



Windows XP Network Tips

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Adjust Browser Cache Sizes

The maximum size of your Internet Explorer browser cache is ### megabytes. Generally, cache sizes above 80 megabytes waste disk space and can actually cause slower performance.

How to adjust the IE cache size

Start Internet Explorer

Select =>Tools =>Internet Options // In the Temporary Internet File section, click 'Settings' and use the slider to adjust the size of your cache file.

Install NetBEUI Quick and easy

This tweak is used to install NetBEUI an easy way to network computers at home without having to worry about configuring IP addresses etc, it enables windows 98 and earlier, to communicate with XP. you can get the files from the XP CD or follow these instructions...

1. download this file: <http://forums.itrc.hp.com/cm/components/FileAttachment/0,,0xcd178f960573d611abdb0090277a778c,00.EXE>
 it is all the NetBEUI files needed to set it up on your computer.

2. copy nbfs.sys into the %SYSTEMROOT%\SYSTEM32\DRIVERS\ directory
3. copy netnbfs.inf into the %SYSTEMROOT%\INF\ directory
4. open network connection properties and use "Install..." button to add NetBEUI protocol

5. restart your computer - and your done!

N.B. %SYSTEMROOT% refers to the location of your o/s in most cases this is C:\windows

Speed up your web browsing

Clearing the Windows XP DNS cache can increase browsing speed

To clear it type the following in a command prompt: ipconfig /flushdns

Internet Protocol Version 6

This protocol is destined to replace the Internet Protocol Version 4 used by Internet Explorer it uses hexadecimal IP addresses instead of decimal example (decimal IP 62.98.231.67) (hexadecimal IP 2001:6b8:0:400::70c)

To install To install the IPv6 Protocol for Windows XP:

Log on to the computer running Windows XP with a user account that has local administrator privileges.

Open a command prompt. From the Windows XP desktop, click Start, point to Programs, point to Accessories, and then click Command Prompt.

At the command prompt, type:

IPv6 install

For more information on IPv6, visit the site below:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/techinfo/administration/ipv6/default.asp>

Modifying Internet Explorer Search Engine

Have you ever wondered how to change the built in MSN Search that comes with Internet Explorer to the search engine you want? Perhaps Google, or even Altavista. It is possible and very simple to do.

1. First, hit Start> Run> regedit (type and hit enter or press Ok). Now regedit will launch.
2. Now, click on [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE](#) and then click [SOFTWARE](#).
3. A large list of folders will present themselves in front of you, find the folder named Microsoft, and click it, yet another list of folders will open within Microsoft, scroll down until you find Internet Explorer.
4. Even more folders will present themselves, this is for the last time. Scroll down and find Search (you will notice this has NOT got a + sign next to it.)
5. Click Search and there will be 2 variables, "CustomizeSearch" and "SearchAssistant". For now right-click just "CustomizeSearch" and select "Modify".
6. Now you will notice that you can 'modify' the Value Data field. Enter the URL of your desired search engine (eg. <http://www.google.com> for Google, or <http://www.altavista.com> for AltaVista.) After you have done this click Ok.
7. Do the same as above (Step 6) with the "SearchAssistant", and then exit regedit.
8. Load up Internet Explorer and click on your search icon, now, if all has been done correctly you should see the search engine you entered.

Remember, it is always a good idea to make a back-up if you are changing anything, just incase something goes wrong.

I would recommend Google as the search engine of your choice!

