

Cleaning the Prefetch Directory

WindowsXP has a new feature called Prefetch. This keeps a shortcut to recently used programs. However it can fill up with old and obsolete programs.

To clean this periodically, go to:

1. START | RUN | PREFETCH
2. Press Ctrl-A to highlight all the files
3. Delete them

Removing Thumbs.db Files

When viewing a folder with the Thumbnail view, WindowsXP creates a thumbs.db file. This is a cache of the current pictures in that directory. If you want to turn this feature off and save a little disk space:

1. Start the Windows Explorer
2. Go to TOOLS | FOLDER OPTIONS | VIEW

In the first section under FILES AND FOLDERS, check Do Not Cache Thumbnails.

Now you can search for the thumbs.db file on your computer and remove them. No more should be created.

No To All When Overwriting Files

When overwriting files in the Windows Explorer, there is an option for “Yes To All.” This would overwrite any files you would normally be prompted for.

To have “No To All,” simply hold down the Shift key while you click on the NO option.

WINIPCFG for XP

If you like the graphic IP configuration program that comes with Windows98, you can download a similar one for WindowsXP or Windows2000 from Microsoft at: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/techinfo/reskit/tools/existing/wntipcfg-o.asp>

Hiding System Tray Icons

With WindowsXP, you can manually select how you want individual icons in the SYSTEM TRAY to be displayed.

1. Right click on the TASKBAR
2. Select PROPERTIES
3. Check HIDE INACTIVE ICONS
4. Click on the CUSTOMIZE button

This will bring up a dialog box that will allow you to select one of three options for your applications:

Hide When Inactive, Always Hide, or Always Show

Highlight current or past applications and make any changes you like. A small arrow will now appear in the SYSTEM TRAY that will allow you to show or hide these icons.