

# Performing PC's

# FOR DUMMIES®

For windows 98, ME, 2000, XP, VISTA and Windows 7 Users



**Quick and Easy  
Guide to  
Making your PC  
Perform**

**Author:**  
**Peter Kennedy ©**

# **Performing PC's for Dummies**

Author: Peter Kennedy

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# **Performing PC's for Dummies**

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# **Performing PC's for Dummies**

## **Preface**

Over time a pc becomes slow and people are often encouraged to upgrade their equipment. I disagree with the necessities of upgrading. This book attempts to make it easy for anyone who don't know much about computer's that are capable of following simple step by step illustrated instructions, an easy guide for performance tuning there computer.

Firstly a little about myself I have been using computers for the past 30 years I hold a Diploma in Information Technology and a University Bachelor's Degree in Computer and Information science. I have built machines from the ground up and specialize in software development, and after reading this book you should be able to stop many viruses dead in their tracks. Have a faster leaner computer that starts faster, performs better and runs software more efficiently. I will cover windows machines running the following operating systems, Windows 98, Windows 98SE, Windows ME, Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7.

Adobe Reader is needed to read this document and a current Internet connection is recommended to look up individual processes as there are many thousands of different ones that could be on your machine and not on someone else's for ultimate performance, and beyond the scope of this book. This is quite simple to do and should take little of your time.

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### Acknowledgements

This guide draws from many *Articles presented from Crispen Patrick and from many other authors, editors and printers* August 2012,

Computer Hope, My computer, US, viewed 20th August 2012, <  
<http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/mycomput.htm>>.

Crashdex, Hide Drives and Partitions, US, viewed 19th August 2012, <  
<http://crashdex.com/2011/01/hide-drives-and-partitions/>>

Crispen, P (Education Technologist) 2012, NETSQUIRREL *how to use msconfig in XP*, media release, viewed 3rd August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_xp.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_xp.html)>.

Crispen, P (Education Technologist) 2012, NETSQUIRREL *how to use msconfig in Windows Vista*, media release, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

Crispen, P (Education Technologist) 2012, NETSQUIRREL *how to use msconfig in XP*, media release, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_win7.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_win7.html)>.

Crispen, P (Education Technologist) 2012, NETSQUIRREL *how to use msconfig in Windows 98, 98SE and ME*, media release, viewed 4th August 2012,  
<[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_98\\_and\\_ME.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_98_and_ME.html)>.

David; PCMECH *Windows 98SE*, media release, viewed 19th August 2012, <  
<http://www.pcmec.com/article/windows-98-second-edition/>>.

Keith M Survel; Core Dump, media release, viewed 19th August 2012, < <http://www.starkeith.net/coredump/2006/02/11/the-progression-of-my-computers/>>.

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<http://www.kocplanet.com/troubleshooting.php>>

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<http://www.pcapprentice.com/disk%20defragmenter.htm>>.

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[http://www.petri.co.il/pagefile\\_optimization.htm](http://www.petri.co.il/pagefile_optimization.htm)>.

To run Defragmenter in Windows 95,98 and ME, PC Apprentice, US, viewed 19th August 2012, < <http://www.pcapprentice.com/disk%20defragmenter.htm>>

Windows 98, Graphical User Interface Gallery Guidebook, US, viewed 19th August 2012, <  
<http://www.guidebookgallery.org/screenshots/win98>>.

# **Performing PC's for Dummies**

## **Introduction**

After many years of having people come to me with computer performance issues I am going to explain just how simple it is in this book to fix the problems and have the performing pc you once purchased again. Often the methods shown in this book will help stop viruses dead in their tracks but I recommend this method is only used to help you get files backed up and saved, and like all viruses breaching your pc its only temporary until you can format and start installing the software again. The methods used in this book are designed to save you money on not having to fork out on upgrading your machine or on expensive computer maintenance people who really just are quite happy for you to keep calling on them for support, happily taking your money time and time again. I am going to use pictures as much as I can to make the illustrating easier for the sheer beginner.

Included in this book are illustrated instructions on controlling start up programs, defragmenting your hard drive, optimising the virtual memory of your computer and for Vista and Windows 7 a way to limit special effects?. After completing the steps shown in this book your machine should start up faster, load programs quicker and generally perform allot better with less system crashing. It should perform like it did when you first purchased your machine and in many cases even better.

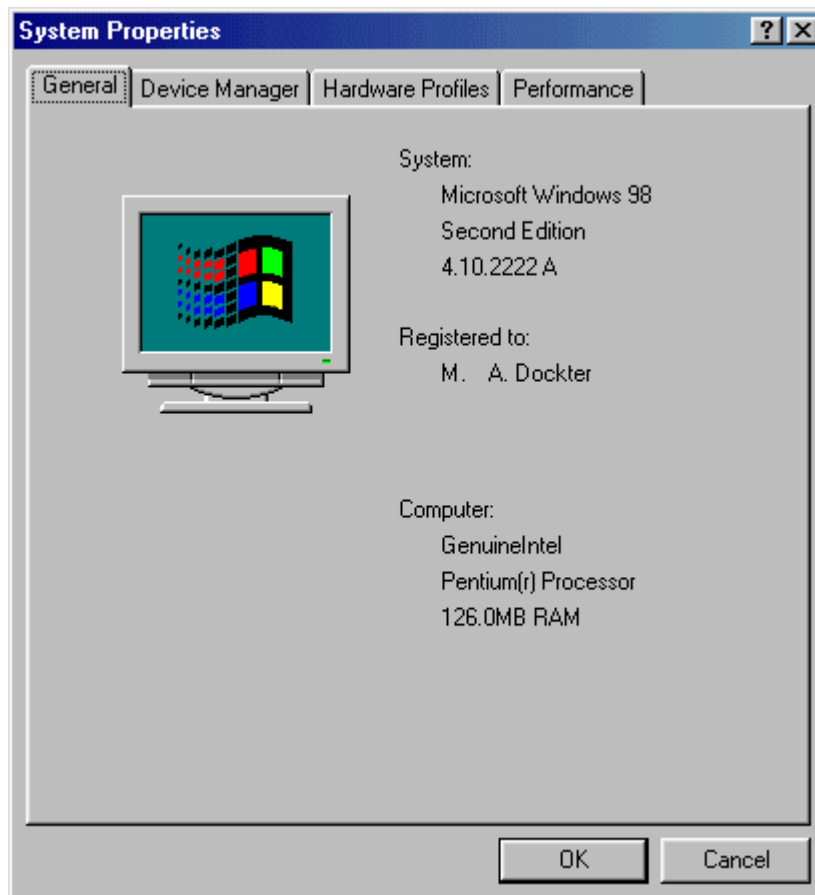
## Performing PC's for Dummies

### What Operating system do you have?

It is important to know, what operating system you have before you continue. This book covers Windows 98, 98SE Windows ME, Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7.

On the Desktop you should see a computer icon that says My Computer.

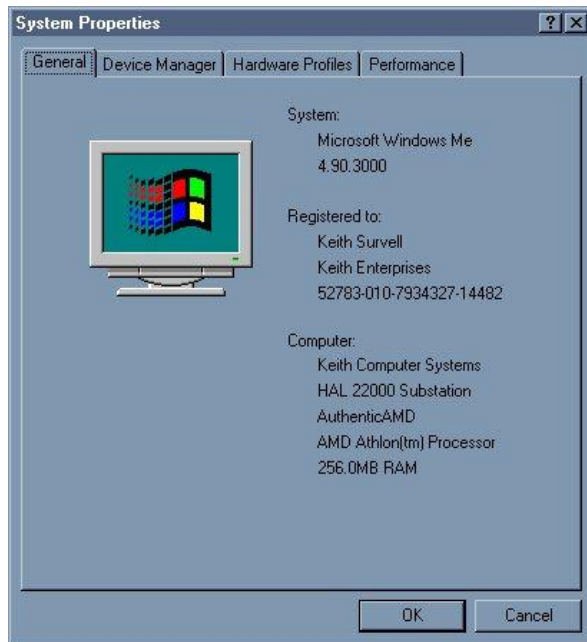
- 1> Right click the My Computer icon.
- 2> Select Properties in the Popup that is displayed.
- 3> After a few seconds the computer System Control Panel will open displaying the computer Operating system below is some examples.



Windows 98 SE, PCMECH, , viewed 19th August 2012, < <http://www.pcmec.com/article/windows-98-second-edition/>>.

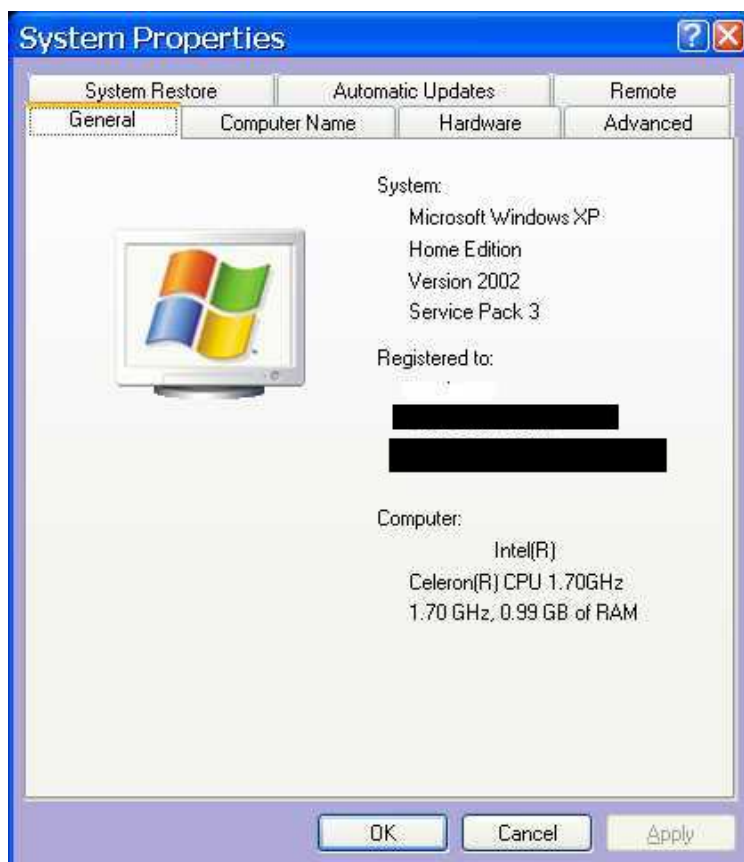
**Example a>** With the general tab selected you can clearly see that this is windows 98

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The Progression of My Computers, Core Dump, viewed 19th August 2012, < <http://www.starkeith.net/coredump/2006/02/11/the-progression-of-my-computers/>>.