Uninstall Msn Messenger - batch script

1. copy this code into your text document and save it with extension "bat" without quotes

```
@echo off
echo Removing Microsoft Messenger...
rundll32 advpack.dll,LaunchINFSection %WinDir%\inf\msmsgs.inf,BLC.Remove
echo Disabling it from running in the future...
echo REGEDIT4>%temp%\nomsngr.reg
echo
echo
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Messenger\Client]>>%temp%\no
msngr.reg
echo "PreventRun"=dword:00000001>>%temp%\nomsngr.reg
echo "PreventAutoRun"=dword:00000001>>%temp%\nomsngr.reg
echo "PreventAutoUpdate"=dword:00000001>>%temp%\nomsngr.reg
echo "PreventBackgroundDownload"=dword:00000001>>%temp%\nomsngr.reg
echo "Disabled"=dword:00000001>>%temp%\nomsngr.reg
regedit /s %temp%\nomsngr.reg
```

2. double click on it and restart computer
3. msn messenger will be uninstalled from you system

Disable IE's Macromedia Flash plug-in

The Flash player is necessary for many of those pop-up ads and graphics on the internet, particularly on many of Yahoo!'s webpages. To prevent these annoyances from appearing, do the following:

1. Ensure Internet Explorer is closed.
2. Determine your path to the flash plug-in (the plug-in will be a file whose name contains the word 'flash', and the extension .ocx) For most installations, it will be C:\Windows\system32\Macromed\Flash\swflash.ocx.
2. Unregister the plug-in by typing the following at the Start|Run prompt:

```
regsvr32 c:\Windows\system32\Macromed\Flash\swflash.ocx /u
```

When you restart IE, most (if not all) of those pop-ups should cease to bother you.

Note: Also remember that if you disable the flash plugin you will not be able to view any sites that primarily use flash for their site design.

Remove the IE image toolbar

Start Internet Explorer
 Navigate on the menu bar through: =>Tools and select =>Internet Options.
 Then click on the Advanced tab and scroll down to the Multimedia section.
 Then uncheck the option: Enable Image Toolbar.
 To re-enable it later if you want it back, just check it again.

Remove history in internet explorer address bar

Click on Start, then Run.
 Type regedit in the box provided.
 In Regedit navigate to:

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Typed URLs](#)

Then just delete all of the keys that list the URL's you no longer want to see.

Fix for slow xDSL Internet access

This tweak is also valid for all Windows versions.

During browsing you sometimes notice that it takes time to access any web page, and then, suddenly, your connection establishes full-speed again.
 The reason lies in amount of time needed for tcp/ip protocol to translate a host name to an IP address.
 In order to fix this problem your xDSL modem should have an internal IP address specified in TCP/IP properties.
 In most of the cases IP address would be 192.168.1.2; subnet mask : 255.255.255.0

ICS trouble with ADSL

To get ICS to function properly with the XP-inbox PPPoE. (ADSL):

Install RASPPPoE and ICS works fine

Fix IE 6 Slowdowns and Hangs

1. Open a command prompt window on the desktop (Start/Run/command).
2. Exit IE and Windows Explorer (iexplore.exe and explorer.exe, respectively, in Task Manager, i.e - Ctrl-Alt-Del/Task Manager/Processes/End Process for each).
3. Use the following command exactly from your command prompt window to delete the corrupt file:

```
C:\>del "%systemdrive%\Documents and Settings\%username%\Local
Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\index.dat"
```

4. Restart Windows Explorer with Task Manager (Ctrl-Alt-Del/Task Manager/Applications/New Task/Browse/C:\Windows\explorer.exe[or your path]) or Shutdown/Restart the computer from Task Manager.

Fix bug in IE 6.0 sendmail.dll file (Functionality of Menu/Send/Link by Email)

In IE6 when trying to Send/File/Link by Email from the menu bar, IE6 prevents the loaded Web Address from being copied into the email message area of either OE6 or Outlook XP. This does not occur in IE 5.5. This is specifically regarding the IE feature, which allows the convenient quick paste of the Web Address into an email message area without having to manually copy and paste.

(This does not address OE or Outlook security blocking of misc. attachments.)

