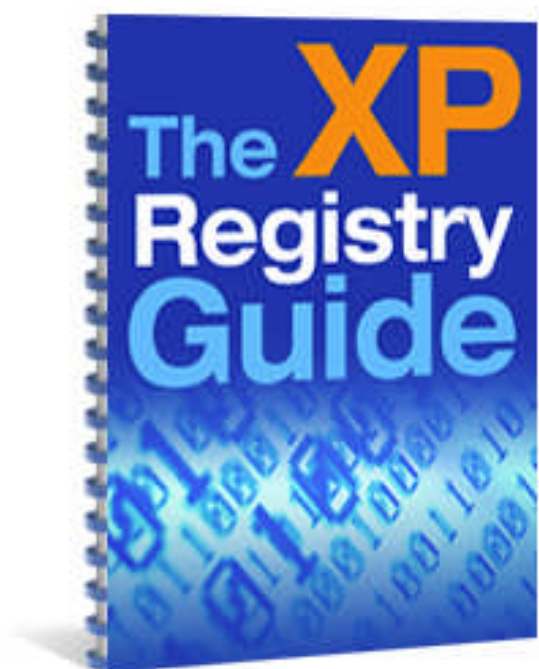


The XP Registry Guide

For New Users and Beyond...



Marc Liron
Microsoft MVP
Windows - Digital Media

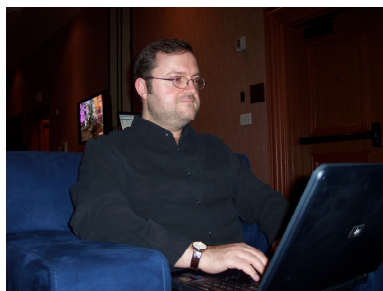
The XP Registry Guide - For “New Users” and Beyond...

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marc@updatexp.com

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Notice

The author and publisher wishes to make clear that whilst Marc Liron is a Microsoft MVP, this book is in no way sponsored, affiliated or associated with Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

**For my wife Sarah –
Her love and constant patience allows me to be who I am.**

About the Author

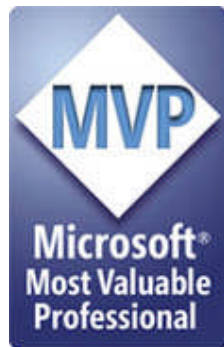
Marc Liron is a Digital Media Evangelist, a Microsoft MVP and a Certified SBI Webmaster. A great fan of Windows XP, Marc has been using and supporting this latest desktop client since its first release. He is also an experienced network administrator with skills in the Windows server family including Exchange Server. In his spare time he is often to be found designing and implementing fixed/wireless networks for other organisations in his locality, in addition to writing articles for his Windows XP support website.

Marc is also the creator of the hugely popular Windows XP codec checking utility: **SHERLOCK – The Codec Detective**:

<http://www.updatexp.com/sherlock-codec-detective.html>

He lives with his wife in the UK.

Microsoft recently presented Marc with their **Most Valuable Professional (MVP)** award in **Windows - Digital Media** for the 3rd year running. This is in recognition of his technical expertise and support offered to the Microsoft online community.



Marc Liron

You can visit Marc's popular **Windows XP** website at:

<http://www.updatexp.com>

Other Resources



Windows Vista Weekly Topical Video:

<http://www.thevistaminate.com>



Windows Vista Article Website:

<http://www.instantvista.com>

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Learn Through Video!

A growing collection of videos accessible online to help readers understand key points of this book. 159

Further Reading

- Windows XP Registry Books - Advanced Users
- Windows XP Dummies Guides – New Users
- Windows XP Books – All Levels

Introduction

Experience The Power Of The Windows XP Registry – TODAY!

Another Book on the Windows XP Registry..?

This book came about due to the lack of “entry level” books on the Windows XP Registry! If you have ever tried finding a book at Amazon.com on this subject, you will find all the books are written for IT professionals, system administrators and advanced users...

I have received so much email, on this subject, via my Windows XP website:

<http://www.updatexp.com>

...that I decided to put an accessible resource together for new users!

What makes **THIS** book different is the *non-technical* style in which it is written AND the video tutorials available to help you understand key topics. However the Registry is still a complex subject to master so you may find yourself reading this book and viewing the videos a few times...

Why the videos?

Well, sometimes we all understand a new topic faster when we are shown in a practical way.

As the old saying goes: “A picture speaks a thousand words...”

This book is **DIFFERENT** and will help you learn and ultimately **USE** the Registry with confidence.

However, this book is **NOT**:

- For the absolute beginner to computers, I am assuming you have been using Windows XP for a while and are comfortable with the basics of file management and the Notepad utility.

