

Title:

What Is The Windows Registry?

Word Count:

757

Summary:

The Windows registry is a database which stores settings and options for the operating system

It contains information and settings for all the hardware, software, users, and preferences of

The registry is actually a ...

Keywords:

windows registry,windows registry repair,windows registry scan, repair registry, fix registry,

Article Body:

The Windows registry is a database which stores settings and options for the operating system

It contains information and settings for all the hardware, software, users, and preferences of

The registry is actually a big file where a lot of setting can be stored.

This file has been around quite a while and has had different names.

The first windows version that used the windows registry to store settings was windows 3.11 and

In Windows 95 & 98 the registry files are named User.dat and System.dat and are stored in the

Windows ME called the registry files, Classes.dat, User.dat, and System.dat and stored them in

Finally the newest versions of windows like, Windows NT, 2000, 2003, & XP stores the registry

The Registry files are stored in %SystemRoot%\System32\Config\:

- Sam
- Security
- Software
- System
- Default
- Userdiff
- NTUSER.dat
- The NTUSER.dat file is stored in the profile folder.

The Windows Registry was introduced to tidy up the old way of storing text entries in INI files

The ini files were stored in a lot of different directories and many programs used their own

What's Good with the Registry

Changing from having one or more INI Files per program to one centralised registry has some ob

- The registry keeps machine configuration separate from user configuration. When a user logs
- Group Policy allows administrators on a Windows-based computer network to centrally manage p
- Because the registry is accessed through a special API it is available to scripts and remote
- The registry can be accessed as one item over a network connection for remote management/sup

- It can be backed up more easily, in that it is just a small number of files in specific locations.

Bad things with the Registry

Not all that shines is gold. The Registry introduces some problems as well:

- It is a single point of failure - damage to the Registry can render a Windows system unbootable.

- Any program which wants to manipulate the registry must use special Windows API functions which are not available to user applications.

- Configuration files can contain comments to help the user by explaining what values are for and what they do.

- It is more difficult to backup - it cannot be done 'live' because it is always in use, and there are no tools available to do this.

- Restoring parts of the registry is hard because you cannot easily extract data from backed up files.

- Any application that doesn't uninstall properly, or doesn't have an uninstaller, can leave entries in the registry.

The registry will be redone once more with the release of the new Vista Operating System from Microsoft.

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