

Customize & Tweak Windows XP(Updated 7/3/08)

by [computergeek](#) on May 12, 2008

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Intro: Customize & Tweak Windows XP(Updated 7/3/08)

This a collection of tweaks, hacks & tips for XP.

Some of this is uses freeware (Free software)

Some of this might work on Vista but I don't know.

If you have any more Private Message me I'll most likely add them. You'll get the credit for it.

If You Have Any Questions, Comments & Suggestions Please Post Them!



step 1: What you need

You need 4 things:

1. Computer running XP(Some may work on Vista)
2. Open Mind
3. Some Computer knowledge(You don't need a lot, But some)
4. Internet

Here's all the downloads in one place:

TweakUI

Virtual Desktop Manager

If those links don't work Here the page there on:

www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/Downloads/powertoys/Xppowertoys.msp

step 2: Get rid of the Recycle bin(Not mod the registry)

This how to remove the Recycle bin from the desktop you won't be editing your registry.

1. Open TweakUI (Start, All Programs, Powertoys for Windows XP, TweakUI)
2. Go to the menu Desktop and DO NOT click on the + sign
3. Uncheck the recycle bin option
4. click on Ok

No more Recycle Bin. But it is good to still recycle

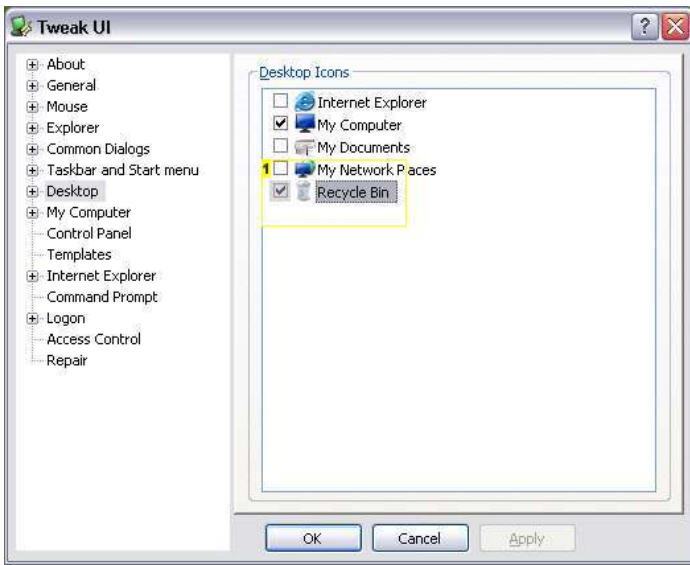


Image Notes

1. Uncheck this

step 3: Change the user names that appear on the login screen. Also autologon

This Removes the entire Account from the logon

1. Open TweakUI (Start, All Programs, Power Toys for Windows XP, TweakUI)
 2. Go to the menu logon and DO NOT click on the + sign
 3. To remove a user name it unchecked it that make the **Entire account** will not show
- To make it so the computer automatically logons on to certain account see below:

1. Open the power toy (Start, All Programs, Power Toys for Windows XP, TweakUI)
2. Go to the menu logon and click on the + sign and check the box by "log on automatically..."
3. Type the user name in the box below