To fix this, a copy of IE 5.5 sendmail.dll file is required, located in the Windows/System folder. Backup and delete the IE 6.0 sendmail.dll file, which is located in the Window/System32 folder (Windows XP). Paste the IE 5.5 sendmail.dll into the Windows/System32 folder. This will allow you to use the Menu/Send/Link by Email function on the IE 6.0 menu bar. I have not noticed any adverse effects from doing this, but if one encounters problems, it is easy to

Quick IE Text Size Change

You can quickly change the text size in your browser by holding Control and scrolling your mouse wheel (assuming you have wheel mouse).

Moving the mouse wheel up makes text smaller, down makes it bigger (opposite of what you'd assume of course).

Note: This will not work on sites which hard-code sizes to their text (most decent sites don't).

Disable UPnP the easy way

The way to disable Universal Plug and Play is to download a program from www.grc.com.

The program is small and it will work on Pro or home version of Windows XP, just go to the page www.grc.com and on the first page you will see a link titled UnPlug n' Pray click here next you see the page showing the program, how it works.

Changing default text size in Internet Explorer

If you have a 1600x1200 laptop monitor, like me, you're probably sick of having to readjust the text size in IE every time you open the browser. With this little tweak, you'll have the default text size adjusted just the way you want it.

(Some programs, like Eudora 5.1, actually change this setting without your knowledge, leaving you squinting.)

To do it, you'll have to edit the registry.

- 1) First of all, save your registry if you haven't done so already.
- 2) Open up the key:

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\International\Scripts\3\IEFontSize.](#)

- 3) Change the REG_BINARY value from 01 00 00 00 ("small" text size) to 02 00 00 00 for medium (which is what I have) or to whatever you want(see below).
- 4) Open up IE to see if it looks the way you want it, and if so, voila. If not:
- 4) go back to step 2 --or-- restore your original registry settings.

Just in case, here are the keys to try for the text size you want:

```
00 00 00 00 = smallest
01 00 00 00 = small
02 00 00 00 = medium
03 00 00 00 = large
04 00 00 00 = largest
```

Completely disable Universal Plug and Play (UPnP)

To completely disable the potentially dangerous UPnP service from Windows XP, there are two services present that should be disabled. You can access the Services panel through Administrative Tools (Control Panel =>Performance and Maintenance). The two services you need to disable are:

Universal Plug and Play Device Host

AND

SSDP Discovery Service

Most users don't realize it, but the SSDP service is the actual server that's open to the internet (unless you're firewalled), and the service that turns on the UPnP Device Host. Disable the UPnP Device Host first by double-clicking on the service and selecting "Disabled" in the drop-down menu, instead of the default "Manual." Next, go on to the SSDP Discovery Service, double-click and select to stop the service, then disable it in the same manner.

Allow more than 2 simultaneous downloads in IE 6

This is to increase the the number of max downloads to 10.

1. Start Registry Editor (Regedt32.exe).
2. Locate the following key in the registry:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings

3. On the Edit menu, click Add Value , and then add the following registry values:

"MaxConnectionsPer1_0Server"=Dword:0000000a
 "MaxConnectionsPerServer"=Dword:0000000a

4. Quit Registry Editor.

Changing mailto: defaults

Clicking on a mailto: link in IE launches Outlook even if the default mail client is changed to something else. This forces mailto: links to open in Netscape 6, though varying the command line should allow you to use other clients.

1. Run regedit
2. Go to:

HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\mailto\shell\open\command

3. Change the default value to:

C:\PROGRA~1\NETSCAPE\NETSCA~1\NETSCP6.EXE -mail "%1"

(For Netscape 6. Other clients will have their own command lines

Use the following step's to add your own browser tool bars

1. Go to Start, Run
2. Type in gpedit.msc
3. Go to user configuration => Windows Settings => IE Maintenance => Browser UI. Then click on browser toolbar customizations.

Notes: You will need 2 icon files (ico files) one color and one grey for the mouse over.

