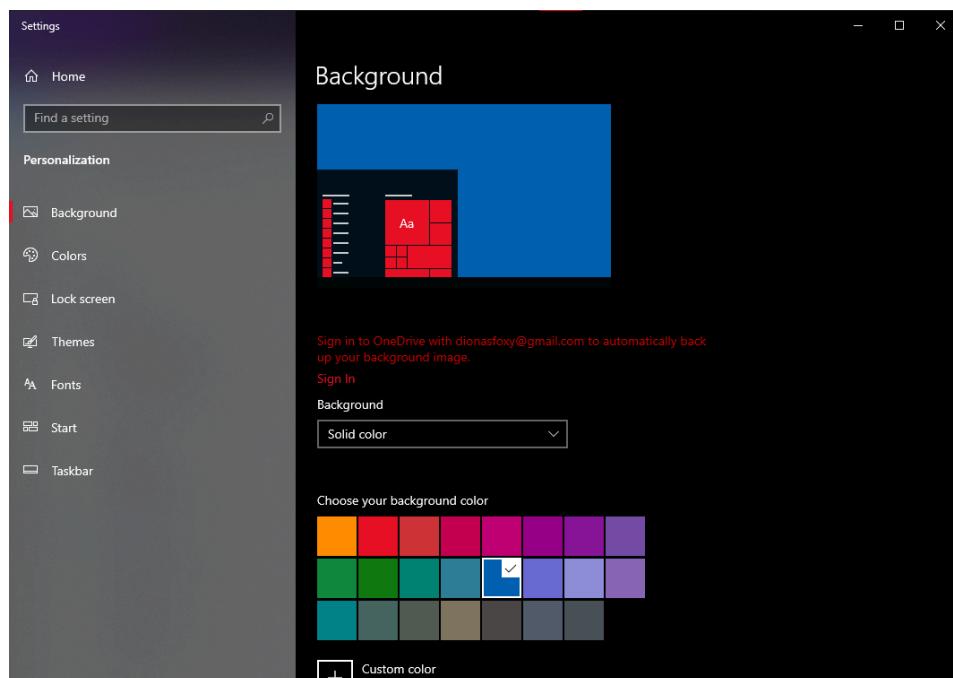
Question:

What is the background picture?

The current background picture is the default windows background

- b. In Windows 10, select **Solid color** in the Background drop-down list. Choose a **blue** background color.

In Windows 8.1 and 7, click **Desktop Background**. Select **Solid Colors** in the Picture Location drop-down list. Choose a **blue** background color.