When your done with every thing press Ok

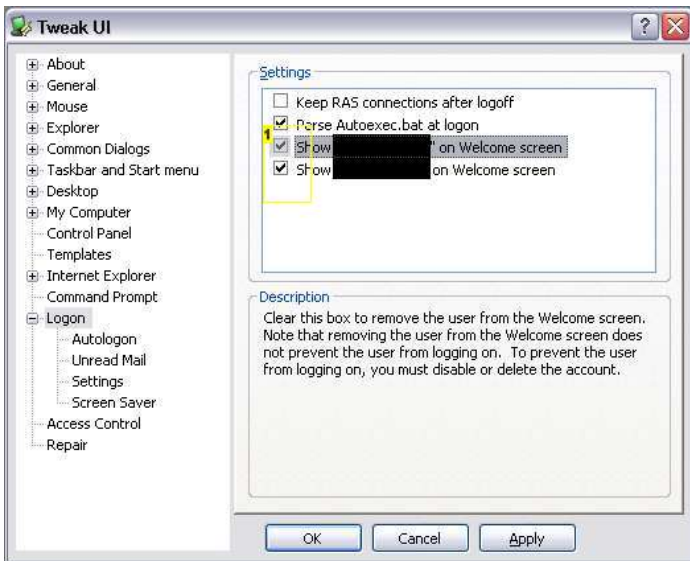


Image Notes

1. Uncheck the one that you do no want to show

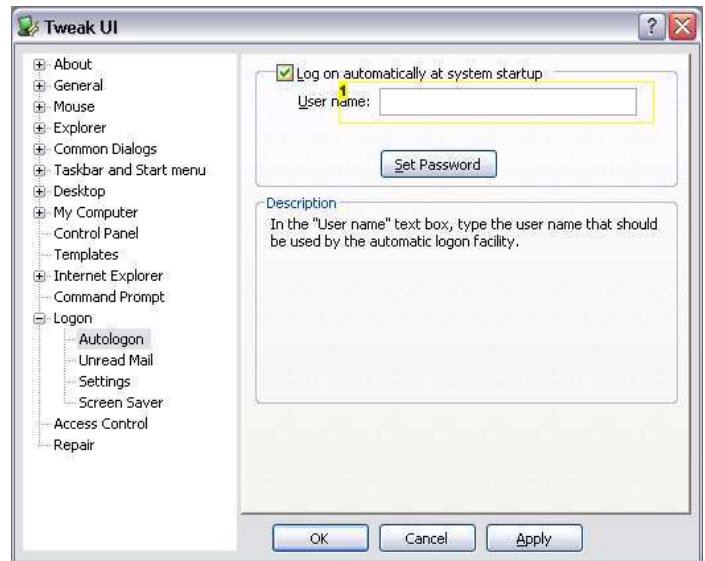


Image Notes

1. Type the username that will automatically open on startup

step 4: Remove the little arrow on shortcuts

This removes that little box with the arrow in it.

1. Open TweakUI (Start, All Programs, PowerToys for Windows XP, TweakUI)
2. Go to the menu Explorer and click on the + sign
3. Go to shortcut
4. Click on the option for none under shortcut overlay
5. Click on Ok

Now more little arrow :-)



Image Notes

1. I know I have 3 web browsers. But all are better than Internet Explorer

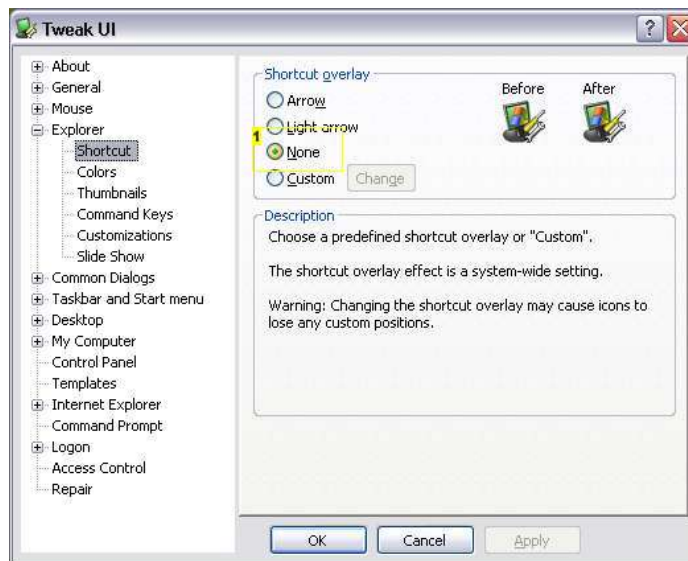


Image Notes

1. Select this

step 5: Keep programs from going on your frequently used programs list

This how to keep programs from going on your frequently used programs list. You won't be editing your registry.

1. Open TweakUI (Start, All Programs, PowerToys for Windows XP, TweakUI)
2. Go to the menu Taskbar & Start Menu and click on the + sign
3. Find the Program(s) you don't want in the list and uncheck when your done press Ok

step 6: Add Virtual desktop to your computer

This uses another powertoy from Microsoft. it is called Virtual Desktop Manager(fitting name)
The download is available [here](#) .

Assuming you have **Installed** Virtual Desktop Manager **Right Click** on the **Taskbar** . Go to **toolbars** click on "**Desktop Manger** " this Displays it on the taskbar.

If you want to **get rid of the text at the front** first if your desktop is locked unlock it. Then right click on the Desktop Manger and go to Show title and uncheck it by clicking on it. after you can relock your taskbar if you want to.

If you want to **change the background image for each desktop** right click on the toolbar and go to Customize Desktop Images.

