

Windows 11 Startup Management Lab

Objective:

Learn to manage and customize application startup behavior in Windows 11 by using the Startup Folder, Task Manager, Windows Registry, and removing unnecessary startup applications.

Task 1: Customize the Startup Folder

Objective: Understand how to add or remove applications in the Startup Folder to control which programs start automatically when Windows boots up.

1. Open the Startup Folder:

- Press Win + R to open the Run dialog box.
- Type shell:startup and press Enter. This will open the Startup Folder for the current user.

2. Add an Application to Startup:

- Right-click within the Startup Folder and select New > Shortcut.
- In the Create Shortcut dialog box, browse to the location of an application (e.g., Notepad or any other app) and select it.
- Click Next, name the shortcut, and click Finish.

3. Remove an Application from Startup:

- In the Startup Folder, locate the application shortcut you wish to remove.
- Right-click the shortcut and select Delete to prevent the application from starting automatically.

4. Verify Changes:

- Restart the computer and confirm whether the application added in the Startup Folder launches on startup.

Practice Questions:

- What types of applications should you consider adding to the Startup Folder?
- How does customizing the Startup Folder benefit system performance?

Task 2: Review Computer Startup Settings in Task Manager

Objective: Use Task Manager to review, enable, or disable applications that start automatically with Windows.

1. Open Task Manager:

- Right-click on the Taskbar and select Task Manager.
- Alternatively, press Ctrl + Shift + Esc to open Task Manager directly.

2. Navigate to the Startup Tab:

- In Task Manager, click on the Startup tab. This tab lists all applications set to launch at startup, along with their status and impact.

3. Disable Unnecessary Startup Applications:

- Review each application's Startup impact (Low, Medium, or High).
- Right-click an application you don't need at startup and select Disable to prevent it from starting automatically.

4. Re-enable a Disabled Application:

- Right-click on a previously disabled application and select Enable to allow it to launch at startup again.

5. Verify Changes:

- Restart your computer to verify that disabled applications no longer start automatically.

Practice Questions:

- How does disabling high-impact applications affect system startup performance?
- Why might some applications be essential to keep enabled at startup?

Task 3: Manage Startup Applications Using the Windows Registry

Objective: Manage startup applications by adding or removing registry entries, providing a more advanced approach to control startup applications.

Note: Modifying the Windows Registry can have significant impacts on your system. Exercise caution and back up the registry before making changes.

1. Open the Windows Registry Editor:

- Press Win + R, type regedit, and press Enter to open the Registry Editor.
- If prompted by User Account Control (UAC), click Yes.

2. Navigate to the Startup Registry Key:

- Go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run.
- This key contains startup applications specific to the current user.

3. Add an Application to Startup:

- Right-click in the right pane and select New > String Value.

- Name the new entry (e.g., "MyApp") and press Enter.
- Double-click the entry and enter the full path of the application executable (e.g., C:\Program Files\YourApp\YourApp.exe).
- Click OK to save the path.

4. Remove an Application from Startup:

- In the same registry path, locate the application you want to remove from startup.
- Right-click the application entry and select Delete to remove it from the startup sequence.

5. Verify Changes:

- Restart the computer to see if the application launches as expected or is removed from startup.

Practice Questions:

- Why is it important to be cautious when adding applications to startup via the registry?
- How does managing startup applications in the registry differ from using Task Manager?

Task 4: Remove Applications from Startup Completely

Objective: Learn various methods to remove unwanted applications from startup using settings and tools provided in Windows 11.

1. Uninstall the Application (if it is not needed):

- Go to Settings > Apps > Installed apps.
- Find the application you want to completely remove from your system, click on the three dots (...) next to it, and select Uninstall.

2. Remove from Background Apps (for background applications):

- Go to Settings > Privacy & Security > Background apps permissions.
- Find the application and set its background permissions to Never.

3. Check Task Scheduler:

- Open Task Scheduler by typing "Task Scheduler" in the Windows search box.
- In the Task Scheduler Library, review the list of tasks, right-click on any startup-related tasks you no longer need, and select Disable or Delete.

Practice Questions:

- How does uninstalling or adjusting background permissions affect system performance?
- Why might you find some applications in Task Scheduler instead of the Startup tab in Task Manager?

Final Questions

1. Compare and contrast managing startup applications using the Startup Folder, Task Manager, and Registry. What are the advantages and limitations of each method?
2. How does removing unnecessary startup applications improve system performance?
3. Describe a scenario where a user might need to re-enable an application they previously removed from startup.