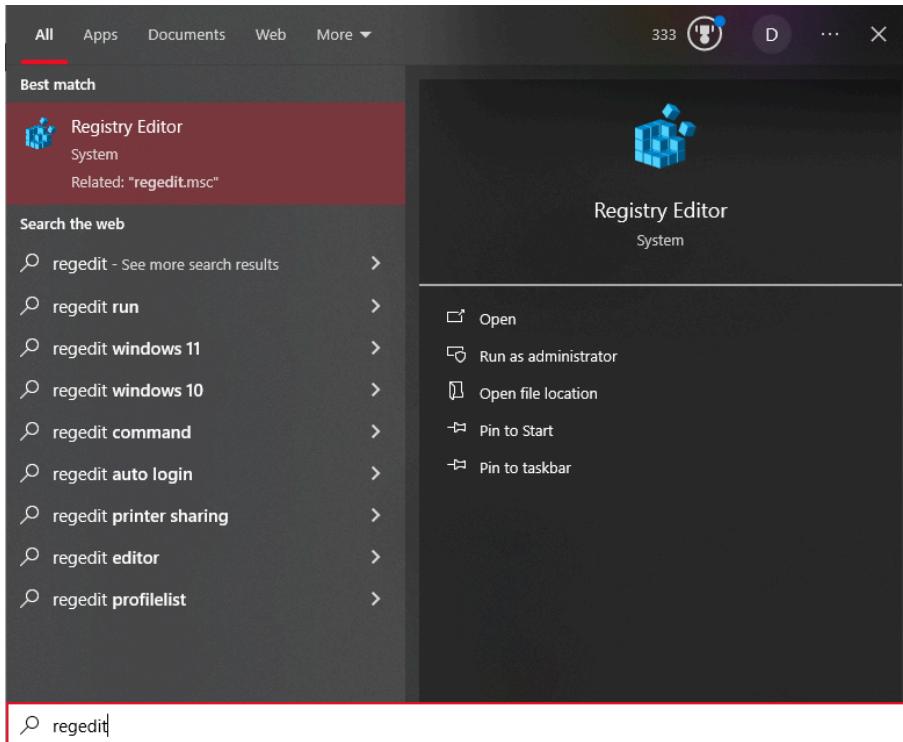


- c. Click **Save changes**. The computer screen should now have a blue background. If not, ask the instructor for assistance.
- d. Close all open windows.

Step 2: Open the registry editor.

- a. To open the **Registry Editor**, click **Start** and type **regedit**. Click **Yes** to allow Registry Editor to make changes to the computer.

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Note: Do not make any changes in the Registry Editor without instructor permission.

- b. Select and expand the **HKEY_CURRENT_USER** entry.

The screenshot shows the Registry Editor window. The title bar says 'Registry Editor'. The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, and Help. The path 'Computer\HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel' is selected in the title bar.

The left pane shows a tree view of registry keys under 'Computer':

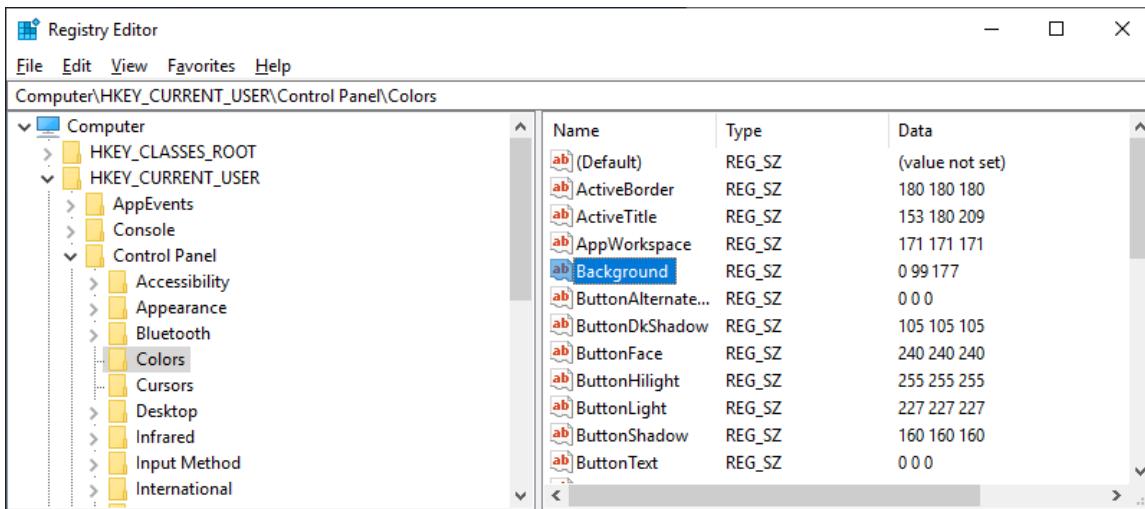
- HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT
- HKEY_CURRENT_USER (selected)
- AppEvents
- Console
- Control Panel (selected)
- Environment
- EUDC
- Keyboard Layout
- Network
- Printers
- SOFTWARE
- System
- Uninstall
- Volatile Environment
- HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE
- HKEY_USERS
- HKEY_CURRENT_CONFIG

The right pane displays a table for the 'Control Panel' key:

| Name | Type | Data |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| (Default) | REG_SZ | (value not set) |
| SettingsExtensio... | REG_BINARY | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 |

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- c. Expand Control Panel. Click Colors. Click Background in the right panel.



