

# Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Increase Computer Performance \[TUT\]](#)

Akureyri - April 21, 2010, 11:48 am

## \*DISABLE INDEXING SERVICES\*

Indexing Services is a small little program that uses large amounts of RAM and can often make a computer endlessly loud and noisy. This system process indexes and updates lists of all the files that are on your computer. It does this so that when you do a search for something on your computer, it will search faster by scanning the index lists. If you don't search your computer often, or even if you do search often, this system service is completely unnecessary. To disable do the following:

1. Go to Start
2. Click Settings
3. Click Control Panel
4. Double-click Add/Remove Programs
5. Click the Add/Remove Window Components
6. Uncheck the Indexing services
7. Click Next

## \*OPTIMISE DISPLAY SETTINGS\*

Windows XP can look sexy but displaying all the visual items can waste system resources. To optimise:

1. Go to Start
2. Click Settings
3. Click Control Panel
4. Click System
5. Click Advanced tab
6. In the Performance tab click Settings
7. Leave only the following checked:
  - Show shadows under menus
  - Show shadows under mouse pointer
  - Show translucent selection rectangle
  - Use drop shadows for icons labels on the desktop
  - Use visual styles on windows and buttons

## \*SPEEDUP FOLDER BROWSING\*

You may have noticed that everytime you open my computer to browse folders that there is a slight delay. This is because Windows XP automatically searches for network files and printers everytime you open Windows Explorer. To fix this and to increase browsing significantly:

1. Open My Computer
2. Click on Tools menu
3. Click on Folder Options
4. Click on the View tab.

5. Uncheck the Automatically search for network folders and printers check box
  6. Click Apply
  7. Click Ok
  8. Reboot your computer
- OPTIMISE YOUR PAGEFILE

If you give your pagefile a fixed size it saves the operating system from needing to resize the page file.

1. Right click on My Computer and select Properties
2. Select the Advanced tab
3. Under Performance choose the Settings button
4. Select the Advanced tab again and under Virtual Memory select Change
5. Highlight the drive containing your page file and make the initial Size of the file the same as the Maximum Size of the file.

Windows XP sizes the page file to about 1.5X the amount of actual physical memory by default. While this is good for systems with smaller amounts of memory (under 512MB) it is unlikely that a typical XP desktop system will ever need 1.5 X 512MB or more of virtual memory. If you have less than 512MB of memory, leave the page file at its default size. If you have 512MB or more, change the ratio to 1:1 page file size to physical memory size.

#### \*REMOVE THE DESKTOP PICTURE\*

Your desktop background consumes a fair amount of memory and can slow the loading time of your system. Removing it will improve performance.

1. Right click on Desktop and select Properties
2. Select the Desktop tab
3. In the Background window select None
4. Click Ok

#### \*DISABLE UNNECESSARY SERVICES\*

Because Windows XP has to be all things to all people it has many services running that take up system resources that you will never need. Below is a list of services that can be disabled on most machines:

Alerter  
Clipbook  
Computer Browser  
Distributed Link Tracking Client  
Fast User Switching  
Help and Support - (If you use Windows Help and Support leave this enabled)  
Human Interface Access Devices  
Indexing Service  
IPSEC Services  
Messenger  
Netmeeting Remote Desktop Sharing (disabled for extra security)  
Portable Media Serial Number  
Remote Desktop Help Session Manager (disabled for extra security)  
Remote Procedure Call Locator  
Remote Registry (disabled for extra security)

Remote Registry Service  
Secondary Logon  
Routing & Remote Access (disabled for extra security)  
Server  
SSDP Discovery Service - (Unplug n' Pray will disable this)  
Telnet  
TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper  
Upload Manager  
Universal Plug and Play Device Host  
Windows Time  
Wireless Zero Configuration (Do not disable if you use a wireless network)  
Workstation

To disable these services:

1. Go to Start and then Run and type "services.msc"
  2. Doubleclick on the service you want to change
  3. Change the startup type to 'Disable'
- TURN OFF SYSTEM RESTORE

