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Where does Windows store its "Open With" settings?

[Ask Question]

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I'm trying to programmatically check file associations by the file extension (for example `.jnlp` files). I keep reading that
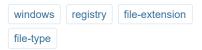
```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Classes\JNLPFile\Shell\Open\Command
```

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is the Registry key to check. However, if you change the association through Windows Explorer:

Open With > Choose Program > (Always use the selected program)

the change isn't at all reflected in this Registry key. Where else is this information stored?

windows   registry   file-extension

file-type

edited Dec 1 '16 at 16:28

DavidRR
9,380   11   61   131

asked Oct 13 '10 at 14:27

mitch
152   1   2   9

3 Answers

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Take a look in:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\
```

and the sub-key of that is the extension you reassigned. Under that there will be the UserChoice and

OpenWithList sub-keys which will contain your redefinition.

You may also want to read http://support.microsoft.com/kb/9505 05 which talks about your issue.

edited Jun 27 '13 at 13:34

answered Oct 13 '10 at 14:35

Michael Goldshteyn
50.5k   14   100   161

This is a two-part look-up.

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First, you look up the default value of HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\ [file_extension]. For your extensions, .jnlp, the value is "JNLPFile". Let's call this the [file_descriptor].

Now you can look up the default value of HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\ [file_descriptor]\Shell\ [action]\command (where [action] is the shell action you are interested in, e.g.: Open, Print, Edit, etc.).

edited May 15 '14 at 22:04

Community ♦
1   1

answered Oct 13 '10 at 14:38

Chris Judge
1,564   1   11   10

On:

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```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\W
```

Tip: Edit>Find is pretty handy at these situations. :)

edited Oct 13 '10 at 14:39

answered Oct 13 '10 at 14:32

Ruel