Question:

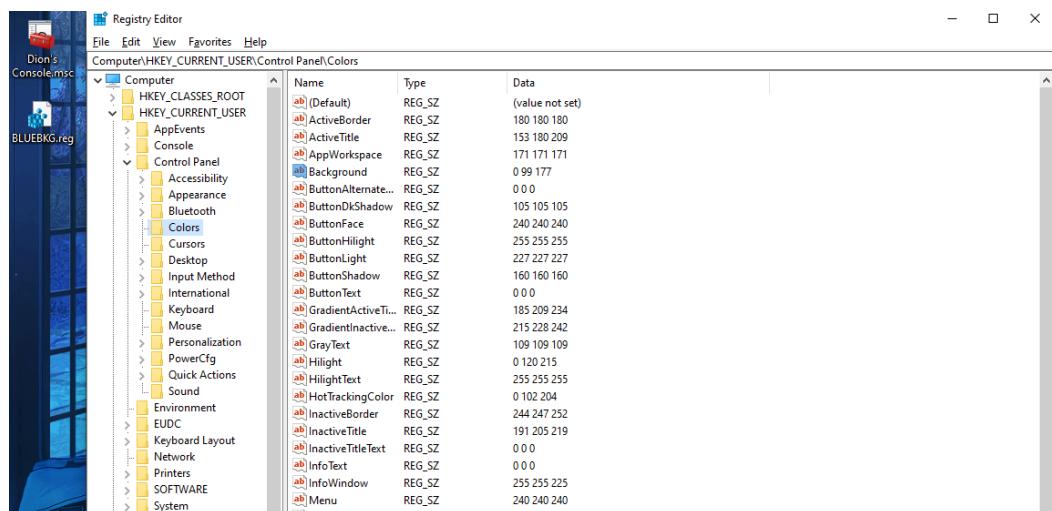
What is the data value of the Background (hint – it has three numbers that correspond to red, green, and blue)?

The value of the background in my Regedit is “0 99 177”

Step 3: Export a registry key.

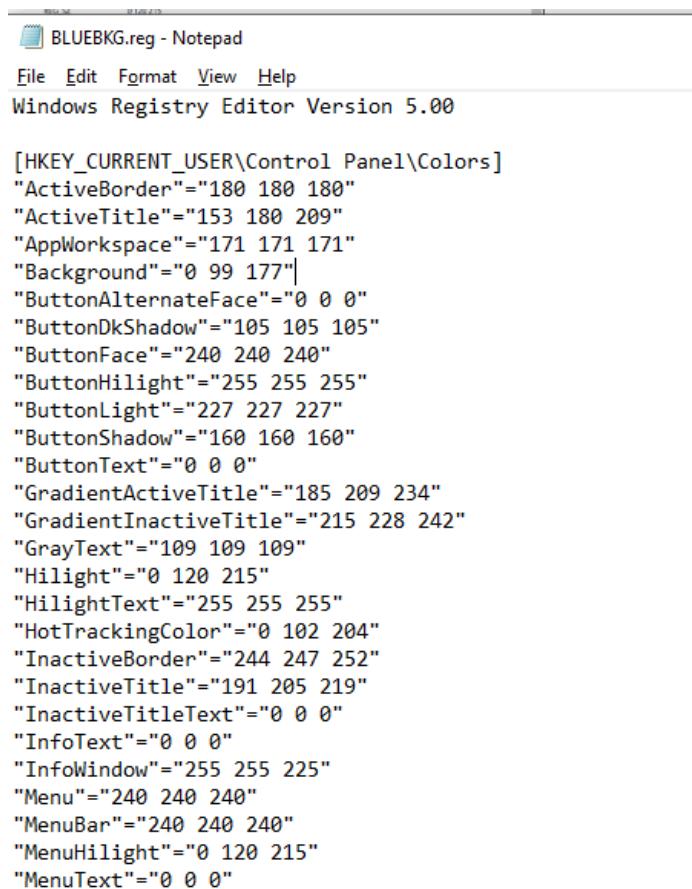
You will export the HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Colors folder.