System Restore can be a useful if your computer is having problems, however storing all the restore points can literally take up Gigabytes of space on your hard drive. To turn off System Restore:

1. Open Control Panel
2. Click on Performance and Maintenance
3. Click on System
4. Click on the System Restore tab
5. Tick 'Turn off System Restore on All Drives'
6. Click 'Ok'

#### \*DEFRAGMENT YOUR PAGEFILE\*

Keeping your pagefile defragmented can provide a major performance boost. One of the best ways of doing this is to creat a separate partition on your hard drive just for your page file, so that it doesn't get impacted by normal disk usage. Another way of keeping your pagefile defragmented is to run PageDefrag. This cool little app can be used to defrag your pagefile, and can also be set to defrag the pagefile everytime your PC starts. To install:

1. Download PageDefrag (<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/s.../bb897426.aspx>)
2. Place the folder on your hard disk
3. Run the program and check "Defrag at next Reboot"
4. Change "Defrag Abort Countdown" to 0
5. Click "Ok"
6. Reboot

#### \*SPEEDUP FOLDER ACCESS - DISABLE LAST ACCESS UPDATE\*

If you have a lot of folders and subdirectories on your computer, when you access a directory XP wastes a lot of time updating the time stamp showing the last access time for that directory and for ALL sub directories. To stop XP doing this you need to edit the registry. If you are uncomfortable doing this then please do not attempt.

1. Go to Start and then Run and type "regedit"
  2. Click through the file system until you get to "HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\FileSystem"
  3. Right-click in a blank area of the window on the right and select 'DWORD Value'
  4. Create a new DWORD Value called 'NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate'
  5. Then Right click on the new value and select 'Modify'
  6. Change the Value Data to '1'
  7. Click 'OK'
- DISABLE SYSTEM SOUNDS

Surprisingly, the beeps that your computer makes for various system sounds can slow it down, particularly at startup and shut-down. To fix this turn off the system sounds:

1. Open Control Panel
2. Click Sounds and Audio Devices
3. Check Place volume icon in taskbar
4. Click Sounds Tab
5. Choose "No Sounds" for the Sound Scheme
6. Click "No"
7. Click "Apply"
8. Click "OK"

#### \*IMPROVE BOOT TIMES\*

A great new feature in Mcft Windows XP is the ability to do a boot defragment. This places all boot files next to each other on the disk to allow for faster booting. By default this option in enables but on some builds it is not so below is how to turn it on.

1. Go to Start Menu and Click Run
2. Type in "Regedit" then click ok
3. Find "HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Dfrg\BootOptimizeFunction"
4. Select "Enable" from the list on the right
5. Right on it and select "Modify"
6. Change the value to "Y to enable"
7. Reboot

#### \*IMPROVE SWAPFILE PERFORMANCE\*

If you have more than 256MB of RAM this tweak will considerably improve your performance. It basically makes sure that your PC uses every last drop of memory (faster than swap file) before it starts using the swap file.

1. Go to Start then Run
2. Type "msconfig.exe" then ok
3. Click on the System.ini tab
4. Expand the 386enh tab by clicking on the plus sign
5. Click on new then in the blank box type "ConservativeSwapfileUsage =1"
6. Click OK
7. Restart PC

#### \*MAKE YOUR MENUS LOAD FASTER\*

This is one of my favourite tweaks as it makes a huge difference to how fast your machine will 'feel'. What this tweak does is remove the slight delay between clicking on a menu and XP displaying the menu.

1. Go to Start then Run
2. Type 'Regedit' then click 'Ok'
3. Find "HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Control Panel\Desktop\"
4. Select "MenuShowDelay"
5. Right click and select "Modify"
6. Reduce the number to around "100"
7. This is the delay time before a menu is opened. You can set it to "0" but it can make windows really hard to use as menus will open if you just look at them - well move your mouse over them anyway. I tend to go for anywhere between 50-150 depending on my mood

#### \*MAKE PROGRAMS LOAD FASTER\*

This little tweak tends to work for most programs. If your program doesn't load properly just undo the change. For any program:

1. Right-click on the icon/shortcut you use to launch the program
2. Select properties
3. In the 'target' box, add ' /prefetch:1' at the end of the line.
4. Click "Ok"

#### \*IMPROVE XP SHUTDOWN SPEED\*

This tweak reduces the time XP waits before automatically closing any running programs when you give it the command to shutdown.