**Example b>** With the general tab selected you can clearly see that this is Windows ME



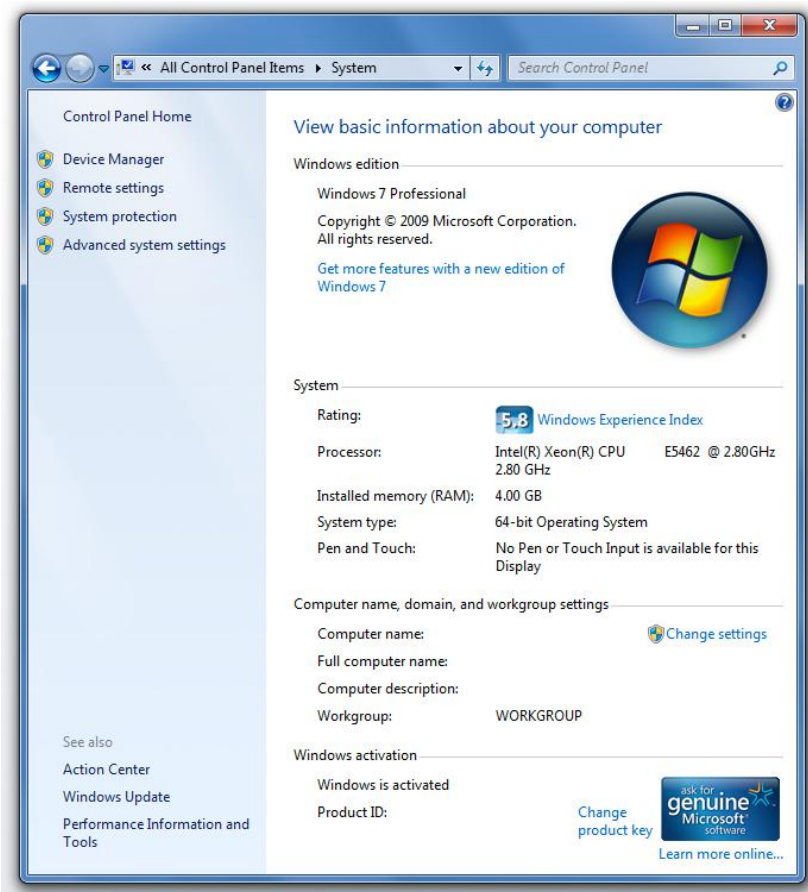
**Example c>** Where it says up the top the general tab may need to be pressed but the above picture clearly shows that it is using the Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition.



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**Example d>** Underneath Windows edition writing you can clearly see that it is Windows Vista Ultimate Edition.



**Example e>** Underneath Windows Edition you will clearly see that this picture illustrates that the owner is using Windows 7 Professional.

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### Stopping too many files from loading?

After you have used your computer for some time you may have installed many applications. Often these programs install other applications and processes that use up your available memory and computer processor. This drastically slows down the computers time it takes to start and the speed and performance of it running your applications. The simple rule is the more available memory and the less background processes the faster your machine will run. Fortunately this all can be controlled by running a simple configuration utility built into windows that allows you to control what processes load at start time. Not only can it speed up your machine by cutting back the start up applications, but it can often stop viruses from spreading and causing havoc on your machine. Any antivirus software you currently have installed is only as good as the updates you have. To explain in lay man terms I could write a virus tonight and release it across the internet causing much havoc to many but it could take a month for Antivirus software to develop the cure and once security is breached there is often little a person can do. Not even the best Antivirus software is capable of totally stopping all viruses once it's on your system only preventing more from getting there.

The Microsoft Configuration Utility is referred to as "msconfig" and I will attempt to as simply as I can in the following pages explain how to use this utility, stopping unneeded processes from loading each time your pc starts Windows.

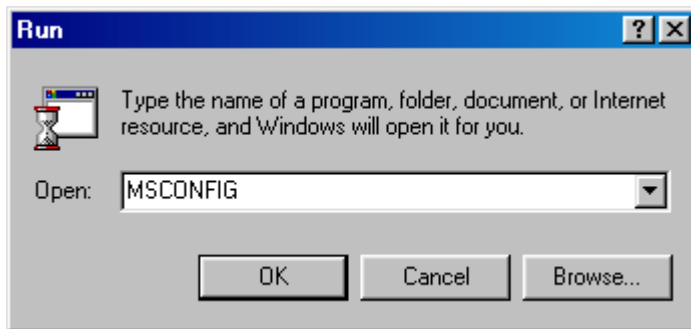
### How to use MSCONFIG in Windows 98, 98 SE, and ME



How to use msconfig in Windows 98, 98SE and ME 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 6th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_98\\_and\\_ME.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_98_and_ME.html)>.

- 1> Click the start button found bottom left of your screen
- 2> Select the run option

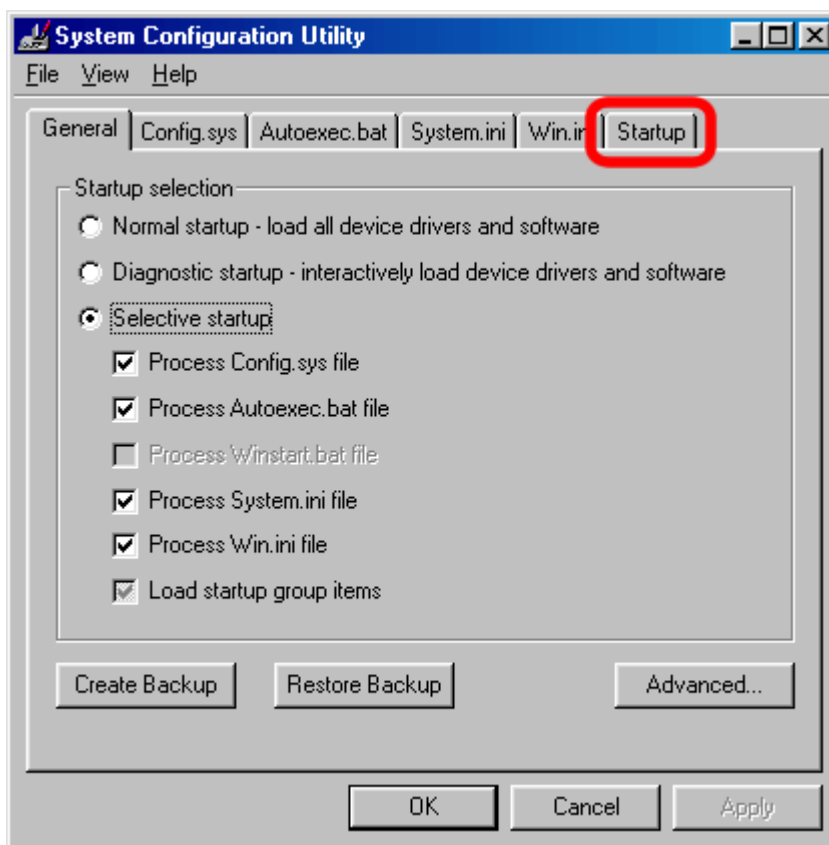
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How to use msconfig in Windows 98, 98SE and ME 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 6th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_98\\_and\\_ME.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_98_and_ME.html)>.

3> Type msconfig in the box

4> Select ok button

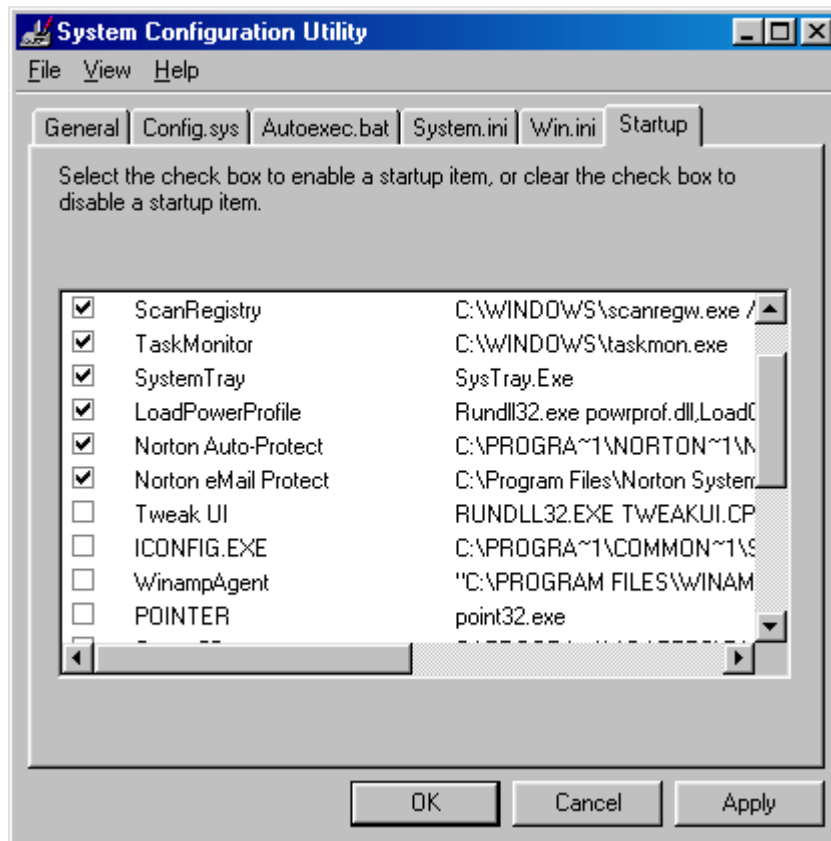


How to use msconfig in Windows 98, 98SE and ME 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 6th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_98\\_and\\_ME.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_98_and_ME.html)>.

The system configuration utility loads, it is here you can make many performance improving changes.

5> Select the Startup Tab as highlighted in red

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How to use msconfig in Windows 98, 98SE and ME 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 6th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_98\\_and\\_ME.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_98_and_ME.html)>.

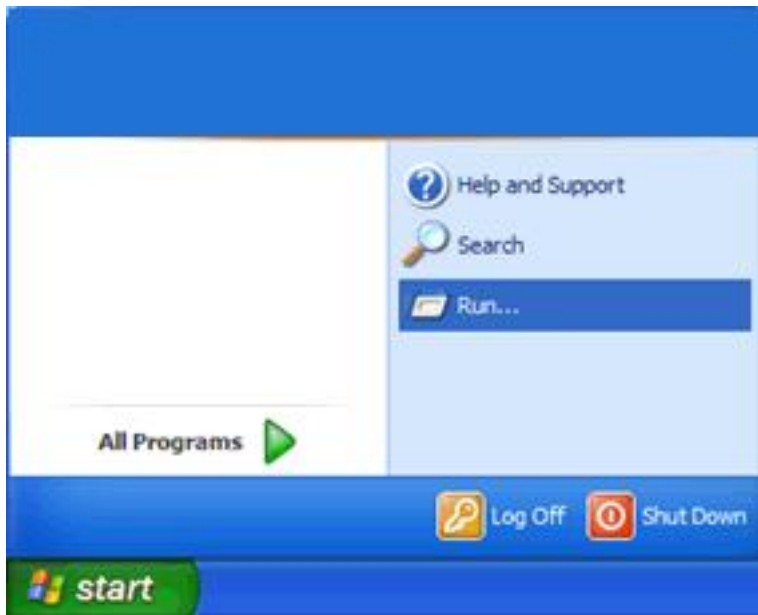
These programs all load into memory and use the processor's power affecting performance and speed of your applications. Over time this list gets bigger making your pc run slow.

Older versions of windows including Windows 98, Windows 98SE and ME makes this very simple by only needing the following Startup process's ScanRegistry, Task Monitor, SystemTray, LoadPowerProfile and any antivirus software you have installed. If you don't see any of these in list don't panic as some people may not have set a power profile so LoadPowerProfile may not be in the list. It is necessary if it is in the list tho so keep it ticked if you see it.

- 6> Deselect the processes you don't need
- 7> Click the ok Button
- 8> Reboot your machine and enjoy improved performance

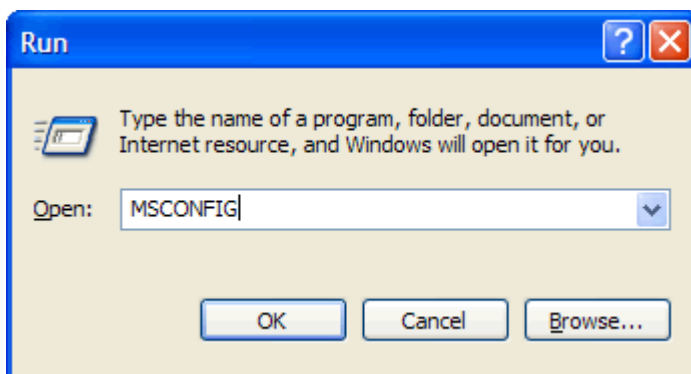
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## Msconfig for XP users



How to use msconfig in windows XP 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 3rd August 2012, <[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_xp.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_xp.html)>.