Phone Dialer

The run the phone dialer that I noticed is missing from the communications section.

go to "run"
 type in dialer

Network Interface Card Memory Tweak (WIN95&98)

1. Right Click on My Comp.
2. Then Properties
3. Device Manager or Hardware
4. View Resources by connection
5. Find the IRQ number of your NIC that uses the internet. (NIC meaning Network Interface Card).
REMEMBER THAT NUMBER!!!
6. Then Click Run
7. Type Sysedit in the box and return
8. 4 or 5 boxes will appear, highlight the system.ini box
9. Under the [386enh] add the following exactly..
10. Irq[n]=4096, where "[n]" is the number irq of your network card. 4096 is the recommended ram to reserve in kilobytes.
11. So it will look something like this Irq10=4096.
12. Save changes in the file and reboot for effect.

Web pages slow down, FIX

The tweak is simple. Beside the QoS and others around the Internet for the new XP OS, I found out that native drivers sometimes slow you down (cable and xDSL users). So if you have applied all tweaks and you are still having slow downs try reinstalling your NICs drivers.

I have reinstalled my NIC drivers with the latest found on their website, and now I can really appreciate all my available bandwidth. The difference is noticeable. My web pages now load almost instantly where they used to take even a minute!

As always, this tweak worked well for me, but may not work with everybody, just try! You can go back to native drivers anytime.

Better Easy IP Check

Copy and paste the following into notepad

```
@echo
@ipconfig
```

Save the file with either a .bat or .cmd extension.

NetBEUI can be installed

For some of you guys out there who may just want to setup a small lan of computers, you may not want to load up tcp/ip. In the past we've been able to install NetBEUI easily...until XP. In order to install it in XP, go to your XP cd and look in the following folder:

```
%cdrom%\VALUEADD\MSFT\NET\NETBEUI
```

There is a text file to easily install netbeui on your computer.

Kill IE ABOUT: URLs

In Windows 9X/2000/ME/XP with MS IE 4/5/6, there is an annoying MS Internet Explorer vulnerability. Certain web sites force the opening of a hidden popup tracking minimized window upon your first visit, or when you leave their web site or close your browser while one of their web pages is still displayed.

They do this by using the little known "about:" browser built-in command into their HTML/DHTML/XML code.

There is not much you can do, except close it by right-clicking on it and selecting Close/Exit, or by highlighting it with a single mouse left-click and then pressing simultaneously Alt + F4. That is if you can detect its small taskbar icon, because it won't allow to be restored or maximized, unlike the other well behaved

windows.

THE FIX:

You can kill ALL MS IE "about:" URLs permanently with this Registry hack.
Create a REG file in Notepad (save it as [NOABOUT.REG](#) for example), with these lines:

-----Begin copy & paste below-----

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\ProtocolDefaults]

"about"=dword:00000004

"about:"=dword:00000004

-----End copy & paste above-----

Then run [NOABOUT.REG](#) to merge this info into your Registry.

This will place all "about:" URLs into the MS IE Restricted Zone, which means they will not open anymore when using IE to surf the net.

Faster and more powerful Internet searching then ever before

1. Get TweakUI by installing Powertoy for Windows XP from: <http://download.microsoft.com/download/whistler/Install/1.0/WXP/EN-US/PowerToySetup.exe>

2. Start => Programs => Powertoy for Windows XP => TweakUI for Windows XP

3. Click the '+' next to 'Internet Explorer'

4. Highlight 'Search'

5. In the right plane click on the 'Create' button.

6. For the Prefix, type in 'Google' or if you're REALLY lazy (like me) then just 'g'

7. for the URL, enter: <http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=%s&num=100>

Disable Universal PnP

1. Click on the Start button and select Run.

2. Then type Services.msc in the text box and click OK.

3. Once the services management counsel has loaded, scroll down the list of services until you find Universal Plug and Play.

4. Right click on the service and select properties.

5. On the general tab you will notice a spot displays the start up type. By default it is set to manual. This allows it to start up when ever the service is called. We want to change the start up type to disable. This can be done by selecting Disable from the drop down box.