If you want to **change the shortcuts** for each desktop right click on the toolbar and go to Customize Desktop Shortcuts



Image Notes

1. You can't really read it but it says Desktop Manger
2. Apple. A really good company



step 7: Change the size, font & font size of all of your icons

To change your icon appearance follow the steps below:

- 1) Right click on the desktop
- 2) Click on proprieties
- 3) Go to the tab Appearance
- 4) Click on advance
- 5) Go to the drop down menu then item select icon
- 6) To change font, size & font size use the text boxes

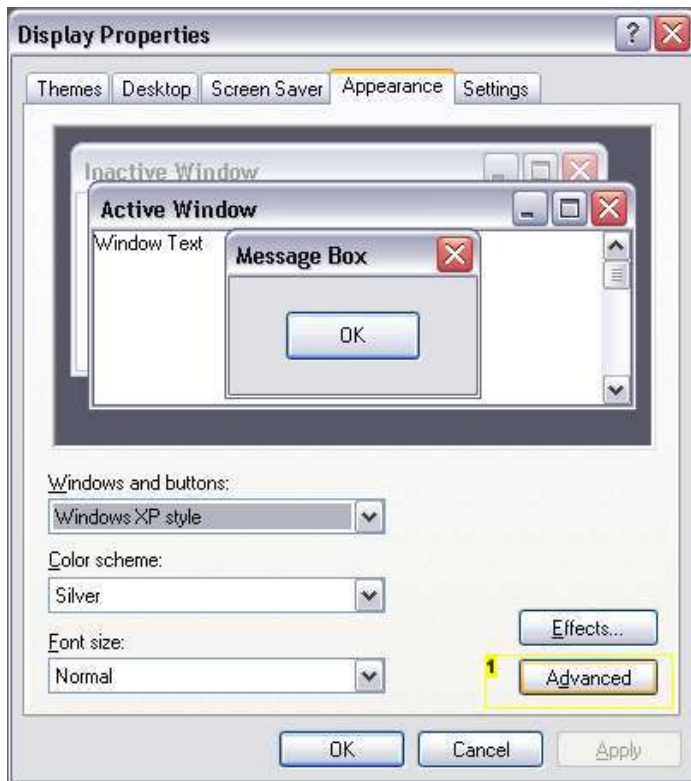


Image Notes

1. Click on this

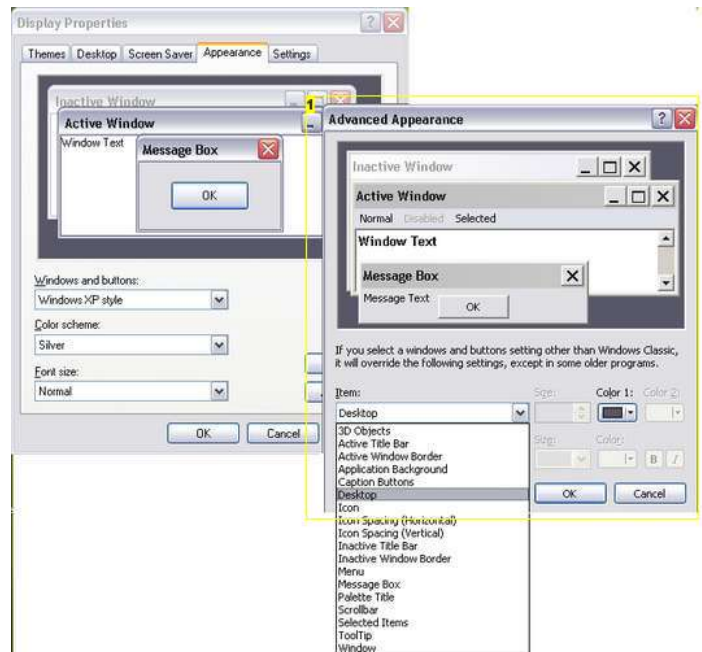


Image Notes

1. The window that opens



Image Notes

1. Size of the Icon
2. Font of the icon

step 8: Change the font/font size of the title bar of all windows

To change your title bar appearance follow the steps below:

- 1) Right click on the desktop
- 2) Click on proprieties
- 3) Go to the tab Appearance
- 4) Click on advance
- 5) Go to the drop down menu then item select Active title bar
- 6) To change font, size & font size use the text boxes

repeat the steps on inactive title bar in less you want them different

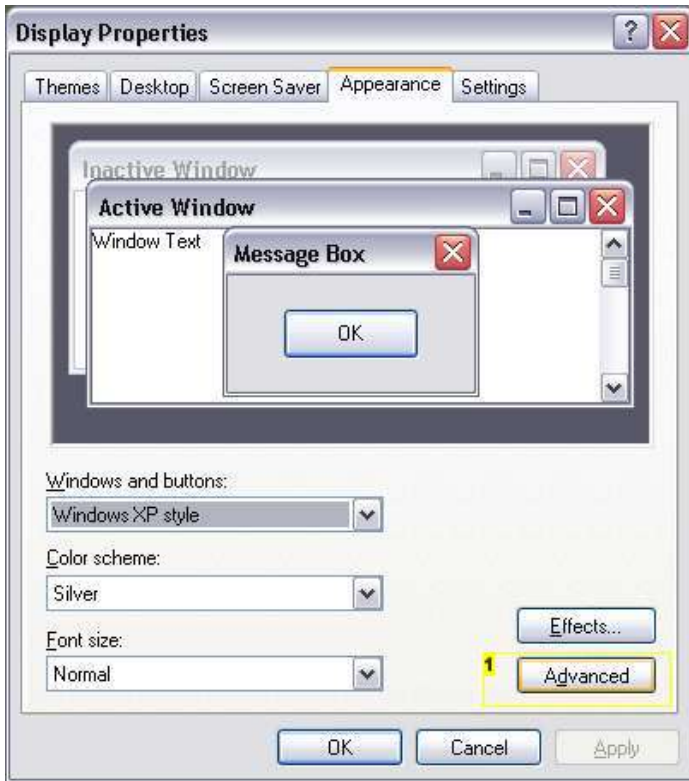


Image Notes

1. Click on this

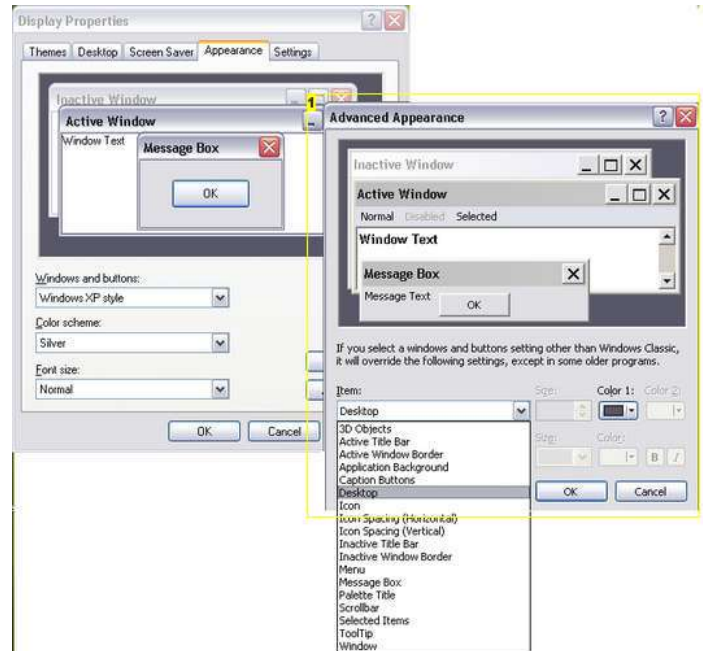


Image Notes

1. The window that opens



Image Notes
1. The Font used



Image Notes
1. The Font used

step 9: Enlarge/Shrink the Caption buttons(Minimize, Resize, Exit)

To change your Minimize, Resize, Exit buttons appearance follow the steps below:

- 1) Right click on the desktop
- 2) Click on proprietes
- 3) Go to the tab Appearance
- 4) Click on advance
- 5) Go to the drop down menu then item select Caption buttons
- 6) To change size use the text boxes

