What is the registry?

The registry is a database in Windows that contains important information about system hardware, installed programs and settings, and profiles of each of the user accounts on your computer. Windows continually refers to the information in the registry.

You should not need to make manual changes to the registry because programs and applications typically make all the necessary changes automatically. An incorrect change to your computer's registry could render your computer inoperable. However, if a corrupt file appears in the registry, you might be required to make changes.

We strongly recommend that you back up the registry before making any changes and that you only change values in the registry that you understand or have been instructed to change by a source you trust.

**What is a System registry?**

**System registry** is a database which Windows OS’s use to store information about the computer configuration.

Unlike previous Windows OS’s the registry size is not restricted in **Windows XP** and **Windows Vista**.

The registry keeps the data to which a Windows OS refers when operating:

users’ profiles;

information about the installed programs and types of documents created by each program;

properties of folders and program icons;

configuration of drivers installed in the OS;

info about the used ports.

The registry has a hierarchical tree structure which consists of sections, subsections (the left part of the registry editor window) and the keys (this is what we see on the right, when we highlight a registry section or subsection).

**How to use the System registry?**

Be careful when editing the system registry. One incorrect change may result in the OS malfunctioning! Strictly follow the recommendations of **Kaspersky Lab’s** experts when editing/changing the system registry!

When editing/changing the system registry, follow the recommendations below:

Before adding changes to the registry, always backup the section or subsection you are going to edit

Do not substitute the**Windows XP** registry by the registry of a different version of a **Windows** or **Windows NT** OS

never leave the registry editor window open without supervision

In some cases to disinfect an infected computer and\or to resolve the consequences of the computer infection the system registry of**Windows** OS installed should be changed/ edited.

In order to open the system registry, do the following:

go to **Start**

click **Run**

in the **Open** field enter **REGEDIT**

click the **OK** button