6. Then click the OK button and close the services management console.

Can't connect to computers in your network?

1. Click start button

2. Click "My Network Places"

3. Right-click and click on "Properties"

4. Right-click on "Local Area Connection" and click on "Properties"

5. click on the "Authentication" tab

6. Uncheck "Enable network access control using IEEE 802.1X"

7. Click "OK"

Another fix for DSL service interruptions

DSL service with windows xp... modem would show a connection but can't access the net. Microsoft's online support page suggests uninstalling easy cd creator 5.02 platinum. This should clearup the problem. I hope someone will benefit from this tip

Disable Messenger SERVICE (Not MSN messenger)

In the default installation of XP, the Messenger service runs by default. Messenger in Windows 2000/XP is similar to the functionality of what "WinPopup" was to Win3.x/9X. However, having this service running will cause problems in the very near future, as ANYONE can send popup messages to your computer when you have this service running. (The service doesn't check where the message comes from).

Don't believe it? At the command prompt, type:

```
net send IPADDRESS_OF_CLIENT_TO_SEND_TO Your Message
```

and that person will get a popup window immediately with "Your Message" .. the popup window will say "Messenger Service" in the titlebar and will contain your workstation's name and the time. You can send a message to yourself by typing "LOCALHOST" to test this.

Another thing worth noting, if you are using a Microsoft firewall, these messages will still be sent through the firewall.

To make it so others cannot send these messages to you, disable the Messenger service from Services. (Go to Control Panel => Perf. & Maint. => Administrative Tools => Services. Double click the Messenger Service, change 'Automatic' to 'Disabled' and click the Stop button.) Once you've done this, people trying to send messages via the net message service will get errors. While you're at it, it might be wise to disable the 'Administrative Alerts' service as well.

The description Microsoft gives for this service is as follows: "Transmits net send and Alerter service messages between clients and servers. This service is not related to Windows Messenger. If this service is stopped, Alerter messages will not be transmitted. If this service is disabled, any services that explicitly depend on it will fail to start.

Make Windows XP work with Unix Samba PDC

Windows XP refuses to log into a domain hosted by a Samba PDC.

To make it work you must change the following registry key from 1 to 0:

[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\ControlSet\Services\ControlSet\Services\Netlogon\Parameters\requiresignorseal](#)

Speeding Up Share Viewing

When you connect to another computer with Windows XP, it checks for any Scheduled tasks on that computer - a fairly useless task, but one that can add up to 30 seconds of waiting on the other end - not good! Fortunately, it's fairly easy to disable this process.

First, in the Registry, navigate to:

[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current Version\Explorer\RemoteComputer\NameSpace](#)

Below that, there should be a key called {D6277990-4C6A-11CF-8D87-00AA0060F5BF}. Just delete this, and after a restart, Windows will no longer check for scheduled tasks - major performance improvement!

Internet Explorer Fast Load

Change your home page to about:blank, or click use blank page.

Activating Passive FTP Mode

If you have problems connecting to FTP servers using Internet Explorer when your computer is behind a firewall, you need to enable passive mode so you can connect a different way.

1. In IE6 XP open the Tools tab => go to Internet Options => Advanced tab = scroll down till you find "Use Passive FTP (for firewall and DSL modem compatibility)" => TICK this setting => hit Apply

This should resolve all problems with accessing FTP servers.

Disable Modem Connection Auto-Redial

1. Go to the "Control Panel"
2. Switch to Classic View (to make life easier)
3. Double-Click "Network Connections"
4. Click "Advanced" from the menu, then click "Dial-up Preference"
5. Under where it says "Enable redial by location", uncheck all locations.
6. Click "OK"

Getting NetBEUI to work in WinXP

Visit <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;q301041> to read the Microsoft Answer

Enter Words into IE

Not really a tweak but here goes if you add about:xxxxxxx the writing will come up or sometimes a nice color will come up e.g. about:mozilla = blue

Make mIRC identd work

1. Go into Control Panel=> Network Connections
2. Right click "Local Area Network" and select "Properties"
3. Left click the advanced tab
4. Left click the settings button
5. Under services, left click the add button
6. For description type "Ident", for Name of IP put the name that identifies your system with your ISP OR your IP if it is static.
7. Both external and internal ports are 113 by default and TCP.
8. Click OK all the way out.