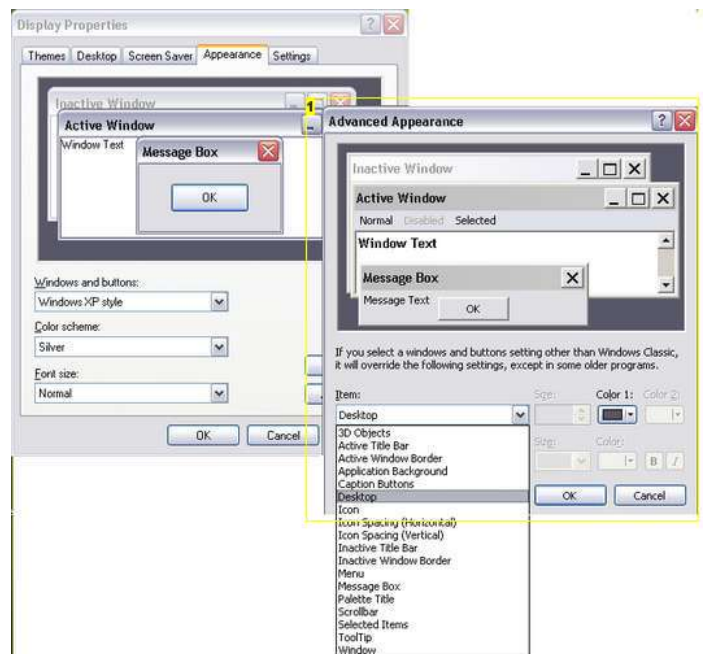
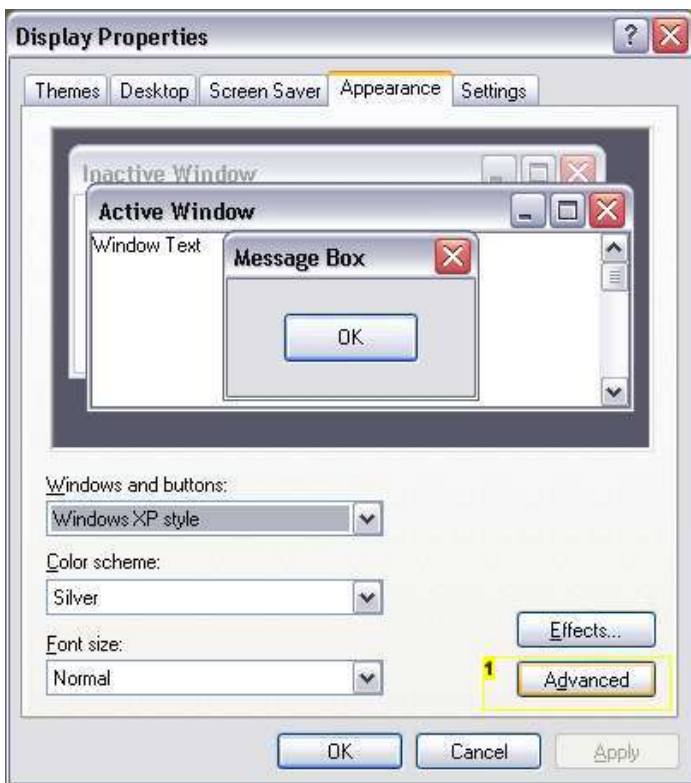


Image Notes
1. The window that opens

Image Notes
1. Click on this



Image Notes
1. The size

step 10: Enlarge/Shrink the Scroll bar

To change your Minimize, Resize, Exit buttons appearance follow the steps below:

- 1) Right click on the desktop
- 2) Click on proprietes
- 3) Go to the tab Appearance
- 4) Click on advance
- 5) Go to the drop down menu then item select Scrollbar
- 6) To change size use the text boxes