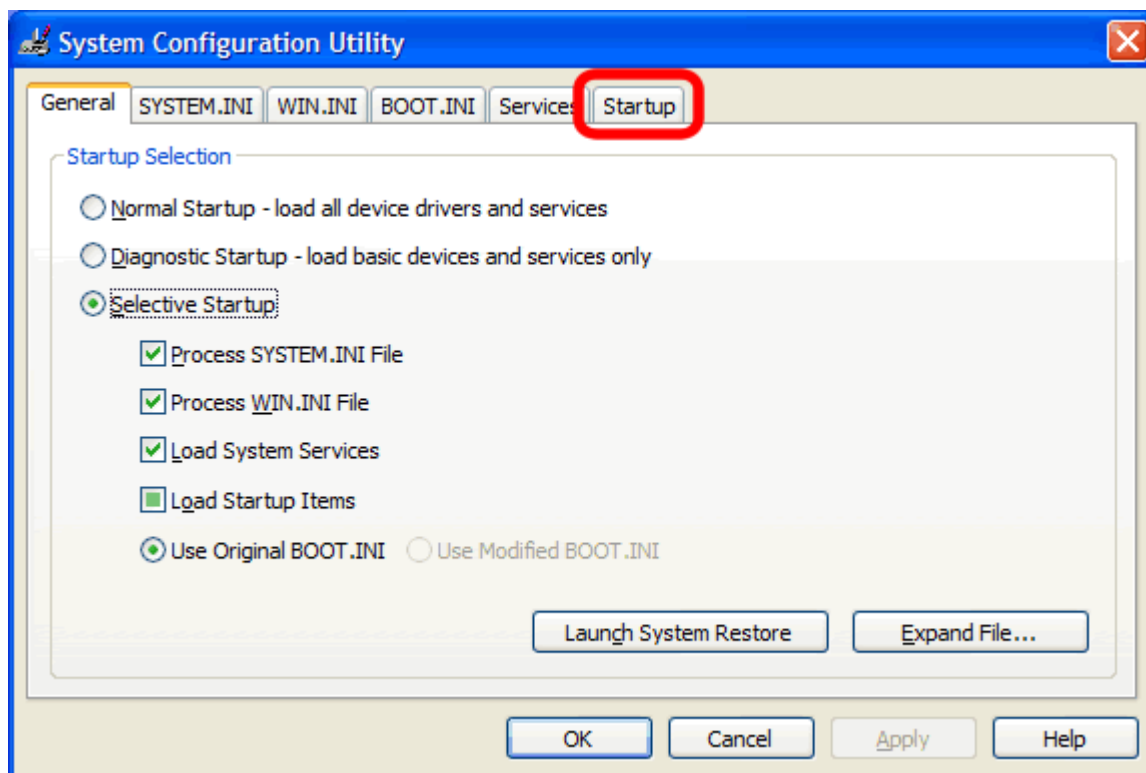
- 1> Click the start menu.
- 2> Select run with the left mouse button.



How to use msconfig in windows XP 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 3rd August 2012, <[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_xp.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_xp.html)>.

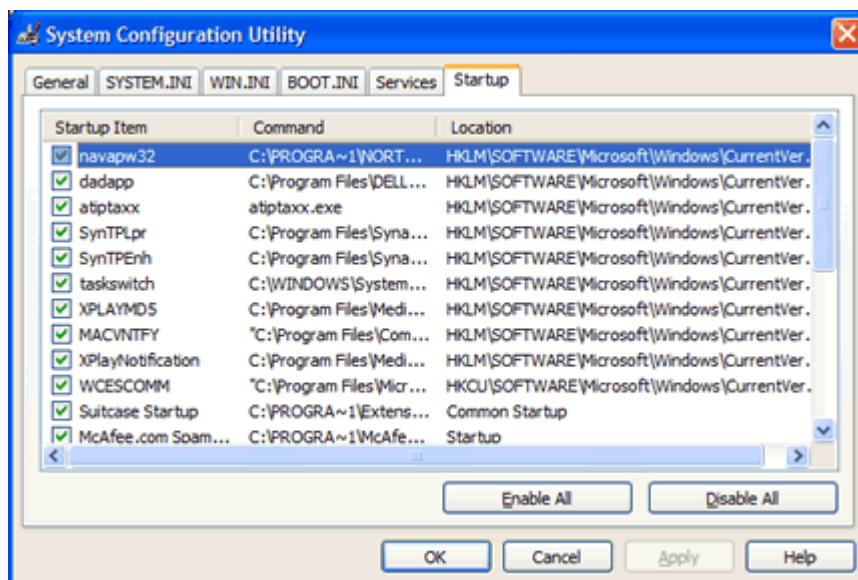
3>the above window will be displayed enter “msconfig” in the box and press enter.

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How to use msconfig in windows XP 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 3rd August 2012, <[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_xp.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_xp.html)>.

4>The above should be displayed now select the startup tab highlighted in this diagram with a red circle.



How to use msconfig in windows XP 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 3rd August 2012, <[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_xp.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_xp.html)>.

This takes you to a list of start up items. The ones ticked are loaded every time your pc starts. Some of these may be necessary for full use of your pc while most of them are simply a waste of memory and processor. A good rule of thumb is not to remove anything you don't know what it's for, but for the novice this is incredibly hard as there are many that you do not

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know about and are not needed. Fortunately there are easy ways of knowing what the processes do. I have found that a pc only needs like 5 and as pictured previously there are allot more ticked than that. These may include sound drivers, Video drivers if using an external video card any antivirus software and perhaps a WIFI card if you use wireless internet connection. Using the web can come in handy here as there are many sites that just tell you what the process's do. Looking up processes doesn't take long and is well worth the effort to do so as it will explain just what the process does and if it is needed or not. I have a few favourite sites I use, but the simplest way is to type into google "what does the process navapw32 do" if you wanted to know what the highlighted process did. A number of pages will come into view go to one and it will tell you what that process does and hopefully if its needed. This process should return "The navapw32.exe process runs in the background on start up of the machine. It checks for any tell tale signs of virus activity on your computer while you are using it. If this process is stopped Norton antivirus may not be able to detect any viruses entering your system. Consequently your computer will not be protected, so it is best to leave this process running."

Don't let this discourage you from continuing as there are many other processes and if you take the time to go through one by one you will be happy with the result saving you money and time without your pc. The next process on this machine is "dadapp" so typing "what does the process dadapp do" will explain more this is a process that dell machines use and I will not begin to tell you more about each individual process as you will probably have many different processes and it's not applicable as there is thousands you could have, and are far beyond the scope of this book.

Once you have deselected the not needed process's click the ok button and reboot your machine and get ready for improved performance.

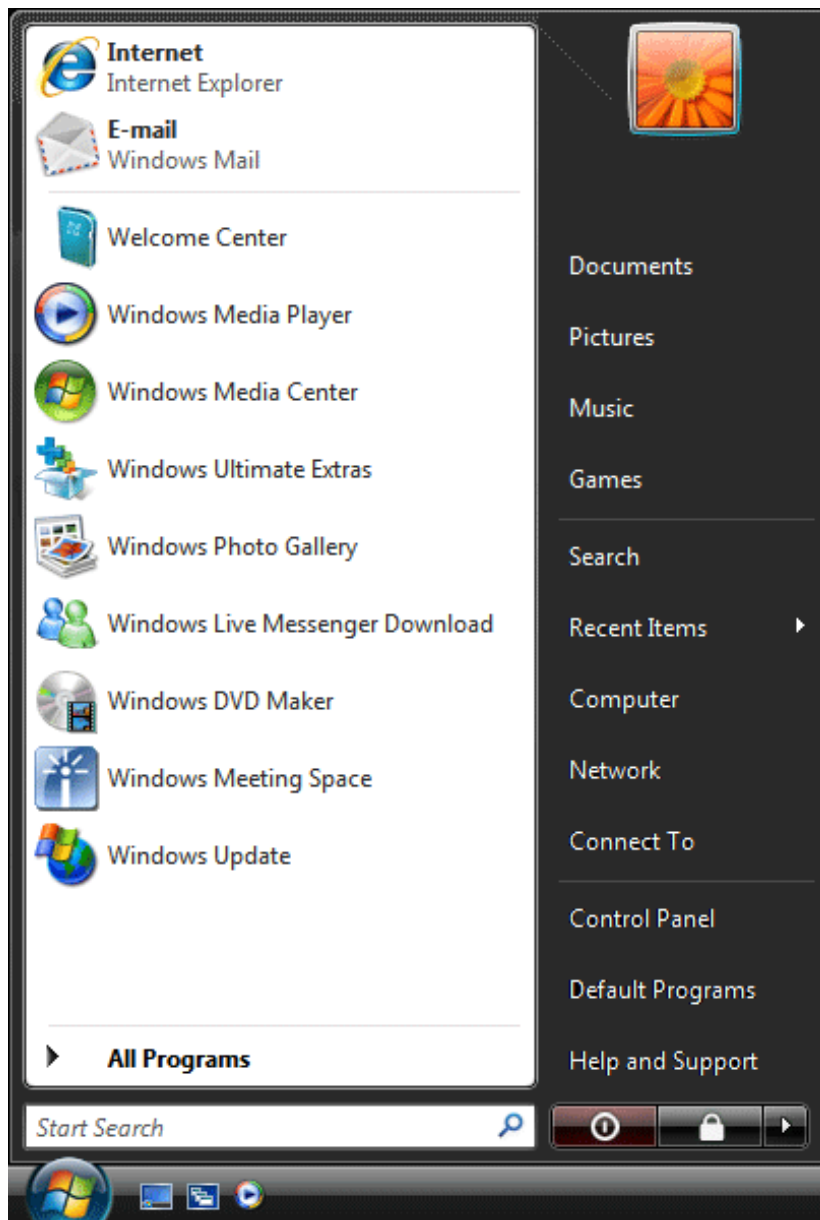
## Msconfig for Vista users



How to use msconfig in windows XP 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

1> Click the start menu

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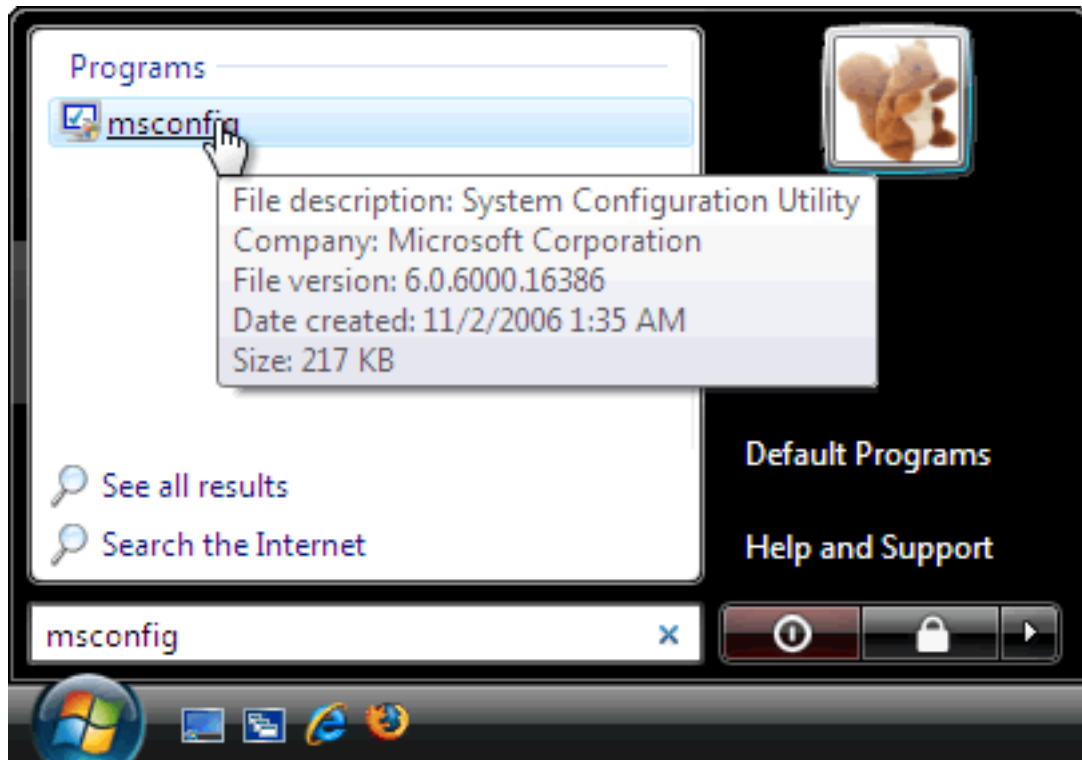


How to use msconfig in Windows Vista 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

2> In the Start Search area type in msconfig.