Run Explorer Full Screen

1. go to: [HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Console](#), find 'fullscreen' modify the value from 0 to 1.
- 2 go to: [HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Main](#), find 'fullscreen' modify the value from no to yes.
3. reboot your computer.
4. Now everytime you open explorer or IE 6 you'll be running in full screen.

Speed up browsing with DNS catch

when you connect to a web site your computer sends information back and forth, this is obvious. Some of this information deals with resolving the site name to an IP address, the stuff that tcp/ip really deals with, not words. This is DNS information and is used so that you will not need to ask for the site location each and every time you visit the site. Although WinXP and win2000 have a pretty efficient DNS cache, you can increase its overall performance by increasing its size.

You can do this with the registry entries below:

```
*****begin copy and paste*****
Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Dnscache\Parameters]
"CacheHashTableBucketSize"=dword:00000001
"CacheHashTableSize"=dword:00000180
"MaxCacheEntryTtlLimit"=dword:0000fa00
"MaxSOACacheEntryTtlLimit"=dword:0000012d

*****end copy and paste*****
```

make a new text file and rename it to dnscache.reg. The copy and paste the above into it and save it. Then merge it into the registry

Disable ICMP Redirect for security

If your running server versions, add the following reg_dword in the location shown and set it to "0". This will help keep an icmp re-direct attack from taking over your server.

[\[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Tcpip\Parameters\]](#)
["EnableICMPRedirect"=dword:00000000](#)

Works in both Win2k and XP

Get rid of the "links" folder in the favorites without regedit

In IE, click on favorites and right click on links, properties, check read only and hidden. it will never show again in your favorite list

Start IE with empty blue page

Set your default page to about:mozilla and IE will show a nice blue screen upon startup.

Modify bandwidth reserved for QoS-aware programs

Make sure your logged on as Administrator. Do not log on with any account that just has administrator privileges.

To log in as Administrator:

- Click on start=>logoff=>logoff
- At the logon screen hold Ctrl+Alt+Del.
- In the user field type 'Administrator'
- In the password field type the password for the administrator (if you don't have one leave blank) and press OK

Click on the Start button and select run.

Type gpedit.msc in the text box and click OK

Once the program loads, expand the Computer configuration branch.

Expand the Administrative templates branch.

Expand the Network branch.

Highlight the QoS Packet Scheduler in left window.

In right window double click the limit reservable bandwidth setting

On setting tab check the enabled option.

Where it says Bandwidth limit %, change it to read what ever percent you want to reserve for QoS-aware applications.

Click OK and exit the group policy editor.

Go to your Network connections (start->my computer->my network connection-> view network connections).

Right click on your connection, choose properties then under the General or the Networking tab (where it lists your protocols) make sure QoS packet scheduler is enabled.

Now just reboot your computer and you are all done.

Msn Messenger Removal

```
RunDll32 advpack.dll,LaunchINFSection %windir%\INF\msmsgs.inf,BLC.Remove
```

Will remove the msn messenger from XP

IMPROVED: Disable home page to speed up launch

There is a better way to do this: add -nohome to the shortcut! If you combine these two, it's the fastest option you can get.

Temporary Internet Files

If you've got a beefy enough computer to shell out some hard-drive space this tip is for you! For your Temporary Internet Files, set at least 1GB, so that way you virtually cut down ALL loading time to previous sites you have visited. Increase this number if you want more space! To achieve this novelty open IE, and under Tools go to Internet Options. There on the main tab you will have the option to set the temporary internet files cache space.

