



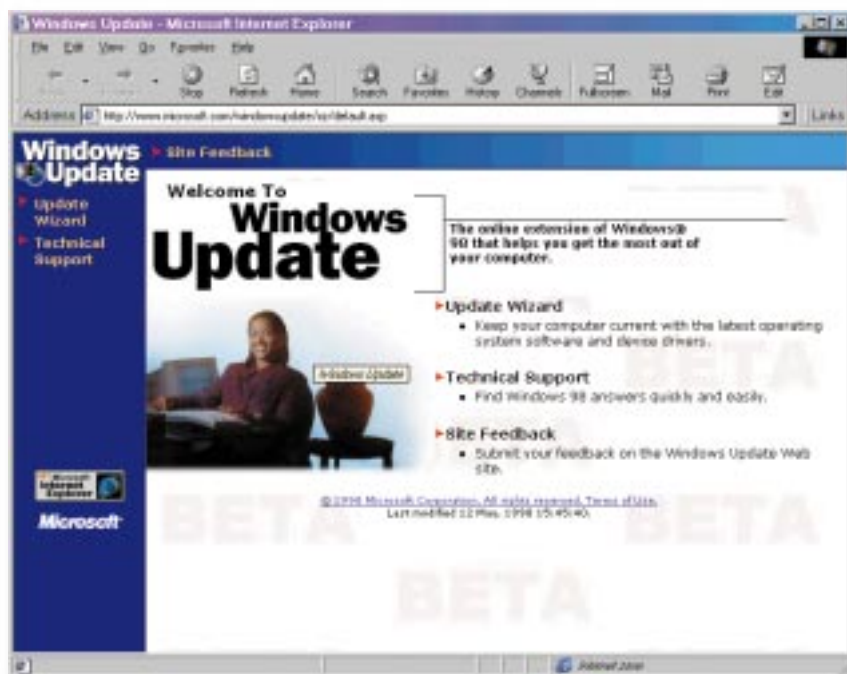
# All right now

**Tim Nott has a cure for those Windows update blues.**

**O**ne of the things that makes life a lot easier in Windows 98 is the Windows Update tool. This connects you to the Microsoft web site and checks your system to see if there are any updates or patches you should have.

All very user-friendly, but it does have its oddities. One is that on several occasions when I've visited, it has been slow to the point of stasis. Another is that the automated approach, which downloads and installs updates without further user intervention, has the shortcoming that it doesn't seem possible to keep the downloaded setup files. So, if you want to re-install Windows 98 for instance, you have to start all over again to obtain the updates. Worse still, if you have a number of PCs to update, it seems you have to go through the same process for each.

**Internet tools** are not really in the province of this column but I'll make an exception for GetRight, which is a tool for managing downloads. What makes it relevant to this column is, as Mike Insley



points out, that it gets around this problem. GetRight, which at the time of writing was available from [www.download.com/PC/Result/TitleDetail/0,4,0-21523-g,501000.html](http://www.download.com/PC/Result/TitleDetail/0,4,0-21523-g,501000.html) (phew!), will intercept the download and save it to your chosen location, although the MS Update site itself will report an unsuccessful download. Mike adds that he can't get it to work with the Netscape

Smart Update site, so if anyone out there can help him, please let me know.

## It can be done!

This is starting to become a habit, but here's another "can't be done" solved. We've had the one-stop-close-down-Windows tip several times. The last sighting was in the July '98 column,

## YOU CAN STAY AT THE PCMCIA

**S**imon Abraham mailed me from the Gambia with a power management problem in Windows 98: whenever he tried to use a PCMCIA modem from his notebook, it would take several seconds to "wake up" the power to the card, during which time the mouse pointer was also frozen. These devices are now more commonly known as PC Cards, because People Can't Memorise Computer Industry Acronyms.