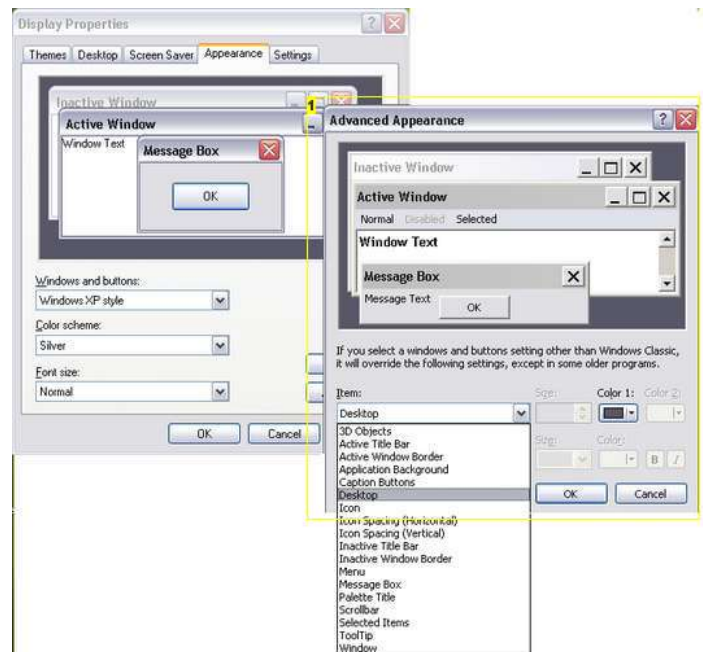


Image Notes

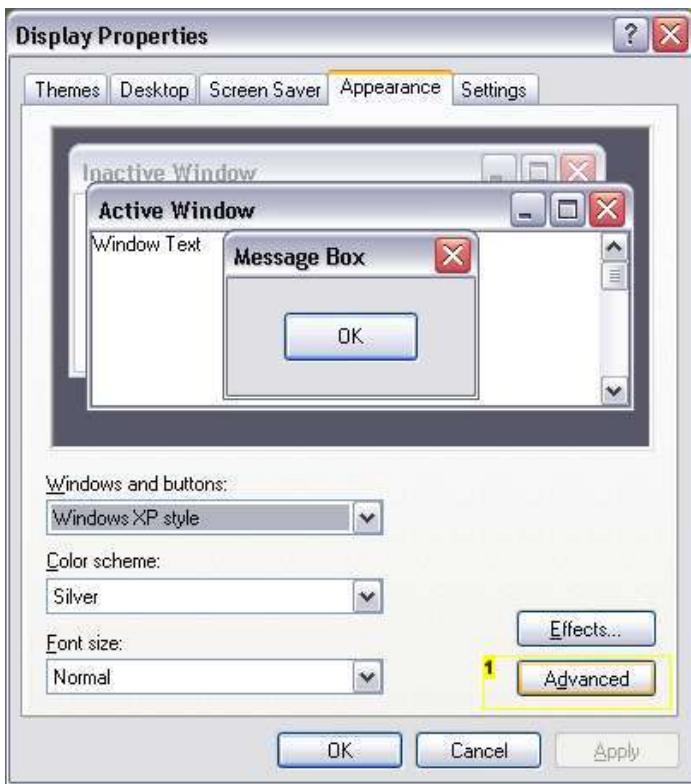
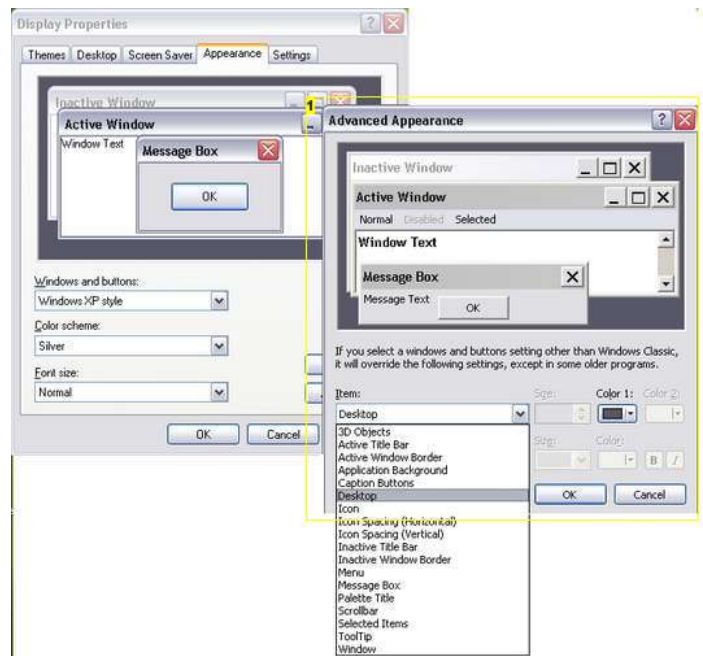


Image Notes
1. Click on this



1. The window that opens



Image Notes
1. Size of the scrollbar

step 11: Make your All Programs(Start, All Programs) menu scroll

To make your All Programs menu scroll

Right click on your Taskbar then click on Properties .

After that click on the Start Menu tab then on Customize .

When all that is done go to the Tab Advanced and Check Scroll Programs .

Then Click Ok .