Tweaking MTU on XP

Visit the microsoft support site:

http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q120/6/42.asp?LN=EN-US&SD=gn&FR=0&qry=MTU&rnk=2&src=DHCS_MSPSS_gn_SRCH&SPR=WINXP

Disable Schedule Task in IE

IE 6.0 wants to run a scheduled task everytime it connects to a server. This results in slower browsing. To disable this delete the following key:

`HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\explorer\RemoteComputer\NameSpace\{D6277990-4C6A-11CF-8D87-00AA0060F5BF}.`

I picked this up in a training class for windows xp, it does apply to machines running IE 6

Change default Internet Explorer Download Directory

In Regedit go to:

`HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer`

Change the value of the string `Download Directory` to the new path you want to assign as IE's Default Download directory i.e. "D:\" has been assigned as my new download directory.

Change default pages for events

Internet explorer default pages for events such as navigation canceled, navigation failed, offline information, and blank page are stored in the registry. You can replace these pages with your own if you would like to customize Internet Explorer.

Start regedit, Navigate to:

`HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Internet Explorer>AboutURLs`

Modify the key values to the full path on the hard drive. C:\page.htm

Disable folder view

Launch Internet Explorer.

Select the Tools from the menu bar.

Then select Internet Options... from the drop down menu.

Once the internet options has loaded click on the advanced tab.

Find where it says Enable folder view for FTP sites and uncheck it.

Click OK

Get rid of history

Launch Internet Explorer.

Select the Tools from the menu bar.

Then select Internet Options... from the drop down menu.

Once the internet options has loaded click on the general tab.

Under the history section change the days to keep in history to 0.

I would also click the clear history button to get rid of everything else.

Click OK

Decrease temp internet files

Launch Internet Explorer.
 Select the Tools from the menu bar.
 Then select Internet Options... from the drop down menu.
 Once the internet options has loaded click on the general tab.
 Under the temporary internet files section click the settings button.
 A settings window will load. Slide the slider all the way to the left so the size indicated in the text box on the right is one.
 Click OK
 Click OK

Load web sites faster & block ad popups

Use the hosts file (no file extension. sometimes called hosts.sam for sample.) to load sites faster.
 Usually found in:

C:\windows for 95/98/ME
 C:\winnt\system32\drivers\etc for NT/2K/XP.

Open the file with notepad, you will see some examples, scroll to the bottom. Enter sites IP address followed by at least one space and domain name, for example: 216.26.163.153 www.tweakxp.com. You're browser checks the host file for a sites IP address, now it doesn't have to talk to a DNS server thus cutting out the middle man.

Use the hosts file to block unwanted sites such as ad popup sites. same as above except for the site IP address you will enter your localhost IP address, for example: 127.0.0.1 www.popupads.com you're browser will now look locally for the site and of course not find it and thus it won't load.

Note: you can only block entire sites not sub directories of a site so if the ads are loaded locally say in www.somesite.com/ads/ you would have to block www.somesite.com in effect blocking the whole site.

Confirm open after download

The Feature:

When clicking a file on the web (zip,rar,exe.. whatever), normally a dialogue box will pop up asking if you want to save to file or open. IE even has a "[x] Always ask before opening this type of file." feature. Yeah, OK.

The Problem:

But what if someone un-checks the "[x] Always ask before opening this type of file." box, and you just don't want your zip files to automatically open?!?!?

The Question:

Where do I go to re-check that dialogue box?

By now I am sure you are feeling my pain.

The solution:

Open My Computer, or any other form of Windows Explorer. Select Tools -> Folder Options -> File Types tab & select your file type (in my case .zip). Click advanced, and There It Is! "[] Confirm open after download."

