

More Stupid Windows XP Tricks

One-Click Shutdown

If you have Clean Sweep Deluxe, Mike recommends that you disable it before proceeding. Follow these directions to create a one-click shutdown shortcut:

Navigate to your desktop. On the desktop, right-click and go to NEW, then to SHORTCUT (in other words, create a new shortcut).

You should now see a pop-up window instructing you to enter a command line path. Enter one of these as the path:

Use this path if your operating system is Windows 95, 98, or Me: C:\windows\rundll.exe user.exe,exitwindows

Use this path if your operating system is XP: SHUTDOWN -s -t 01

If the C: drive is not your local hard drive, then replace "C" with the correct letter of the hard drive.

Click the "Next" button. Name the shortcut and click the "Finish" button. Now, whenever you want to shut down, just click on this shortcut and you're done.

Disable Error Reporting

You can get rid of the Windows XP error report messages if you don't want to send another one in. Start the SYSTEM CONFIGURATION UTILITY:

Click START, and then click RUN.

Type msconfig to open the SYSTEM CONFIGURATION UTILITY.

Click the SERVICES tab.

Clear the Error Reporting Service check box, and then click OK.

Hit RESTART to reboot your system.

Adjust various visual effects

Open up the CONTROL PANEL. Go under SYSTEM and click on the ADVANCED tab. Click SETTINGS under PERFORMANCE OPTIONS. You can now change various graphics and effects (mainly animations and shadows.)

Close Multiple Windows

Note: works in all versions of Windows

If you just opened a number of separate, related windows (a folder inside a folder, and so on,) there's an easier way to close them all than one-at-a-time. Hold down the Shift key as you click the X caption button in the upper-right corner of the last window opened. Doing so closes that window and all windows that came before it.