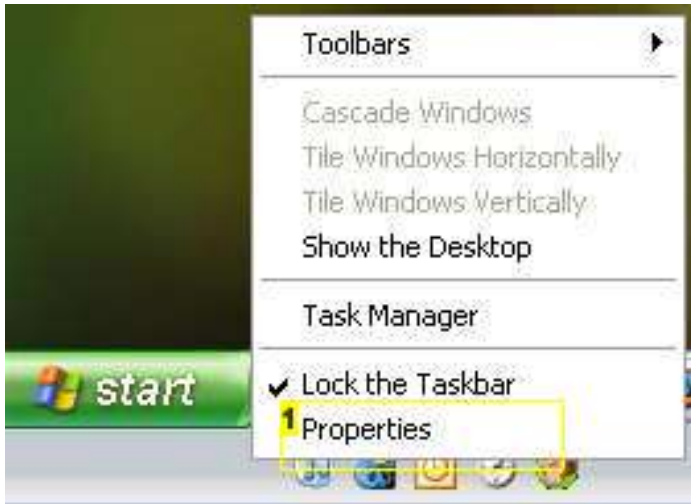


Image Notes

1. Click on this



Image Notes

1. Click on this
2. Click on this

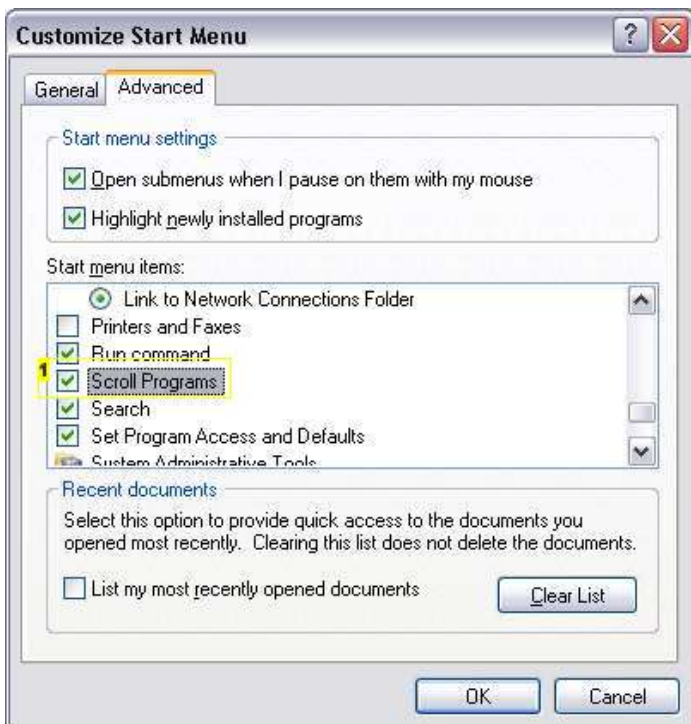


Image Notes

1. Check this

step 12: Usefulness of Notepad

Notepad When used for text editing is pretty useless (If you're using it because you don't have Microsoft office you can use Open Office.Org the website is here)

But when use for website building or programming in VBS it is a good learning tool.

Here is some instructables on VBS:

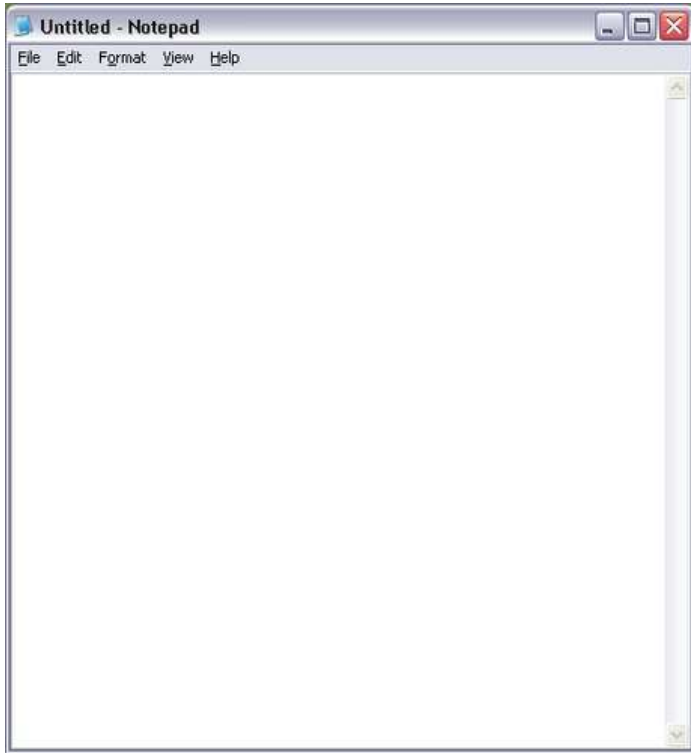
VBS scripts

Fun with Easy VBS!!!