Checking for Connection Problems

Anytime your network refuses to send and receive data properly, your first troubleshooting step should be to check for problems with the physical connection between the local computer and the rest of the network. Assuming your network connection uses the TCP/IP protocol, your most potent weapon is the Ping utility. When you use the Ping command with no parameters, Windows sends four echo datagrams, small Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) packets, to the address you specify. If the machine at the other end of the connection replies, you know that the network connection between the two points is alive.

To use the Ping command, open a Windows command prompt window (Cmd.exe in Windows XP) and type the command:

```
ping target_name
```

(where target_name is an IP address or the name of another host machine).

If all the packets you send come back properly in roughly the same time, your TCP/IP connection is fine and you can focus your troubleshooting efforts elsewhere.

IDE Connectivity Sysem Boost

Most systems come with their hard drives pre-installed, unless you assemble one yourself, and rarely does the normal user look inside the system.

If you have a Hard Drive and a CDROM drive connected to the same IDE cable, Change this by placing your Hard Drive(s) on one IDE cable (channel) and place the CDROM Drive the other IDE cable (channel)

The result is faster system startup time and overall improvement on system performance.

Fix A Mangled IP Configuration

In the days before Windows XP, a corrupted IP installation could often be fixed simply by removing and reinstalling TCP/IP. In most cases, the IP-related files remained intact, but some related Registry keys would be corrupted beyond repair.

You can't uninstall TCP/IP in Windows XP, because there is no Uninstall button for this protocol. According to Microsoft, that is because TCP/IP is an integral part of the operating system, and removing it would cause major problems. You can, however, use the Windows XP command line utility NetShell to reset all IP-related Registry settings to their default values. The result is a brand-new TCP/IP configuration.

The Netsh.exe program is located in the C:\Windows\System32 directory. To use the program, enter the command:

```
netsh int ip reset filename
```

You must specify a filename, such as Ipstuff.txt. After Netsh .exe runs, the file will contain a detailed log of the Registry keys that were modified.

Block incoming attacks

Limit your exposure to the outside world by blocking incoming connections.

Start => Settings => Control Panel => Network Connections

Right click on "Local Area Network" And go to "Properties", In the scroll box, Click on "Internet Protocol (IP/TCP)" and then click on the "Properties" button, In the new window, Click on the "Advanced.." button, Then in the other new window go to the "Options" tab, Click on "TCP/IP Filtering" and hit "Properties", Check

off "Enable TCP/IP filtering (All adapters)" next In the Above "TCP Ports" Click on the Radio button "Permit Only" and then add in the ports that you want people to be able to access... If you're running a web server add in 80, If you're running an FTP server add in 21... And so on.... Then hit "OK" And close all the other windows, And reboot when it asks you too.

This way you can close the ports that you do not need to be open to the outside world. An alternative to this tweak could be running a firewall or enabling windows built in firewall. Please note that in order for other computers to connect to you, for example sending a file over AOL Instant Messenger or using Windows Messenger to send a file, make sure that the required port is not blocked on your system. Otherwise, nothing will go through.

Slow Network Browsing

Create a text file on the server put this into it:

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\lanmanserver\parameters]
"SizReqBuf"=dword:0000ffff
```

Save the file as WHATEVER.REG

Then double click on the file to apply the setting (once again on the SERVER not the pc).

What this does is it sets the DIR commad's buffer from 14000 to 65000. This fix works on NT/2000/XP.

Stop modem dial up noise

The noise that some dial up 33/56k modems make is awful, and the volume slider in modem properties never seems to stop it. Here's a way to stop it. Make sure you're modem is NOT connected to the internet at the time.

Go to Control Panel => Phone and Modem Options and click on the Modem tab, click on the modem listed and click on properties. In the new dialogue box that comes up click on Advanced. In the text box under the words Extra Initialization Commands type ATM0 (number 0 not letter O). Click on OK, then OK again, etc.

Autohide MSIE Browser Toolbar

To autohide your browser toolbar in MSIE 6 simply press F11.

Close Window