Windows 7 Optimization Tips

These tips are taken from the August 2012 issue of MaximumPC magazine(pages 24-33)

26 SPOT HIDDEN WINDOWS

Sometimes programs display a message asking you to do something, but that message is under another window and you don't see it. You're waiting for the program, its waiting for you, so nothing happens. The window is made visible after 200 seconds but you can shorten the delay. Launch regedit from the Start menu, go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\ Control Panel \Desktop, double-click ForegroundLockTimeout and select Decimal. Change the value to 30,000 miliseconds(30 seconds).

27 SAVE A REGISTRY KEY

Sometimes a change to a registry key does not go as planed. It's quick and easy to return to the key you changed if you've saved it to Regedit's editing window. Click Add to Favorites, give it a descriptive name, and tweak away knowing that changes can be undone in seconds.

41 SOLVE SLOW STARTS

If Windows 7 is taking a long time to launch, or shut down, the Event Viewer may tell you which program or driver is responsible. Click Start, type Eventvwr.msc, and press Return. Expand the Applications and Services Logs section and browse to the Microsoft\Windows\Diagnostic Performance\Operational. Scroll the event list on your PC to see if Windows knows who to blame for your performance issues.

45 RESTORE RUN

If you miss the Windows XP Run option which was used by many to launch programs quickly, right-click the Start orb, select Properties->Customize, check the Run Command box,click OK and a Run option should now appear on the Start menu.

46 LAUNCH APPLETS FAST

Don't waste time browsing to the Control Panel for the right tool for making changes to your computer when you can launch it directly. To run Device Manager, for example, click Start, type Device in the search box and Windows should display a Device manager link for you. Windows also responds to vague searches, so if you type partition, the disk management tool will be listed.

72 SPEED UP SEARCHES

Right-click the Start button and select Properties. Click Customize, scroll down the list of available options and select "Search without public folders" under "Search other files and libraries". Click OK and results should appear much quicker than before, as there are far fewer places to search. Public folders are rarely used by most people so axing them in search is a cost-free speed up trick. which was used by many to launch programs quickly, right-click the Start orb, select Properties->Customize, check the Run Command box,click OK and a Run option should now appear on the Start menu.

Procedure

1. Do tips 26 and 27 in tandem. Follow 27 to save the ForegroundLockTimeout key and then restore it when done.
2. When doing tip 41 you will also be doing tip 46.
   Look out for event IDs 100 and any events in the 101-109 range for startup problems
3. Do tip 72 and see if it really makes a difference in terms of speed.
   Enter event in the search box and see if the event viewer comes up.
4. Do tip 45 and enter c: in the run textbox.
5. Look through the other tips on the archived pdf file and attempt at least 2 other tips.
6. Record your picks below:

   Tip id: _____ did it work: _____

   Tip id: _____ did it work: _____