In Windows 95 there is an option in Control Panel to have PC Cards permanently on, but this has disappeared in Windows 98. Although the visible control has gone, the

underlying Registry setting remains. Back up your Registry, run Regedit and go to HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\VxD\VCMM. You can then set the value of EnablePower-Management to 00 00 00 00.

This did the trick for Simon, who was so pleased that he wrote a utility to do this automatically and won himself a book token. I've included his file on our cover-mounted CD as PCMCIA Power



**▲ SIMON ABRAHAM'S UTILITY RETURNS PC CARD POWER TO WINDOWS 98 USERS**

Manager.zip. Although the file has been scanned with the latest Dr Solomon's virus scanner, it has not been extensively tested. Use it at your own risk, and if you have any queries, contact Simon, not me.

albeit obliquely, with the full tip previously having been aired in the June '97 edition. So here it is again.

**If you want to exit** Windows without the confirmation dialogue — i.e. go straight to the “Please wait...” and “It is now safe...” screens — then create a shortcut whose command line is:  
**C:\WINDOWS\RUNDLL32.EXE - user.exe,ExitWindows**

Lots of people asked whether it is possible to restart Windows in the same way, and the closest we ever got was via a shortcut to restart the PC in MS-DOS mode, then run a batch file to restart Windows. The following shortcut command line will do the trick in Windows 98:

**C:\WINDOWS\RUNDLL.EXE - user.exe,ExitWindowsExec**

Note that this shortcut is to RUNDLL.EXE, not RUNDLL32.EXE, and that the space before user.exe is important, as is the comma after. This will restart Windows, rather than restart the PC — it's the equivalent of holding down the shift key when you choose the Restart option from the Shut Down dialogue. Although both shortcuts bypass the Shut Down dialogue, you'll still get prompted to save any open files. I can't get the latter to work with Windows 95; I get stuck in what seems to be a failed attempt to restart in MS-DOS mode. Your mileage may vary, however.

## Icon collecting

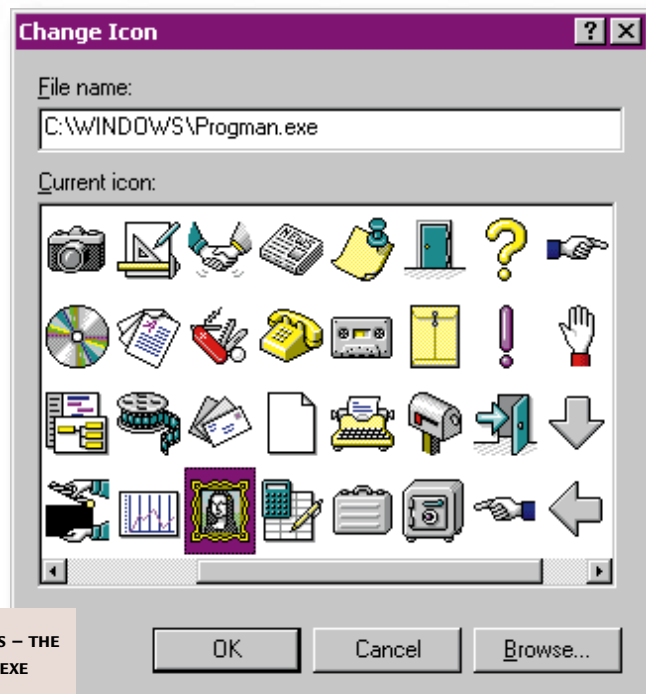
Following last month's tip about creating folders with their own custom icons and tooltips, here are a few tips on icons in general.

➤ **If you want to** “roll your own” but haven't got an icon-editing program, you can use Windows Paint. Set the image attributes to the size you want (usually 32 x 32 pixels), then View, Zoom, Custom to the largest size. You'll find you can then turn on the grid and thumbnail views and paint away. You can rename the saved .BMP as an .ICO but it's not necessary. In fact, you can specify any .BMP file, regardless of size, as an icon for a shortcut and Windows will resize it to suit.