1. Go to Start then select Run
2. Type 'Regedit' and click ok
3. Find 'HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Control Panel\Desktop'
4. Select 'WaitToKillAppTimeout'
5. Right click and select 'Modify'
6. Change the value to '1000'
7. Click 'OK'
8. Now select 'HungAppTimeout'
9. Right click and select 'Modify'
10. Change the value to '1000'
11. Click 'OK'
12. Now find 'HKEY\_USERS\DEFAULT\Control Panel\Desktop'
13. Select 'WaitToKillAppTimeout'
14. Right click and select 'Modify'
15. Change the value to '1000'
16. Click 'OK'
17. Now find 'HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control'
18. Select 'WaitToKillServiceTimeout'
19. Right click and select 'Modify'
20. Change the value to '1000'

21. Click 'OK'

#### \*ENSURE XP IS USING DMA MODE\*

XP enables DMA for Hard-Drives and CD-Roms by default on most ATA or ATAPI (IDE) devices. However, sometimes computers switch to PIO mode which is slower for data transfer - a typical reason is because of a virus. To ensure that your machine is using DMA:

1. Open 'Device Manager'
2. Double-click 'IDE ATA/ATAPI Controllers'
3. Right-click 'Primary Channel' and select 'Properties' and then 'Advanced Settings'
4. In the 'Current Transfer Mode' drop-down box, select 'DMA if Available' if the current setting is 'PIO Only'

#### \*ADD CORRECT NETWORK CARD SETTINGS\*

Some machines suffer from jerky graphics or high CPU usage even when a machine is idle. A possible solution for this, which, can also help network performance is to:

1. RightClick 'My Computer'
2. Select 'Manage'
3. Click on 'Device Manager'
4. DoubleClick your network adaptor under 'Network Adapters'
5. In the new window, select the 'Advanced' tab
6. Select 'Connection Type' and select the correct type for your card and then Reboot.

#### \*DISABLE PREFETCH ON LOW MEMORY SYSTEMS\*

Prefetch is designed to speed up program launching by preloading programs into memory - not a good idea if memory is in short supply, as it can make programs hang. To disable prefetch:

1. Click 'Start' then 'Run'
2. Type in 'Regedit' then click 'Ok'
3. Navigate to 'HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Memory Management\PrefetchParameters\ '
4. Right-click on "EnablePrefetcher" and set the value to '0'
5. Reboot.

#### ADDITIONAL WINDOWS 7 TWEAKS

##### \*DISABLING SOUND EFFECTS\*

1. Open "Control Panel"
2. Click "Hardware and Sound"
3. Under "Sounds" click "change System Sounds"
4. Change "Sound Scheme" to "No Sounds"
5. Apply

##### \*TWEAKING WITH GUI\*

1. Right-click "Computer" and choose "Properties"
2. Click "Advanced system settings"
3. Under "Performance" click "Settings"
4. Uncheck everything except:
  - Enable desktop composition
  - Enable transparent glass
  - Show shadows under windows
  - Show window contents while dragging
  - Use drop shadows for icon labels on the desktop
  - Use visual styles for windows and buttons
5. Apply

#### \*CHANGING FOLDER OPTIONS\*

1. Run "Folder Options"
2. Click "View" tab
3. Leave these checked:
  - Always show icons never thumbnails
  - Display file icons on thumbnails
  - Hide empty drives on the computer folder
  - Hide protected operating system files
  - Show drive letters
  - Show preview handlers on preview pane
  - Use Sharing Wizard
4. Apply

#### \*CLEANING JUNK FILES\*

1. Run "%temp%"
2. Delete everything in this folder
3. Skip files that can't be deleted

#### \*STARTUP AND SERVICE CHANGES\*

1. Run "msconfig"
2. Click "Services" tab and uncheck unnecessary services
3. Click "Startup" tab and uncheck unnecessary services
4. Click "Boot" tab and change "Timeout" to 3 seconds
5. Click "Advanced Options"
6. Set your number max number of processors and check "Max Memory"