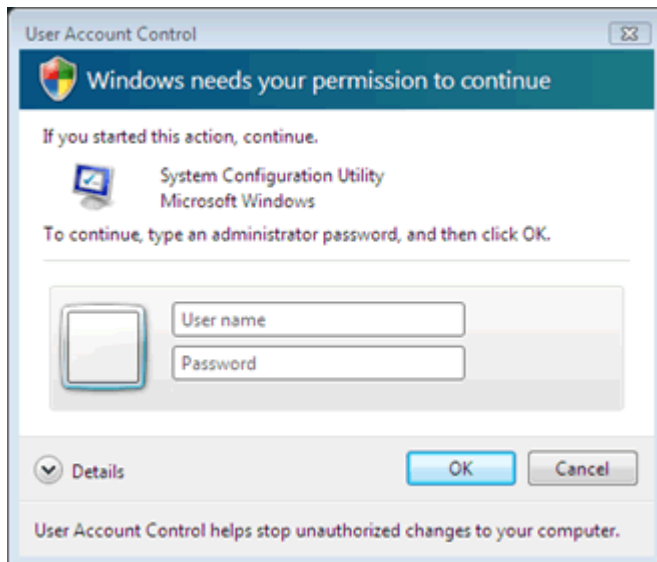
## Performing PC's for Dummies



How to use msconfig in Windows Vista 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

3> Select the msconfig program with the left mouse.

Vista may ask for your permission to continue, this is a safety mechanism built into Vista preventing changes to your computer without the owner's permission.

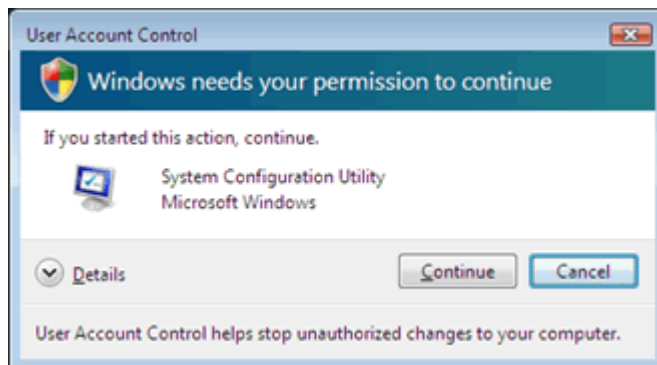


How to use msconfig in Windows Vista 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

4a> Enter your Administrator User name and Password in the boxes illustrated above and click ok to continue. (The Administrator is the username and password that was first set up when you purchased the machine)

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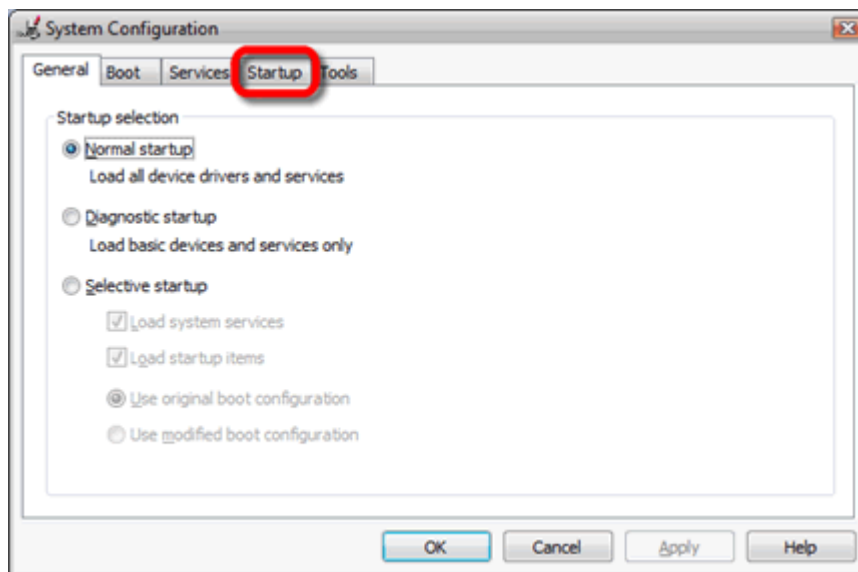
Alternatively depending on your user account control settings, you may see a box as shown below asking if youd like to continue



How to use msconfig in Windows Vista 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

4b> Select continue.

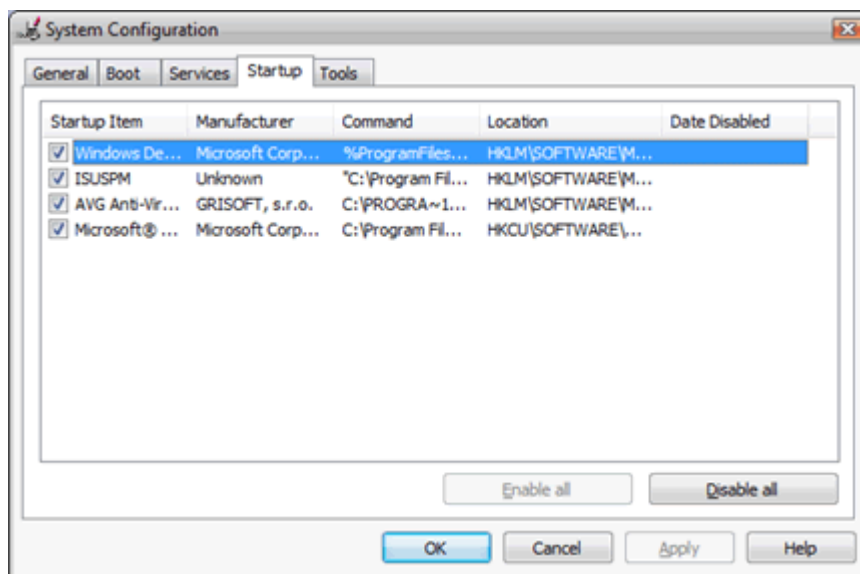
Once passed the User Account Control roadblocks and given consent to making changes the following will be displayed.



How to use msconfig in Windows Vista 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

5>Select the Startup tab highlighted in the above picture in red.

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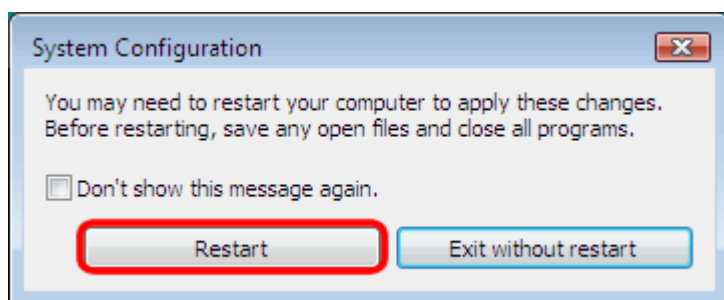


How to use msconfig in Windows Vista 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

The above only shows 4 processes ticked, in time there will be many processes here. These load each time your computer starts taking up memory and processor usage. Making your pc slower to start and slowing down your applications. Windows vista only needs about 4 of these processes depending on the machine you are currently using. A good rule of thumb is not to remove anything you don't know what it's for, but for the novice this is incredibly hard as there are many that you do not know about and are not needed. Fortunately there are easy ways of knowing what the processes do. These may include sound drivers, Video drivers if using an external video card any antivirus software and perhaps a WIFI card if you use wireless internet connection. Using the web can come in handy here as there are many sites that just tell you what the process's do. Looking up processes doesn't take long and is well worth the effort to do so as it will explain just what the process does and if it is needed or not. I have a few favourite sites I use, but the simplest way is to type into google "What does process xxx do" where xxx is replaced with the names you see in the list. Examples Windows Defender, ISUSPM, AVG antivirus etc

6> Click OK button

You then should see a message telling you to restart the pc before the changes will take effect.



How to use msconfig in Windows Vista 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_vista.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_vista.html)>.

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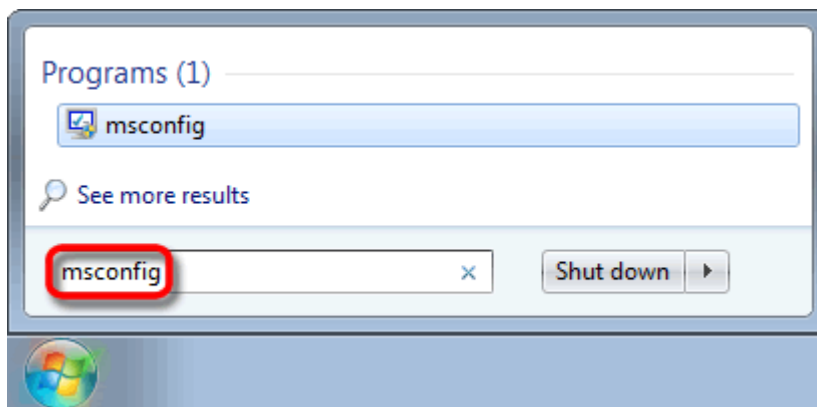
- 7> Click Restart
- 8> That's it your computer should run faster and crash less.

## Msconfig for Windows 7 users



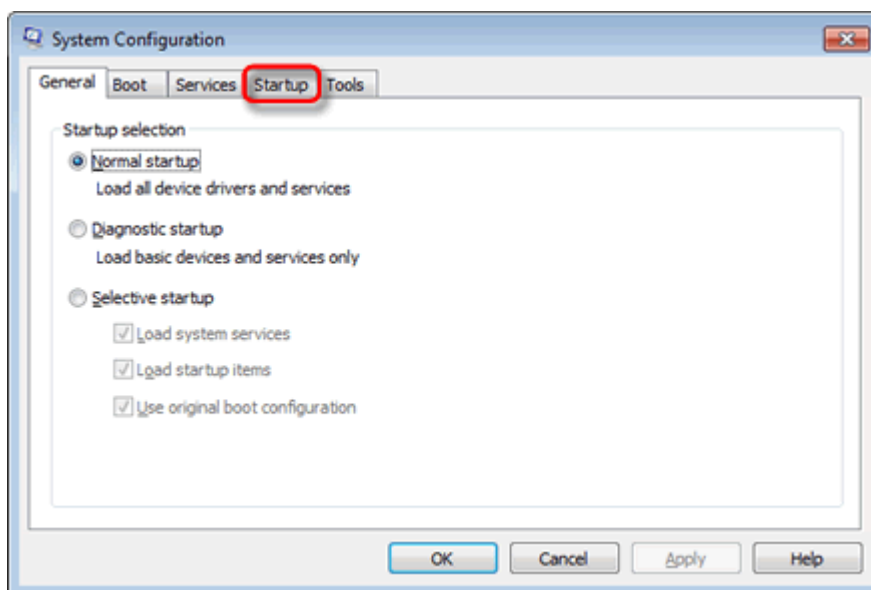
How to use msconfig in Windows 7 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_win7.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_win7.html)>.

