

Here is a way using a simple .vbs script as a "widget" type desktop shortcut. The first time you want to run the script, click the .vbs file you create. This will automatically generate a desktop shortcut for you with an appropriate icon. Each time you click the shortcut thereafter it toggles the proxy setting, brings up a timed popup box for 1 sec to tell you whether the proxy is **ON** or **OFF** now, and changes the shortcut icon to an ON or OFF symbol to indicate the new proxy state.

File: **"C:\Users\YOUR\_USERNAME\Proxy Settings\toggle\_proxy\_on\_off.vbs"**

'Toggle your Proxy on and off

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'Updated: 25 June 2017

'References:

' 1) https://stackoverflow.com/a/27092872/4561887

' 2) https://stackoverflow.com/a/26708451/4561887

' Timed message boxes:

' - \*\*\*\*\*https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ee156593.aspx

' - https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14105157/automatically-close-msgbox-in-vbscript

' Debug output:

' - ex: Wscript.Echo "here is your message"

Option Explicit

'Variables & Constants:

Dim ProxySettings\_path, VbsScript\_filename

ProxySettings\_path = "C:\Users\Gabriel\Proxy Settings"

VbsScript\_filename = "toggle\_proxy\_on\_off.vbs"

Const MESSAGE\_BOX\_TIMEOUT = 1 'sec; change this value to set how long the message box displays when you toggle the proxy setting

Const PROXY\_OFF = 0

Dim WSHShell, proxyEnableVal, username

Set WSHShell = WScript.CreateObject("WScript.Shell")

'get the username string for use in path names, since trying to use the "%USERNAME%" variable directly in path names throws an error

username = WSHShell.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%USERNAME%")

'Determine current proxy setting and toggle to opposite setting

proxyEnableVal = wshshell.regread("HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ProxyEnable")

If proxyEnableVal = PROXY\_OFF Then

TurnProxyOn

Else

TurnProxyOff

End If

'Subroutine to Toggle Proxy Setting to ON

Sub TurnProxyOn

'turn proxy on via a registry entry

WSHShell.regwrite "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ProxyEnable", 1, "REG\_DWORD"

'create/update desktop shortcut

CreateOrUpdateDesktopShortcut("on")

'notify user via an auto-timed popup box

WSHShell.Popup "Internet proxy is now ON", MESSAGE\_BOX\_TIMEOUT, "Proxy Settings"

End Sub

'Subroutine to Toggle Proxy Setting to OFF

Sub TurnProxyOff

'turn proxy off via a registry entry

WSHShell.regwrite "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ProxyEnable", 0, "REG\_DWORD"

'create/update desktop shortcut

CreateOrUpdateDesktopShortcut("off")

'notify user via an auto-timed popup box

WSHShell.Popup "Internet proxy is now OFF", MESSAGE\_BOX\_TIMEOUT, "Proxy Settings"

End Sub

'Subroutine to create or update a shortcut on the desktop

Sub CreateOrUpdateDesktopShortcut(onOrOff)

'create a shortcut

Dim shortcut, iconStr

Set shortcut = WSHShell.CreateShortcut("C:\Users\" + username + "\Desktop\Proxy On-Off.lnk")

'Set the target path (target file) to run when the shortcut is clicked

shortcut.TargetPath = ProxySettings\_path + "\" + VbsScript\_filename

'Set the working directory. This is necessary in case you ever make this shortcut call a batch (.bat) file, for instance, which in turn calls a .vbs script. In order to know where the .vbs script file/command is located, the shortcut must be operating in the working directory where the .vbs scripts are located. Otherwise, calls to the .vbs scripts from a .bat file this shortcut points to, for instance, won't work since their directories are not in the Windows %PATH% variable, and you'll get an error which states: "'name\_of\_vbs\_script\_file' is not recognized as an internal or external command, operable program or batch file."

shortcut.WorkingDirectory = ProxySettings\_path

'Set the icon to associate with this shortcut

If onOrOff = "on" Then

iconStr = "on.ico"

ElseIf onOrOff = "off" Then

iconStr = "off.ico"

End If

shortcut.IconLocation = ProxySettings\_path + "\Icons\" + iconStr

'Save the shortcut

shortcut.Save

End Sub

Instructions:

1. Create a folder called "C:\Users\YOUR\_USERNAME\Proxy Settings"
2. Create the "toggle\_proxy\_on\_off.vbs" file, as shown above, in that folder.
3. Create an "Icons" folder here: "C:\Users\YOUR\_USERNAME\Proxy Settings\Icons"
4. Download the following two .png images:
   * ON icon image: <http://s30.postimg.org/sgoerz0od/image.png>
   * OFF icon image: <http://s13.postimg.org/9zha38zkj/off.png>
5. Convert those images to icons (.ico files) using <http://icoconvert.com/>, for example. Choose File (choose a .png from above) --> Upload --> choose "ICO for Windows 7, Windows 8, Vista and XP" format --> click "Convert ICO" --> click "Download your icon(s)"
   * Save the ON icon as "C:\Users\YOUR\_USERNAME\Proxy Settings\Icons\on.ico"
   * Save the OFF icon as "C:\Users\YOUR\_USERNAME\Proxy Settings\Icons\off.ico"
6. Now, double-click the "C:\Users\Gabriel\Proxy Settings\toggle\_proxy\_on\_off.vbs" file to run it. It will automatically create a "Proxy On-Off" shortcut file on your desktop, with the appropriate icon to indicate whether the Proxy is ON or OFF.

*From this point on, just click the "Proxy On-Off" desktop shortcut directly to toggle the Proxy on and off.*

Here's what it looks like when the Proxy is OFF:

Here's what it looks like when the Proxy is ON:

Here's an example of the 1-second popup window that comes up whenever you click the shortcut icon to toggle the Proxy on/off.

References:

1. <https://stackoverflow.com/a/27092872/4561887> <-- taught me how to use a .vbs script to toggle the Proxy on and off
2. <https://stackoverflow.com/a/26708451/4561887> <-- taught me the ingenious technique on how to make a .vbs script act like a widget by creating a Windows shortcut and changing its icon each time you click on it
3. Timed message boxes:
   * \*\*\*\*\*<https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ee156593.aspx>
   * [Automatically close MsgBox in vbscript?](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14105157/automatically-close-msgbox-in-vbscript)

Todo:

**Can someone please help me figure out how to enhance this one step further by making it change the icon name each time too?--ie: instead of saying "Proxy On-Off" on the shortcut, have it say "Proxy is ON" or "Proxy is OFF", according to its current state.** I'm not sure how to take it that one step further, and I've put enough time into it for now...

A correction is needed. Add the line: ProxySettings\_path = "C:\Users\" + username + "\Proxy Settings" under the line username = WSHShell.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%USERNAME%") and remove the hard coded path

To enable:

netsh winhttp set proxy myproxy:80

To disable:

netsh winhttp reset proxy

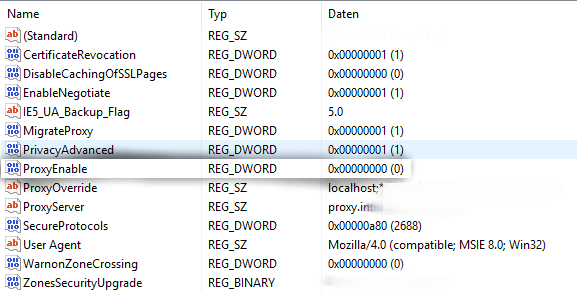
To show the current settings:

netsh winhttp show proxy

I agree with @Quirk this question is better placed in the super user group, but at the same time, users are drawn more often to StackOverflow and get discouraged when they don't find the answer.

Here is something I came up with, also my taught process:

1. all of Windows configurations that are flags or simple values are kept in the registry
2. you can manipulate the registry with the REG command
3. REG /? shows you what you can do
4. with regedit you can search the registry (F3) for your proxy host name

*HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings*[](https://i.stack.imgur.com/S6GTz.png)

1. once you found the REG\_KEY you are ready to write your script

in conclusion:

here is your 'command' for enabling your proxy:

REG ADD "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings" /v ProxyEnable /t REG\_DWORD /d **1** /f

here is your 'command' for disabling your proxy:

REG ADD "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings" /v ProxyEnable /t REG\_DWORD /d **0** /f

It works, the value is set, but I am pretty sure your Network Settings Window does not get the update until the next time you open it.

Hope this helps.