Simple notepad joke

Protect any file, folder, or program with a password

To do Html Programming here is an instructable on it.



step 13: Keyboard Shortcuts

Here is some keyboard some useful some not, but here they are:

The 4 shortcuts below rotate the View:

- 1) ctrl+alt+Left arrow key
- 2) ctrl+alt+Right arrow key
- 3) ctrl+alt+Up arrow key
- 4) ctrl+alt+Down arrow key

Below is a link to an instructable with more shortcuts

Hidden powers of the "Windows" key on your keyboard. 8 situations where it can help you (+video inside)

Related Instructables



The Windows XP Optimization Guide by crestind



WinXP Overhaul Guide: How to make it look like Vista, run like lightning, and stay productive, fast & smooth by CharredPC



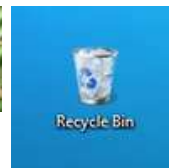
Customize your computer! by alfonso



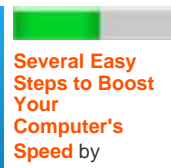
Changing Windows Vista to look like Windows XP by amummau



Windows Invisible Desktop Prank by puffyluff



Remove the "Recycle Bin" icon by jacobjordan




lukethebook333




HELP ON COMMAND PROMPT by sharlston


Comments

18 comments [Add Comment](#)

 **erikals** says: Jul 30, 2009. 3:12 AM [REPLY](#)
i like step 3. Does the user account still exist after it has been removed from the list of names?
Cool instructable

 **erikals** says: Jul 1, 2009. 7:28 PM [REPLY](#)
Thanks for the instructable. I really need something like this.
Keep it up.


 **computergeek** says: Jul 1, 2009. 8:22 PM [REPLY](#)
You're welcome.


 **amakerguy** says: Mar 25, 2009. 4:18 PM [REPLY](#)
LOL I have 4 browsers! opera, Firefox, Google chrome, last and Least Internet explorer

 **computergeek** says: Mar 25, 2009. 4:20 PM [REPLY](#)
Cool. What about Safari?


 **amakerguy** says: Mar 25, 2009. 4:28 PM [REPLY](#)
nah I have windows


 **computergeek** says: Mar 25, 2009. 4:30 PM [REPLY](#)
Look Again:
<http://www.apple.com/safari/download/>


 **amakerguy** says: Mar 25, 2009. 4:37 PM [REPLY](#)
OK cool. I will have to download it tomorrow morning at 5:00 A.M. because I have satellite internet and Fair access policy (that is if we go over the 500MB limit per day they shut down are internet for 24 Hours!) and from 1:00 to 6:00 is unlimited.

 **4_t477_guy** says: Aug 9, 2008. 6:00 AM [REPLY](#)
There's an even easier way: Right click the desktop and select Properties. Select the Desktop tab, and click on Change Desktop Icons. Then uncheck Recycle Bin and click OK.

 **Bob Phil McMoow** says: Jan 31, 2009. 4:08 PM [REPLY](#)
XP or Vista?

 **computergeek** says: Jan 31, 2009. 5:24 PM [REPLY](#)
I think I tried doing this before on XP I don't think it worked. (I would try it again, but I'm on a Mac right now)

 **4_t477_guy** says: Jan 31, 2009. 5:18 PM [REPLY](#)
It should work with XP, but I'm not sure because I use the Windows 7 beta (which is the same as Vista except for a few tweaks and is MUCH, MUCH faster than Vista or XP).

 **4_t477_guy** says: Jan 31, 2009. 9:02 PM [REPLY](#)
Yep, computergeek's right, I installed Windows 7 in a dual-boot with XP.
So all I had to do is restart it, go to XP, and check it.

 **Bob Phil McMoow** says: Jan 31, 2009. 4:43 PM [REPLY](#)
Those keyboard shortcuts dont work on my laptop.



Bob Phil McMoow says:

Jan 31, 2009. 4:14 PM [REPLY](#)

Does this just cycle through desktops you have on on your computer? If so, isnt there also a program called Yodm 3D that does the same thing?



themadman says:

May 13, 2008. 8:39 AM [REPLY](#)

when you do step 3, does it remove the name or the whole account from appearing on the logon screen?



computergeek says:

May 14, 2008. 7:30 AM [REPLY](#)

What it does is it makes it so the entire account does not show on the logon screen so you can not log on to the account through the the logon or welcome screen. I hope that answers your question.



evilfrogie says:

Nov 21, 2008. 5:38 PM [REPLY](#)

you could still logon by pressing ctrl+alt+delete and typing the account name in.