- 1> Click on the Windows 7 start up button found on the bottom right of screen



How to use msconfig in Windows 7 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_win7.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_win7.html)>.

- 2> Type msconfig in the search box
- 3> Select msconfig from the list.

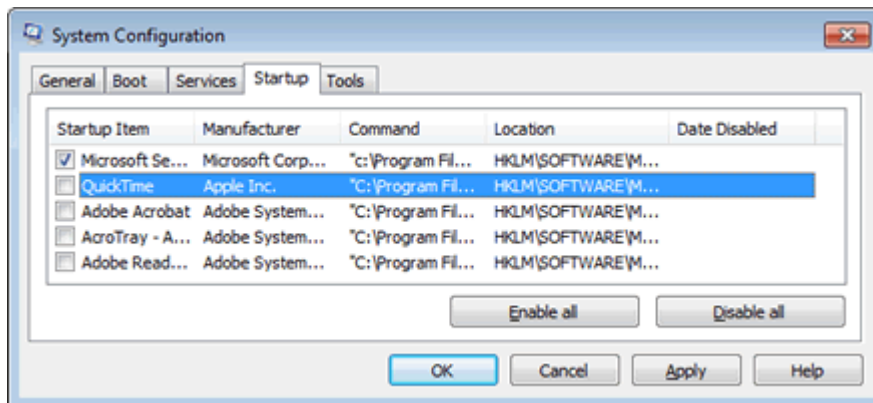


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How to us msconfig in Windows 7 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_win7.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_win7.html)>.

You are then confronted with the system configuration utility

4> Select the Startup tab as highlighted on previous page



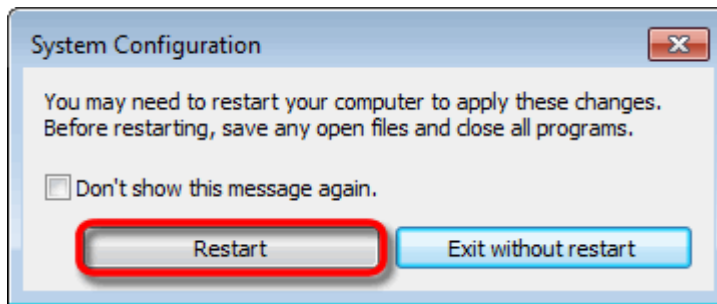
How to us msconfig in Windows 7 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_win7.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_win7.html)>.

You are then presented with a heap of processes, The ticked ones are processes that load into memory every single time your pc starts. The above picture clearly illustrates processes that load into memory that are not needed and will load automatically on demand. These processes named QuickTime, Adobe Acrobat, AcroTray and Adobe Reader clearly don't need to load every time. The more software that you have installed the more things you will see here. There is a good rule of thumb if you don't know what something is here then its best to leave it. I have learnt you only need about 4 processes for full machine performance. These may be your antivirus, any video or sound drivers you see here or perhaps a wireless card for internet use. Fortunately we live in the age of the web and if you typed into google "what does the start up process QuickTime do" You will get allot of webpage results that basically inform you that it is not a needed process.

5> Un tick unnecessary start up process's (google them if not known as explained above)

6> Click the ok button

## Performing PC's for Dummies



How to use msconfig in Windows 7 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 4th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_win7.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_win7.html)>.

Finally you are presented with a restart option which is necessary so as it can start and just load the processes you have selected

7> Click the restart option.

## Defragmenting your Hard Drive

Over time your drive becomes fragmented causing software to load slower and it even can have an effect on your windows performance once it is running. So what is fragmentation? Fragmentation is when the files on your hard drive aren't contiguously aligned. Which basically means if you think of a record player one song is played then it moves onto the next song this is contiguous alignment. After you have used your computer for some time (installing and uninstalling software), bits and pieces of the one song are spread out and mixed into different song tracks and the record player to play the song would constantly have to move back and forth jumping between songs to play it. If records were like this you would hear some music then it would stop while it found the rest of the song. This is what your hard drive (pc storage) has to do when it is loading a program, if it's not contiguously aligned slowing down program load times.

Not only are load times effected but the performance is often affected because of the way windows uses what's called swap space. Basically temporary memory storage on your hard disk is used to help programs that need a little more memory than your pc has available.

Defragmenting is a slow process and can take several hours to complete, depending on the size of the drive and the available free space. Once defragmented your machines performance should be improved depending on how fragmented the drive was initially and on most machines this can make incredible improvements.

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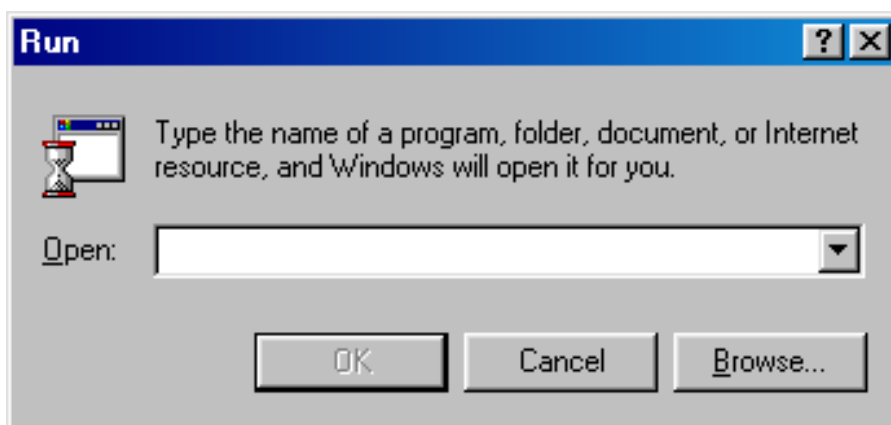
### Windows 98 and Windows ME Defrag

1>Click the Start button



How to use msconfig in Windows 98, 98SE and ME 2012, Netsquirrel, US, viewed 6th August 2012, <  
[http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig\\_98\\_and\\_ME.html](http://www.netsquirrel.com/msconfig/msconfig_98_and_ME.html)>.

2>Click Run



Windows 98, Graphical User Interface Gallery Guidebook, US, viewed 19th August 2012, <  
<http://www.guidebookgallery.org/screenshots/win98>>.

3>Type Defrag in the run box

4>Click ok

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To run Defragmenter in Windows 95,98 and ME, PC Apprentice, US, viewed 19th August 2012, <  
<http://www.pcapprentice.com/disk%20defragmenter.htm>>.

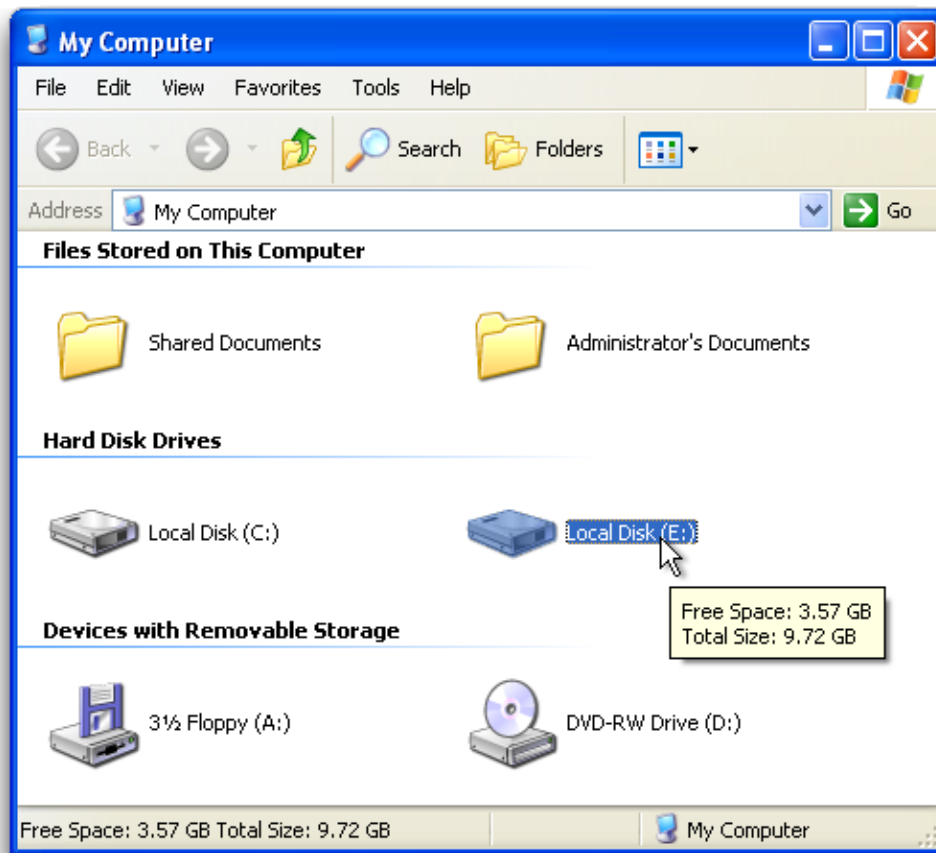
- 4> Within the Defrag window shown above, select the drive that you wish to be defragmented.
- 5> Click defragment.