- For those who already use the Registry on a regular basis, and require a more advanced Registry guide. (The further reading section at the end of this book will give you some recommendations on books of interest to you.)

Some of you may have read my website articles, or receive my newsletter and occasional bulletins. You folks will have got used to my informative and often humorous style of writing. This book is no different....

It is also worth pointing out that this book has been written in a style to make it easier to read on the computer screen. Therefore you will notice that much of the text is broken up into smaller paragraphs than usual and there is a greater use of **bold** and *italics*. This has been done to make your experience easier and more enjoyable!

I have also included many screenshots of the Windows XP Registry and associated applications. These may appear larger than the actual applications at times and have been edited this way to offer more clarity.

Working With The Registry

When it comes to working in the Windows XP Registry you will need to be logged on as an administrator, or as part of the administration group. This **ONLY** applies to users who have Windows XP Professional.

If you are using Windows XP Home Edition then you will need to be using a Computer administrator account.

Windows XP Home Edition does have a *hidden* "administrator" account but this is **ONLY** accessible during a boot into **Safe Mode** and is therefore not relevant to most sections of this book.



NB - Please do not try and make modifications to the Registry of a computer located on a corporate network. If your IT department has been doing their job correctly you should **NOT** be able to access the Registry. However if you do manage to successfully edit the Registry and things go wrong - you might find yourself in breach of your contract... so be warned!

Environmental Variables

Now some of you reading this book may be using multiple hard drives and/or partitions. This can actually mean that your installation of Windows XP is not on the default C: drive.

This can also apply to those of you who have a “Dual Boot” system e.g. you have **both** Windows 2000 and Windows XP installed on the same machine.

So to keep ALL the **folder paths** I refer to in this book, as easy to understand as possible. I am using the following standard “Environmental Variables”

This is a standard convention used in most computer books and online articles!

%SystemDrive% whenever you see this variable you need to replace it with the **drive** on which Windows XP is installed. In most cases this will be **C:**

%SystemRoot% whenever you see this variable you need to replace it with the **folder** in which Windows XP has been installed. In most cases this will be **C:\Windows**

%UserProfiles% whenever you see this variable you need to replace it with the location (root) of the users profile being edited. In most cases this will be **C:\Documents and Settings\”name of profile”**

Symbols Used



This symbol indicates an important point.



This symbol at the end of a chapter indicates there is a summary.



This symbol indicates that there is video available to demonstrate a key point.

Disclaimer

Here is the legal bit...

Whilst writing this book I have tested all the Registry edits on Windows XP Professional SP1 and Home Edition SP1.

I make no claims or warranties that these Registry edits will work and you use the information in this book at your own risk. I cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage that arises from you editing your Registry.

NB -I have not tested any of this books content on Media Centre Edition and the 64 bit version of Windows XP Professional.

Video Tutorials

I have recorded a few video tutorials cover backing up and restoring Windows XP, The Windows XP System State and Windows XP Registry files themselves to help give you some confidence when working with the Windows XP Registry for the first time. These are listed in Chapter Ten.

You will require the free **Macromedia Flash player** to be installed on your computer prior to viewing them. If you do not have the free player installed please visit:

<http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/alternates>

You will also require a free **.SWF** reader to the view the videos. I suggest this one:

<http://www.globfx.com/products/swfplayer/>

Feedback

Just like any author I appreciate any feedback you may want to offer me. please use the following address:

<http://www.updatexp.com/contact.html>

Enjoy!

Marc Liron
Microsoft MVP – Digital Media
<http://www.updatexp.com>

Chapter Ten

Learn Through Video!

Videos Of Some Key Points

To help consolidate the knowledge you have gained in this book, I have put together a few short videos – mainly on backing up and restoring issues.

These key learning points will have the following symbol next to them to denote an available video:



You will require the free **Macromedia Flash player** to be installed on your computer prior to viewing them. If you do not have the free player installed please visit:



<http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/alternates>

These videos are best viewed on a screen resolution of **1024 x 768** pixels. If you are unfamiliar with how to change your screen resolution then please see the article at the end of this chapter for instructions.

You will also require a free **.SWF** reader to view the videos. I suggest this one:

<http://www.globfx.com/products/swfplayer/>

You will also require a sound card with headphones or speakers connected.

The videos are all available with this book at the time of purchase..

PLEASE do not share these with anyone else... Enjoy!

The Videos

- The XP Calculator
- How To Create A Restore Point
- Using Backup Utility To Create A System State Backup
- Using handy Backup To backup the Registry
- Backup To Reg Files
- Backup To Hive Files
- System State Restore With Backup Utility
- Restore XP With System Restore
- Restore The Registry With Handy Backup
- HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT Hive Explanation
- Creating A Value
- Using Microsoft Tweak UI