- In the left pane, select the Colors folder and click File > Export.
- Save the file to the Desktop with the name **BlueBKG**.



- At the desktop, right-click the **BlueBKG.reg** icon and select **Edit**.
- Notepad opens displaying the contents of **BlueBKG.reg**.

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```
BLUEBKG.reg - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

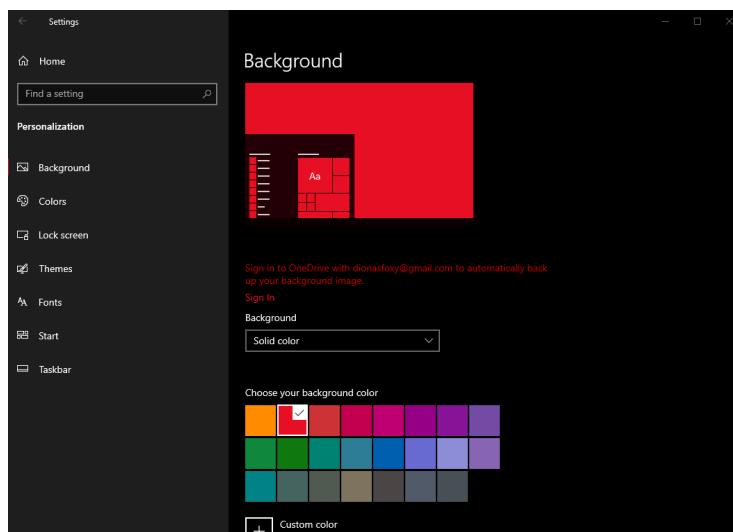
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Colors]
"ActiveBorder"="180 180 180"
"ActiveTitle"="153 180 209"
"AppWorkspace"="171 171 171"
"Background"="0 99 177"
"ButtonAlternateFace"="0 0 0"
"ButtonDkShadow"="105 105 105"
"ButtonFace"="240 240 240"
"ButtonHilight"="255 255 255"
"ButtonLight"="227 227 227"
"ButtonShadow"="160 160 160"
"ButtonText"="0 0 0"
"GradientActiveTitle"="185 209 234"
"GradientInactiveTitle"="215 228 242"
"GrayText"="109 109 109"
"Hilight"="0 120 215"
"HilightText"="255 255 255"
"HotTrackingColor"="0 102 204"
"InactiveBorder"="244 247 252"
"InactiveTitle"="191 205 219"
"InactiveTitleText"="0 0 0"
"InfoText"="0 0 0"
"InfoWindow"="255 255 225"
"Menu"="240 240 240"
"MenuBar"="240 240 240"
"MenuHilight"="0 120 215"
"MenuText"="0 0 0"
```

Question:

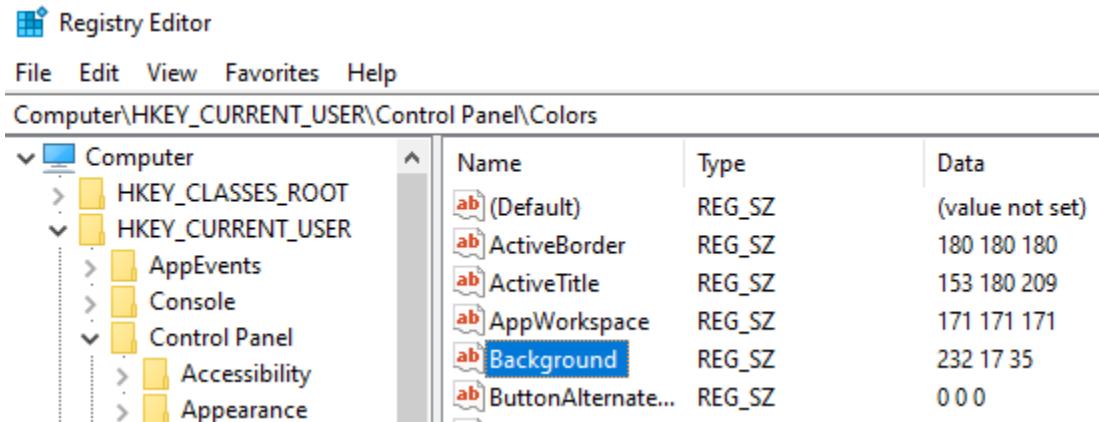
What is the data value of the **Background**?

The value of the Background in Notepad of the exported .reg file is “0 99 177”

- e. Close the **BlueBKG.reg – Notepad** window.
- f. Open the Personalization window by right-clicking the **Desktop > Personalize > Desktop Background**. Select a **red** background color.



- g. Click **Save** changes. Close the **Personalization** window.
- h. The desktop background should be red. Click the **Registry Editor** window.
- i. On your keyboard, press **F5** to refresh the **Registry Editor** window.



Question:

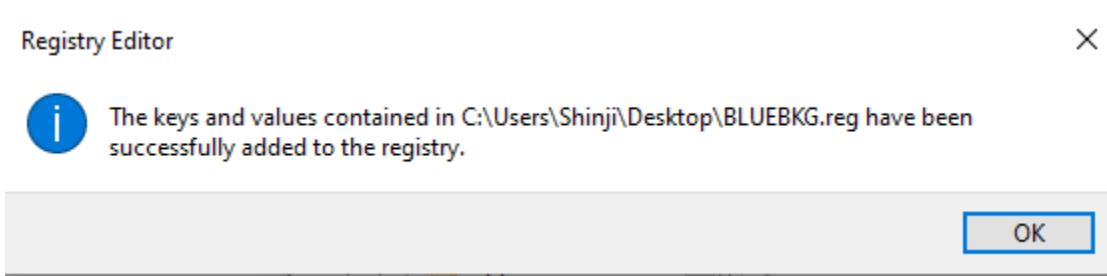
What is the data value of the Background? Compare the new value in the Registry to the value saved in BlueBKG.reg.

