

WINDOWS XP TIPS + TRICKS
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Foreword: Feel free to submit any Windows XP tips you may have and would like included here, to CptSiskoX@FlashMail.com.

Please visit my home page:
<http://members.fortunecity.com/computingx/>

These tips are also available for download from AXCEL216's website, included with W95-11D.ZIP:
<http://members.aol.com/axcel216/95.htm>
Enjoy.

ComputingX Discussion Forums:
<http://www.delphi.com/computingx/>

Xteq Systems - the BEST Freeware, home of Xteq X-Setup, the ultimate Windows tweaking and admin utility:
<http://www.xteq.com/>

Xteq X-Setup Support Forum:
<http://www.delphi.com/xsetup/>

Search for drivers here:
<http://members.fortunecity.com/computingx/drivers.html>

I do welcome your feedback with comments about these tips & tricks, and of course I do benefit greatly from hearing the specifics about tips and tricks you have found.

Please do NOT write me asking for specific drivers or other manufacturers' support materials as I have none.

If you need a tip not covered in this file, please try AXCEL216's top-notch site:

<http://members.aol.com/axcel216/>

Disclaimer: I take no responsibility for anything that happens as a result of using any of this information which is provided as-is and has no warranties implied or otherwise.

Updates:

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Running Applications in Compatibility Mode

With Windows XP, you can run programs as if though they were being run under a different operating system. (This is known as "emulation".) Simply right-click a shortcut, select "Properties" and then check "Run in compatibility mode" and select the operating system you wish to make the program believe it is being run under. This fools or tricks the program into thinking you are really using a previous version of Windows, such as NT, 2000, 98, or 95. This is especially useful for certain games that won't run properly. Be careful *not* to use this with certain system utilities, such as antivirus, defrag, registry, and disk tool applications.

Customizing the Start Menu

Right click on the "Start" button and left click "Properties". From here, you can select the new Windows XP style Start Menu, or return to the Windows 2000/Millennium style one. You can also customize the two possible choices using their corresponding "Customize" buttons. This also allows you to turn on or disable cascading menus and other options that are useful, such as large or small icons and more.

Bring Back Those Desktop Icons

After you install Windows XP, you probably noticed that some of your icons from previous versions of Windows you've used are missing. Microsoft did this intentionally to help simplify and reduce clutter. Of course, for some people, this isn't the best choice or the user preference. So, if you want those icons like "My Computer" and "My Network Places" back, just open Display Properties (right click Desktop Wallpaper, left click "Properties") and click the "Desktop" tab. Click the "Customize Desktop" button and on the "General" tab check the items you want. You can also change the icons used by these desktop items in the same screen. One final tip related to this screen is the "Clean Desktop Now" button, which notifies you of unused icons on the desktop and offers to remove them if you choose.

Give Me My ClearType

Windows XP includes a great new visual technology, called "ClearType" which increases horizontal legibility by approximately 300% and it looks great. Go back into "Display Properties" [see tip: "Bring Back Those Desktop Icons" for instructions] and this time, go to the "Appearance" tab. Click "Effects" and for the second drop down box, labeled "Use the following method to smooth edges of screen fonts", select "ClearType". Click OK twice and you're all set.

Lock Computer vs. Welcome Login Screen

You must go into Control Panel and open the "User Accounts" applet to change this setting. Click "Change the way users log on or off". For maximum security, uncheck the "Use the Welcome screen" option. This re-enables the use of the "Lock Computer" option from the ALT CTRL DELETE menu, but prevents multiple users from being logged on locally at a single time. This also returns to the Windows 2000 style login screen. If you'd rather have the ability to *not* be able to use "Lock Computer" and would rather allow multiple users to logon to the computer at a single time locally, leave this setting checked and also check "Use Fast User Switching".

Looking for a Windows XP Compatible Driver?

If you can't find a driver for a hardware device under Windows XP, you can try to use a Windows 2000 compatible driver for the same hardware. Usually this tends to work, and in my experience so far, it always has. However, if you can find a driver specifically designed for use with Windows XP, that is usually the best and safest option. You can also e-mail the hardware manufacturer and ask them about Windows XP compatibility and drivers.