➤ **If you fancy** some ready-made icons, hit the Change Icon button in the shortcut properties, then the Browse button to hunt through the Windows and Windows\System folders.

Progman.exe contains some jolly ones, including the Mona Lisa and a Swiss army knife [Fig 1]. Moricons.dll contains a range of specific icons for DOS applications, and Shell32.dll contains most of the standard Windows icons. The best I've found so far is Pifmgr.dll, which sports, among other strange things, one of those knobby things-on-a-chain that knights of old used in order to knock each other's brains out.

➤ **FIG 1** OLDIES BUT GOODIES — THE ICONS HIDDEN IN PROGMAN.EXE



## Quick tips

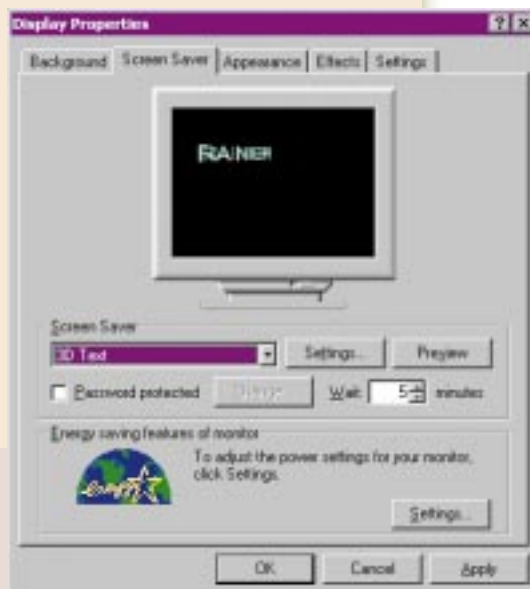
➤ **Internet Explorer**, as you may know, is not too fussy about whether or not you type http:// at the start of a web address. What you may not know is that for a standard American-style .com address you can type just the middle bit and then press Enter (you may need to hold down Control). Internet Explorer will expand “lotus”, for instance, to http://www.lotus.com, which saves a fair bit of finger fatigue.

➤ **You can change** a folder from Explorer view to Folder view (which is also known as My Computer view) in Windows 98 by clicking the X in the left-hand pane. Getting back to it is a little more complex: from the View menu, choose Explorer Bar, then All Folders.

➤ **A cure for the bug** I mentioned in November's column, which “forgets” screensavers on multi-user PCs, is to log-on as a default user and select any screensaver, then restart: other users should then find that their own choice is saved between sessions. Nick Lee wrote in to say that this trick also works when power-saving

settings will not “stick” and have to be turned on during each session.

➤ **There's an “Easter egg”** in the 3D text screensaver and my thanks goes to Alex Pounds for pointing out that if you delve into the settings and type Volcano in the text box, you get a list of credits. Well, not quite, Alex. What you have here is not a list of the developers but, strangely enough, one of North American volcanoes [Fig 2].



➤ **FIG 2** MOUNT RAINIER, NOT PRINCE: THIS IS THE SCREENSAVER, EASTER EGG



### Questions & answers

**Q** Is there a way to determine the make of display card I have, without opening up the case?

GERALD ROSSI

**A** There are two ways. Firstly, when you switch on the PC, the first message you see on the screen should contain information about the display card. But sometimes this disappears too quickly to see, or may have gone by the time the monitor has warmed up. A second, better, method is to open a DOS session within windows and type debug dc000:0 100. This will produce a "dump" of memory on the screen in hexadecimal, with the corresponding characters in a column to the right [Fig 3]. Most of the latter will be gibberish, but somewhere

be done, type "?" to list all the possible commands. You are on your own, now. This column takes no responsibility for self-inflicted injuries.

**Q** Would it be possible for you to include the latest version of TweakUI for Windows on your next cover disc? I do not have internet access at home, so I can't download it from Microsoft.