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### Windows 2000, XP, Vista and Windows 7 Defrag

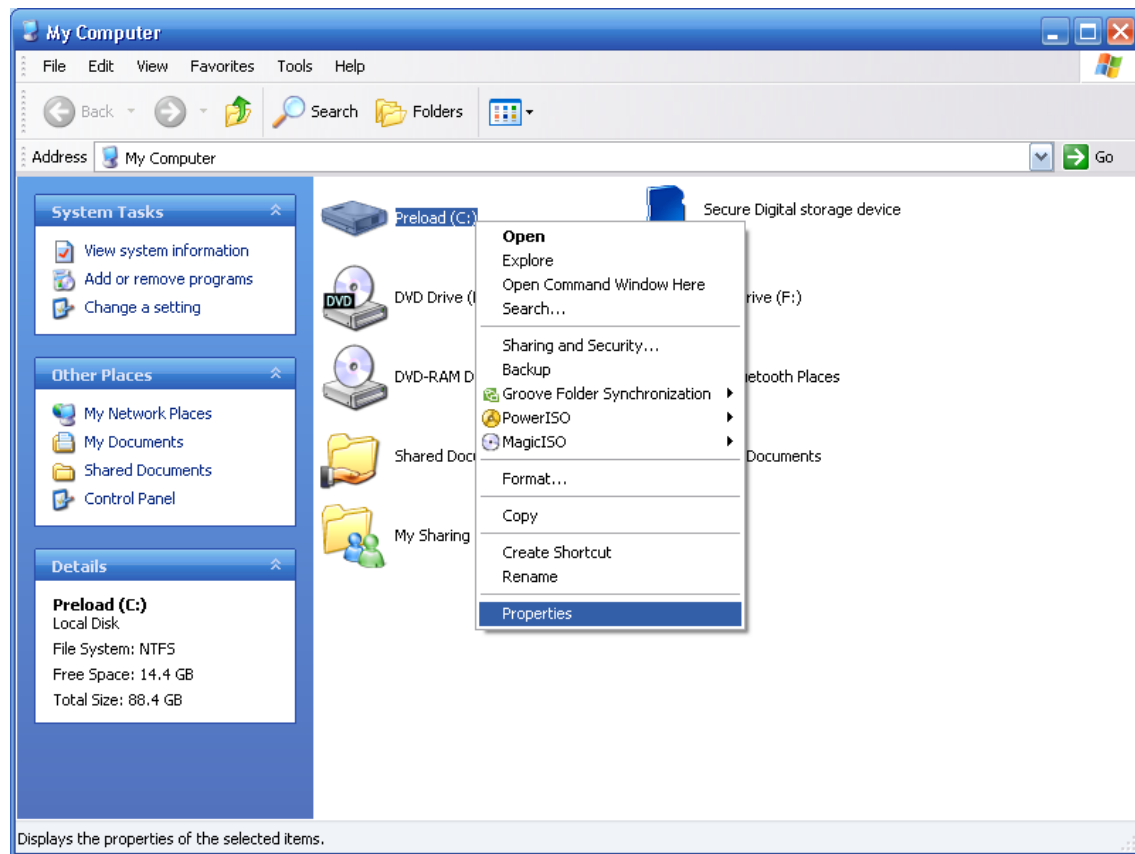
1> Double Click My Computer Icon on desktop or click My Computer in the start menu



Crashdex, Hide Drives and Partitions, US, viewed 19th August 2012, < <http://crashdex.com/2011/01/hide-drives-and-partitions/>>.

2> Highlight the hddrive by clicking it once. (usually I start with local disk c:)

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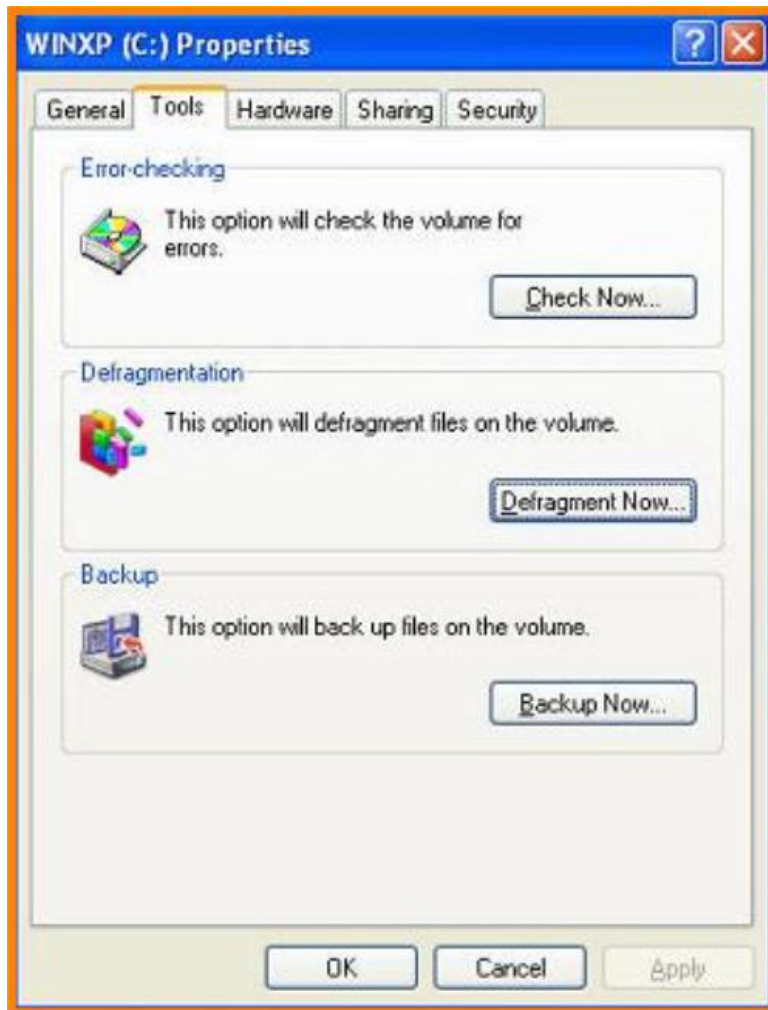


KOCPlanet, Troubleshooting, US, viewed 19th August 2012, <<http://www.kocplanet.com/troubleshooting.php>>

3>Right click the harddrive you want to defrag

4>Click on properties from the list

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PC Apprentice, Disk Defragmenter, US, viewed 19th August 2012, < <http://www.pcapprentice.com/disk%20defragmenter.htm>>.

- 6> Select the tools tab (at top)
- 7> Select Defragment Now button

## Performing PC's for Dummies

### Optimising your Virtual Memory

Virtual Memory is memory that windows maps to applications. Applications are not allowed direct access to the physical memory. So when a program asks for more memory windows maps out memory to it, where windows controls what actual physical memory it uses.

On most older systems there is a limit of 4 gigabyte that the computer can actually address (memory it can use at a time). A 32 bit computer can only see and use 4 gigabyte of memory while a 64 bit computer can access much more memory. Virtual memory was a method used to get around this problem and allow accessing much more memory at a time. Windows having a control on the amount of memory that applications are allowed to use is also an added security measure.

Page file optimization is a great way of improving the performance of your computer when it is running low on physical ram. This is because when the computer is running low on ram Microsoft Windows begins to use the hard disk as memory. The access speeds of the hard drive are allot slower than physical memory so your machines performance is effected

The actual optimum size that this page file should be set to at the very least is 1.5 times the physical memory and at the most it should be set to 2.5 times the physical memory. On 32 bit systems the maximum setting is 4 gigabyte as there is no point in setting it larger as Windows will not be able to use the rest. Fortunately this is improved by the newer 64 bit machines which can see much more memory.

#### **Memory conversion chart** (showing all values that are equal below)

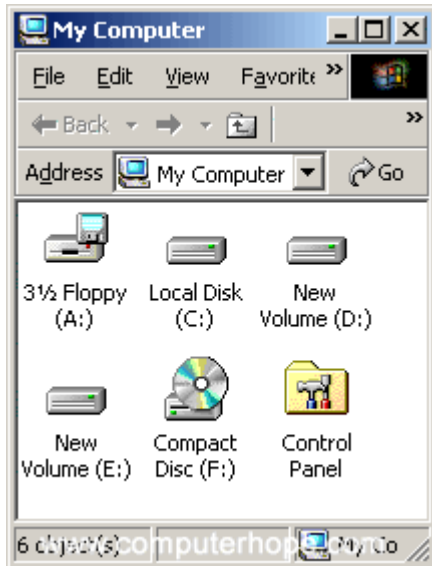
1	Terabyte
1000	Gigabyte
1000000	Megabyte
1000000000	Kilobyte
1000000000000	Byte

Using the above chart 1000 megabyte is equal to 1 gigabyte so to work out your current memory if you have 4 gigabytes multiply by 1000 will give you the memory in megabytes. (4000 megabytes)

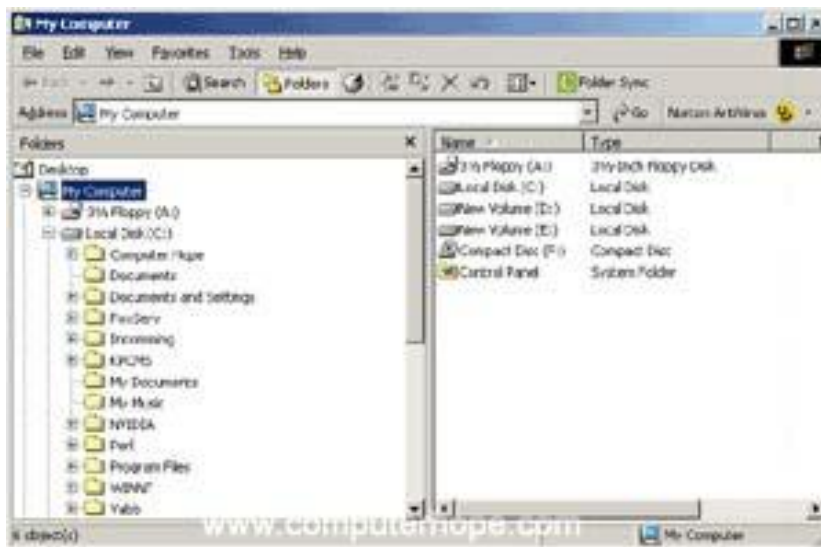
## Performing PC's for Dummies

### Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows XP Optimizing Swap space

1> Double Click My Computer Icon on desktop or click My Computer in the start menu



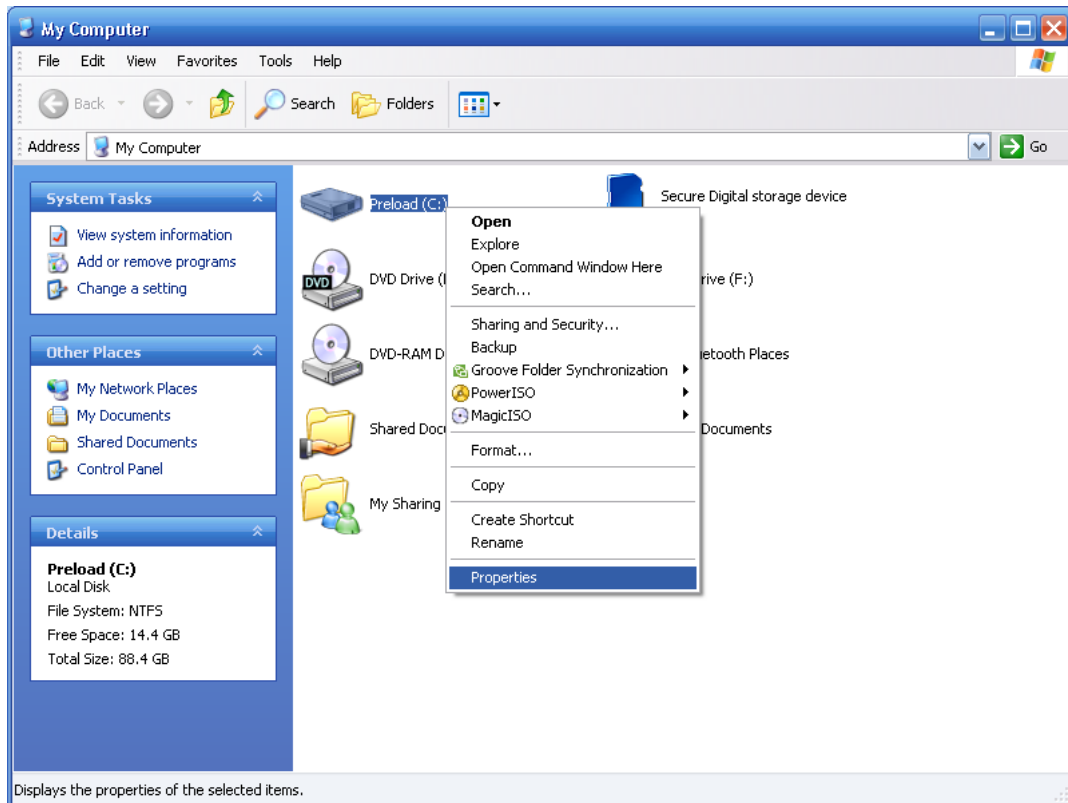
Computer Hope, My computer, US, viewed 20th August 2012, < <http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/mycomput.htm>>.