Comparing the values of the current Registry to the exported BlueBKG.reg file it shows that the value of the background which is now “232 17 35” compared to the BlueBKG entry which is “0 99 177”

Step 4: Import a registry file.

You will import the **BlueBKG.reg** file to change the Desktop ground back to blue.

- a. Click the **Registry Editor** window.
- b. Click **File > Import**. Locate and click the **BlueBKG.reg** file then click **Open**.
- c. The **Registry Editor** informational message opens letting you know that keys and values have been successfully added to the registry. Click **OK**.



- d. Select the **Registry Editor** window.

Questions:

What is the data value of the Background?

The data value of the Background after importing is now “0 99 177”

What is the color of the desktop?

The color of my desktop is now blue.

- e. Restart the computer.

Question:

What is the color of the desktop?

After a restart the color of the desktop is still blue

- f. Reset **Display Properties Background** to the original settings.
- g. Close all open windows.
- h. Delete the custom console and BlueBKG file on the desktop.

Reflection Question

1. Why would it be beneficial to add snap-ins to the mmc that are for other computers on the network?

It allows for administrators to access and configure multiple systems without having to go through each machine individually.

2. After restarting the computer, why was the desktop color changed?

This is because of the values that were saved in the registry being reloaded by the machine after a restart.

This activity has taught me on the usage of both the Microsoft Management Console and the Registry Editor, this activity showed how changing anything in your computer changes values in the registry, it also showed how to export the values of the registry and import it after changing the background of the computer.