JOEL STANFORD

**A** TweakUI is included in Windows 98, though you do need to dig it out manually. Go to Tools\Reskit\PowerToy on the Windows 98 CD-ROM, right-click on Tweakui.inf and select Install. For Windows 95 users, and in answer to your question, that's a good idea, Joel, and you'll find PowerToy.exe in the Hands On section of this month's PCW CD-ROM. Copy this to a temporary folder on your hard disk, then double-click on it to expand the contents. This includes not just TweakUI, but various other goodies which are all documented in the Readme.txt file. Note that

Philips CD-RW (internal SCSI) drive. This attempts to load while Windows is starting, and more often than not causes the computer to crash irretrievably.

NICHOLAS DELIYANAKI

**A** I don't know about the Adaptec software nor why it should cause the system to crash, but I can tell you where to look for it apart from the Startup group. First, look in the file WIN.INI in the Windows folder. It's a plain text file you can edit with Notepad. In the first section there may be two entries: LOAD= and RUN=. The first starts any program(s) listed to the right of the equals sign minimised, the second starts them normally. Next, look in the Registry. Start Regedit.exe and go to HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion and look for keys starting Run, Run Once, RunServices and similar. Repeat for the corresponding branch and key under HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE. Windows 98 users, as mentioned in a recent edition of the Hands On Windows column, have a much more elegant way of controlling all this from the System Configuration Utility, which you can find in the Tools menu of the System Information accessory, or by running MSCONFIG.EXE.

**Q** I put a password in Control Panel, Internet, Content, Enable Content Advisor, thinking this was a good idea with young children around. But I have now forgotten the password. Is there any way of changing it without first knowing it?

TIM ROGERS

**A** I always have a twinge of conscience about answering this sort of question, which could be used for nefarious ends. But on balance, if there is a hole in security, people are going to find it anyway and those who rely on such security measures should be aware of their shortcomings so that more appropriate measures can be taken. So, if you start Regedit and go to HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\Ratings, you'll find a binary value named "Key". Delete this and you'll have a blank password. You will then be able to get in to the Content Advisor settings again.

• Special thanks to Jason Ozin for helping out with this one.

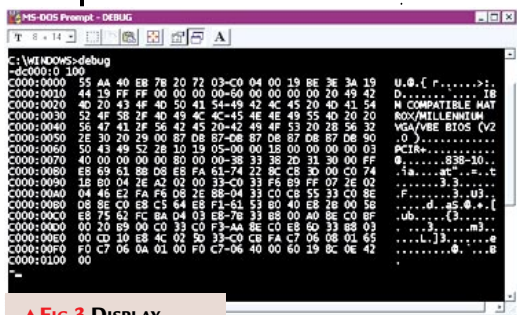
**Q** In November's column you mentioned installing Windows 98 from scratch, rather than upgrading a 95 installation. I'd like to do this on a freshly formatted hard disk, but my Windows 98 CD-ROM states that it's an upgrade.

DECLAN GILBERT

**A** No problem, provided you have a "qualifying product" from which to upgrade. At some stage the Windows 98 installation will ask for this. You'll need to put a Win95 CD-ROM in the drive or show the floppy drive a few Win3.1 disks. Make sure you have a bootable floppy disk with CD-ROM drivers on before you burn your Win95 boats, though.

### PCW CONTACTS

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**▲ Fig 3** DISPLAY-CARD SECRETS REVEALED WITH DOS DEBUG

there will be a text string describing the card. Typing "d" (dump) a few more times may well produce further information, and "q" (quit) will exit debug. Do be careful using debug; it's a programmer's tool that can be used to write to, as well as read from, memory, and hence can crash your PC in a variety of fascinating ways. Stick to the dump and quit commands, but if you want to see what can

you can install the lot by right-clicking on Install.inf, or piecemeal from the individual .inf files.

**Q** How can you prevent an application from loading automatically when Windows 95 is started? I don't mean the ones in the Startup group, all of which I have removed. The particular application is Adaptec's Direct CD which allows direct access to a