Computer Hope, My computer, US, viewed 20th August 2012, < <http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/mycomput.htm>>.

2> Select the Local Disk C: by clicking once

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KOCPlanet, Troubleshooting, US, viewed 20th August 2012, <http://www.kocplanet.com/troubleshooting.php>

- 3> Right Click the C: drive
- 4> Select properties from the list

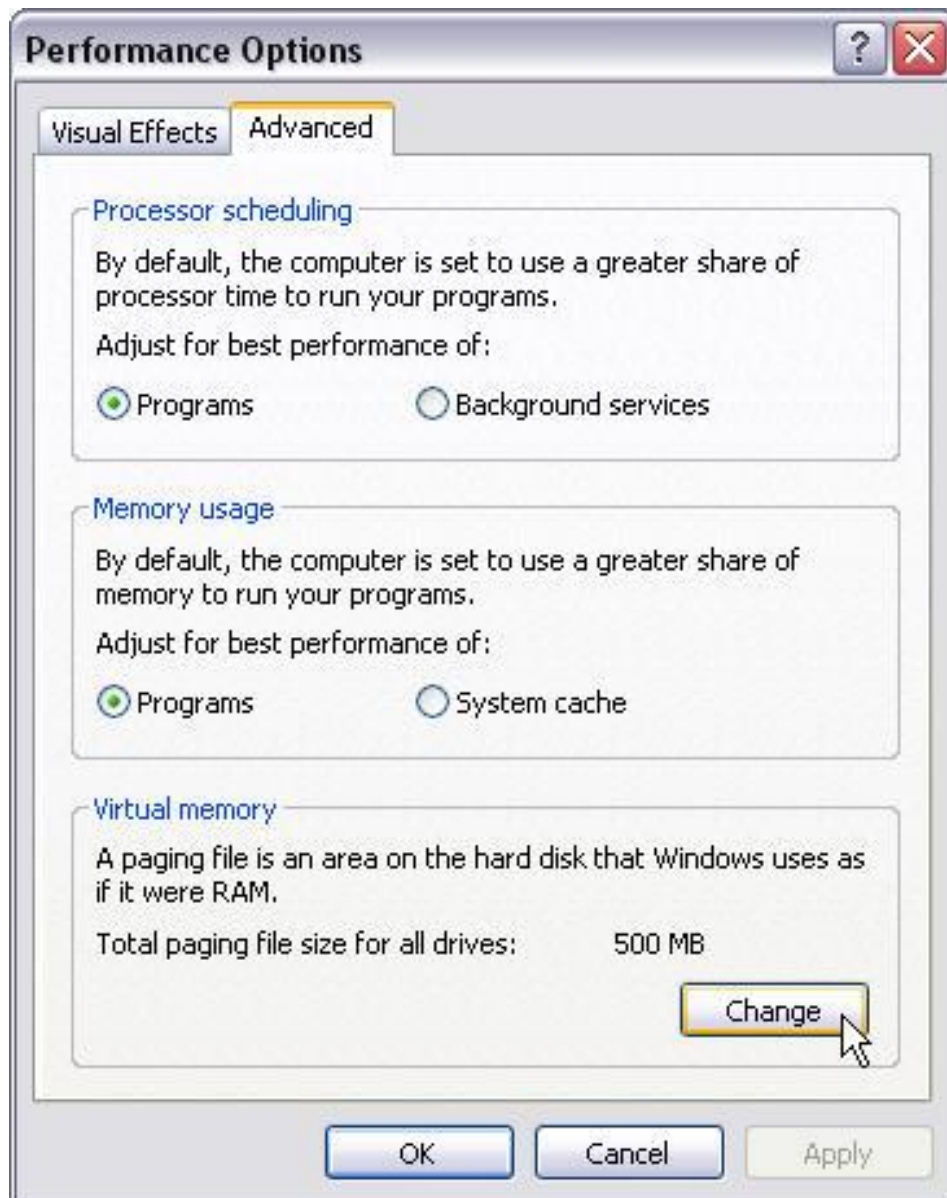
## Performing PC's for Dummies



Petri IT Knowledge, How can I optimize the Windows 2000/XP/2003 virtual memory (Pagefile)?, US, viewed 20th August 2012, <  
[http://www.petri.co.il/pagefile\\_optimization.htm](http://www.petri.co.il/pagefile_optimization.htm)>

- 4> Select the advanced tab from the top
- 5> Click Settings under performance and Virtual Memory

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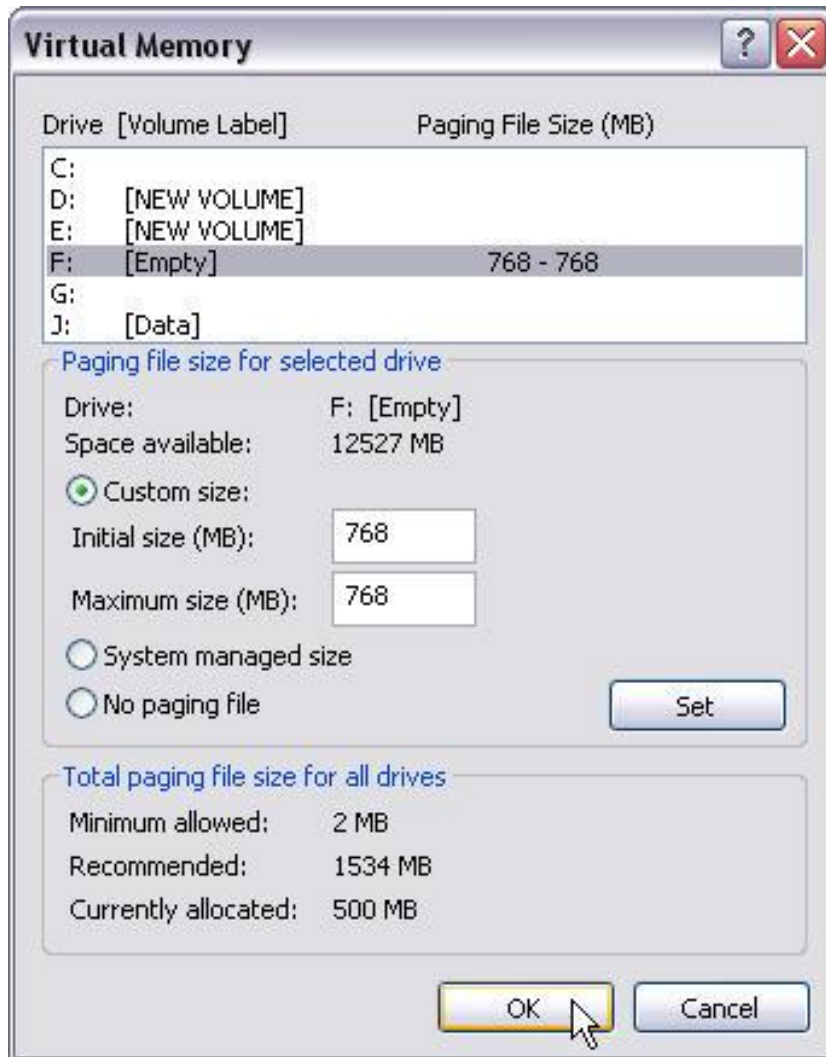


Petri IT Knowledge, How can I optimize the Windows 2000/XP/2003 virtual memory (Pagefile)?, US, viewed 20th August 2012, <  
[http://www.petri.co.il/pagefile\\_optimization.htm](http://www.petri.co.il/pagefile_optimization.htm)>.

6> Click the change button under Virtual Memory Setting



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Petri IT Knowledge, How can I optimize the Windows 2000/XP/2003 virtual memory (Pagefile)?, US, viewed 20th August 2012, <  
[http://www.petri.co.il/pagefile\\_optimization.htm](http://www.petri.co.il/pagefile_optimization.htm)>.

### 7> Select the custom size option

In the above picture it shows the recommended setting for the initial size being 1534 Megabytes you could enter the value you see there into both the initial size and maximum size boxes. But if you would prefer to calculate your own the formula is 1.5 times your physical memory for minimum and 2.5 times for maximum so for a 512 megabyte computer it would be 768 MB for minimum and 1280 for the maximum size. If you are not sure how much memory you have cancel this process and right click mycomputer icon and it will show you how much physical memory you have. Then repeat the steps to enter your virtual memory settings manually.

8> Enter the initial size of memory as calculated or as directed by windows

9> Enter the Maximum size of virtual memory into the box

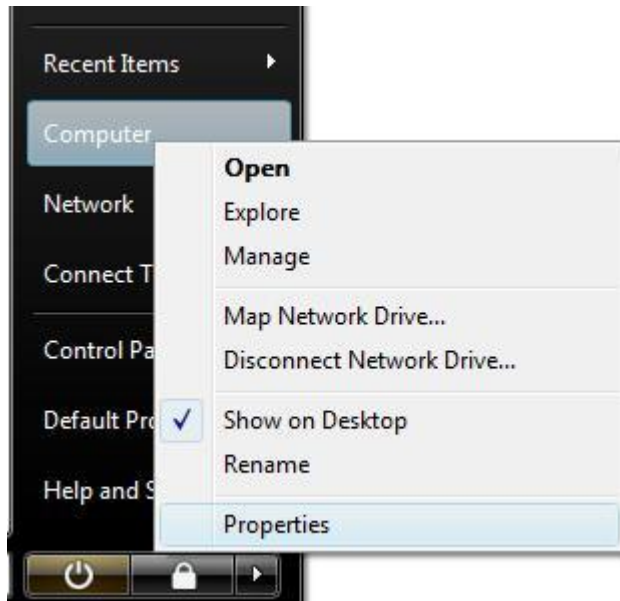
10> Click the ok button and reboot your machine

**Hint:** If you don't have enough hard disk space free to set the optimal page file performance size, you really should uninstall some software from your computer so you can.

## Performing PC's for Dummies

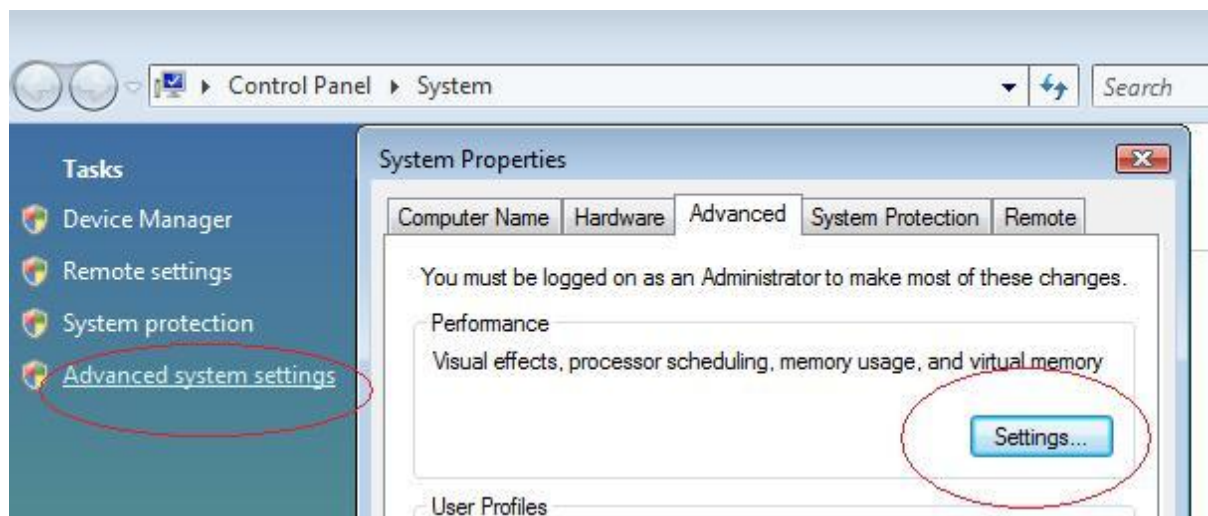
### Windows Vista and Windows 7 optimizing swap space

1> Right click my computer icon from your desktop or start menu



PC Technotes, How to speed up vista by limiting special effects, US, viewed 20th August 2012, < <http://pctechnotes.com/how-to-speed-up-vista-by-limiting-visual-effects/>>.