#### ALWAYS REMEMBER TO

- Defrag the hard disk regularly
- Install only necessary software
- Use latest device drivers
- Keep your windows up to date
- Run a virus scan once in a while
- Clean up garbage files
- Uninstall unnecessary programs/software

## INCREASE INTERNET CONNECTION SPEED

### \*OPTIMISE YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION\*

There are lots of ways to do this but by far the easiest is to run TCP/IP Optimizer.

1. Download TCP Optimizer (<http://www.speedguide.net/downloads.php>)
2. Click the General Settings tab and select your Connection Speed (Kbps)
3. Click Network Adapter and choose the interface you use to connect to the Internet
4. Check Optimal Settings then Apply
5. Reboot

### \*INCREASE BANDWIDTH BY 20%\*

1. Run gpedit.msc
2. Under Local Computer Policy expand "Administrative Templates"
3. Click "Network"
4. Click "QoS Packet Scheduler"
5. Open "Limit Reservable Bandwidth"
6. Click "Enabled" and change "20" to "0"

**Scaper :3** - April 21, 2010, 11:54 am

whats the point of having a tutorial section in the hacking tab

**Le Jeu Avant Tout** - April 21, 2010, 11:56 am

Nice Tut Man :)

**Divine Intellect** - April 21, 2010, 11:59 am

maybe if your computer is 10 years old this will help.

**Akureyri** - April 21, 2010, 12:25 pm

(Apr 21, 2010 11:56 AM)Joel\_Hanna Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice Tut Man :)

Thanks

**King Ragnar** - April 21, 2010, 12:26 pm

Very useful Tut bro. Keep up the good work (Y)

**Akureyri** - May 1, 2010, 9:39 am

(Apr 21, 2010 12:26 PM)m EGa^ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very useful Tut bro. Keep up the good work (Y)  
Thank You.

**Blackrosex** - May 1, 2010, 10:22 am

So epic thank you heaps

**Akureyri** - May 1, 2010, 1:43 pm

(May 1, 2010 10:22 AM)Blackrosex Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So epic thank you heaps

^ ^  
—

**Crash0r** - May 1, 2010, 4:01 pm

Nice tut. Keep it up!

**CharlieSheen** - May 1, 2010, 10:06 pm

This helped my ancient dinosaur of a laptop so much! thanks!

**liamh96** - May 2, 2010, 4:05 am

This is a excellent Tutorial with alot of detail and ways to optimize perfomance.  
Great job!

**Akureyri** - May 2, 2010, 5:59 am

(May 2, 2010 04:05 AM)liamh96 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is a excellent Tutorial with alot of detail and ways to optimize perfomance.

Great job!

No Problem..Thanks

**Akureyri** - May 3, 2010, 12:52 am

(May 2, 2010 10:41 AM)Paradoxum Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very amusing. Nice job OP.Thanks.

**Paradoxum** - May 3, 2010, 4:29 am

Did you make the guide entirely? Also, please do not recommend turning off System Restore. Just lessen the space it takes.

**Akureyri** - May 3, 2010, 7:16 am

(May 3, 2010 04:29 AM)Paradoxum Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Did you make the guide entirely? Also, please do not recommend turning off System Restore. Just lessen the space it takes.

Yes i did...Ok mate?

**Mizz Blaise** - May 3, 2010, 6:08 pm

Good guide. I swear I read this information before tho. O well. And btw, some of your "titles" aren't colored red like the rest.

**-mothered-** - May 3, 2010, 6:18 pm

Yeah, not too bad of a tut there mate. Some pretty good points stipulated, particularly for any newbies coming across this for the first time.

Much appreciate It :)

**--([S7N-])--** - May 4, 2010, 8:09 am

A great tutorial. Good job. ?

**Paradoxum** - May 4, 2010, 8:14 am

(May 3, 2010 07:16 AM)-D???~ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yes i did...Ok mate?

Well, it is still there. ?