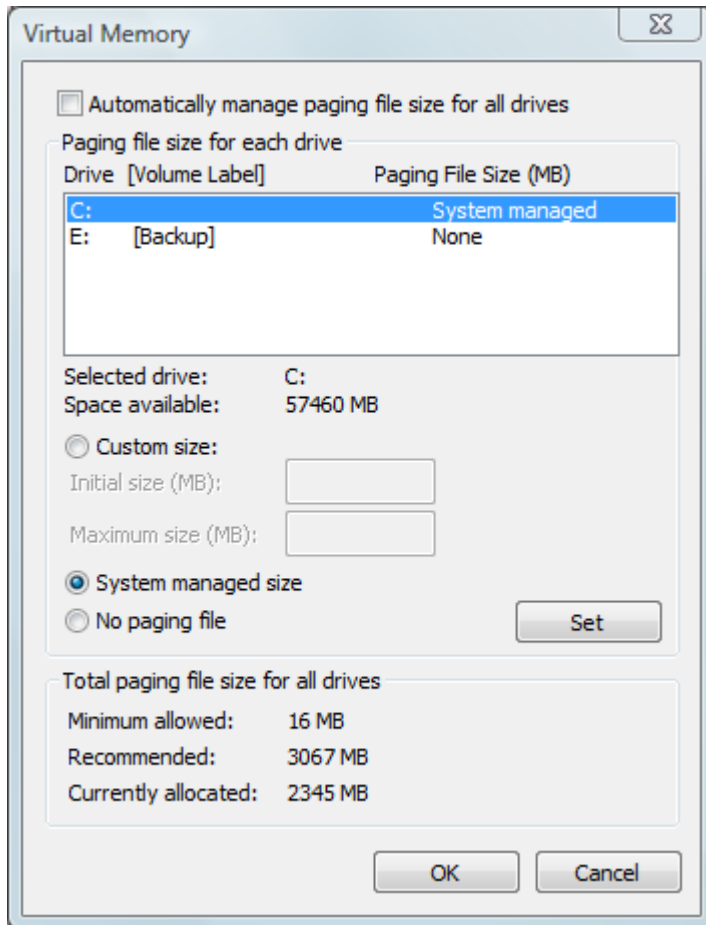
2> Select Properties



PC Technotes, How to speed up vista by limiting special effects, US, viewed 20th August 2012, < <http://pctechnotes.com/how-to-speed-up-vista-by-limiting-visual-effects/>>.

- 3> Click on Advanced system settings on the left side of the window
- 4> Click the advanced tab if not already highlighted
- 5> Click the settings button
- 6> Click the advanced tab
- 7> Click the change button

## Performing PC's for Dummies



PC Technotes, How to speed up vista by limiting special effects, US, viewed 20th August 2012, < <http://pctechnotes.com/how-to-speed-up-vista-by-limiting-visual-effects/>>.

8>Un tick automatically manage paging file size for all drives check box.

9>Highlight C:

10>Select custom size

In the above picture it shows the recommended setting for the initial size being 3067 Megabytes you could enter the value you see their into both the initial size and maximum size boxes. But if you would prefer to calculate your own the formula is 1.5 times your physical memory for minimum and 2.5 times for maximum so for a 512 megabyte computer it would be 768 MB for minimum and 1280 for the maximum size. If you are not sure how much memory you have cancel this process and right click mycomputer icon and it will show you how much physical memory you have. Then repeat the steps to enter your virtual memory settings manually.

11>Enter the recommended size into both the initial size and maximum size boxes

If you have more than one harddrive like shown in the above picture you could repeat steps 9 to 11 setting another swap file for peak performance. (in this example that would be E: backup)

12> Click ok and ignore any windows messages

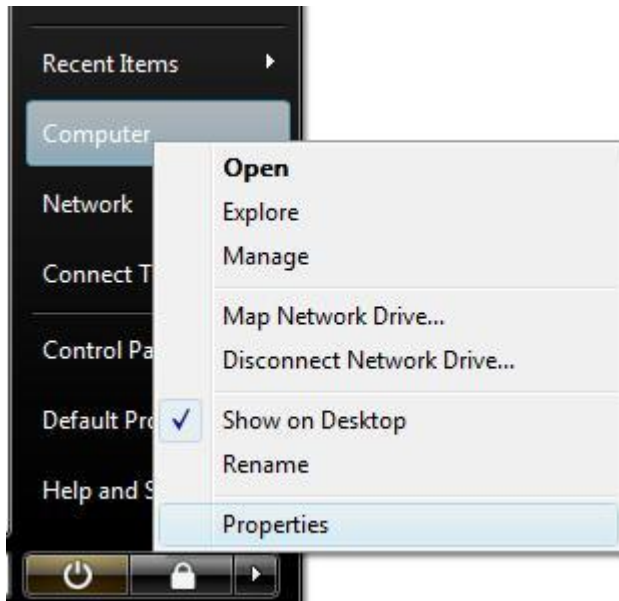
13> reboot your machines.

## Performing PC's for Dummies

### How to speed up Windows Vista and Windows 7 by limiting special effects

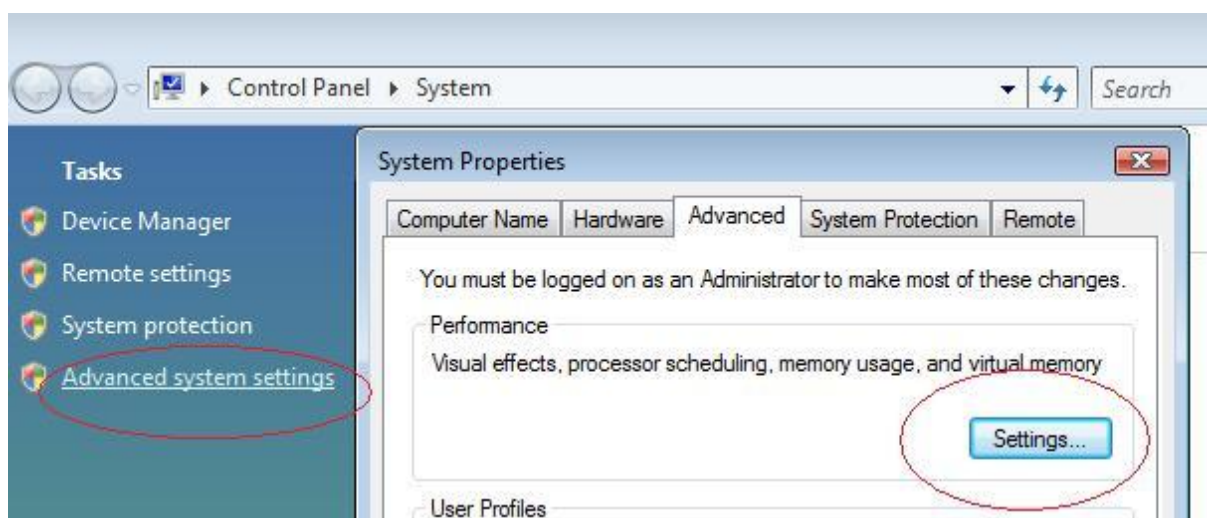
Windows Vista and Windows 7 have added graphic display options that are not needed, weren't in previous operating systems and effect the performance of your machine drastically. These may include things such as windows that are transparent when you move them and other little animations. Fortunately these can be turned off.

1> Right click my computer icon from your desktop or start menu



PC Technotes, How to speed up vista by limiting special effects, US, viewed 20th August 2012, < <http://pctechnotes.com/how-to-speed-up-vista-by-limiting-visual-effects/>>.

2> Select Properties

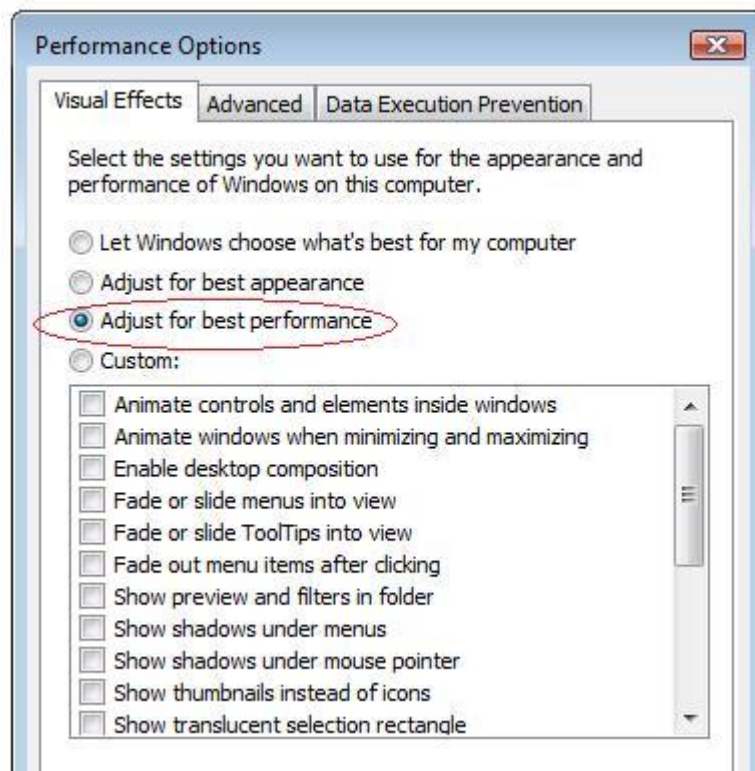


PC Technotes, How to speed up vista by limiting special effects, US, viewed 20th August 2012, < <http://pctechnotes.com/how-to-speed-up-vista-by-limiting-visual-effects/>>.

3> Click on Advanced system settings on the left side of the window

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- 4> Click the advanced tab if not already highlighted
- 5> Click the settings button



PC Technotes, How to speed up vista by limiting special effects, US, viewed 20th August 2012, < <http://pctechnotes.com/how-to-speed-up-vista-by-limiting-visual-effects/>>.

- 6> Select the visual effects tab at top left if it is not already displaying.
- 7> Select Adjust for best performance
- 8> Click the Ok button
- 9> Reboot your machine

## Summary

After completing the steps in this book you should have a better performing pc that loads allot quicker from both starting up and the loading of your applications. Your applications will run smoother and there will be less system crashes. You would have learnt how to stop many viruses from loading into memory at start up. You now know how to do routine maintenance on your pc and hopefully understand when it is needed.

# Performing PC's For Dummies

Performing PC's For Dummies was written in 2012 so as the many people out there with slow performing computers could benefit from a faster machine, without the need to upgrade their PC or to spend on expensive computer maintenance technicians. This do it yourself guide explains to the novice just how easy this is to do yourself with as many illustrations as humanly possible.

Peter Kennedy the Author of this book completed a Diploma in Information Technology in 1997 and a University Bachelor's Degree in Computer and Information science 2009 at the University of South Australia. After receiving many help calls from friends and family wrote this book.