

**Bonus Report #3**  
**50 Tips To Boost**  
**Windows 7 Performance**

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## Introduction

If you've been using Windows 7 for some time, you'll be aware that it's a totally different beast from previous versions of Microsoft Windows, such as Windows XP and Windows 2000.

As an operating system, Windows 7 offers many exciting performance and user interface enhancements and seeks to make you more productive, while ensuring security and reliability is maintained. The problem is, when Windows 7 was first released, many people had a problem adjusting to the new interface and some of the quirky behaviour the system had.

In this report, I'll show you 50 of the best secrets for unlocking the power of Windows 7. Right now, Windows 7 may seem just like another difficult and unstable operating system from Microsoft – but if you pick up the stuff I'm about to show you, you'll realize just how powerful Windows 7 can be.

So do read on and learn more, and before long, you'll be a Windows 7 expert!

### Tip #1: Allow more simultaneous downloads in Mozilla Firefox

By default, Firefox is like IE7 which defaults to only two persistent connections to a given server. Here's what you do:

- Open Firefox and type '*about:config*' in the address bar.
- Scroll down to the entry called '*network.http.max-persistent-connections-per-server*'
- Now simply double-click that entry and change the value to anything from 4 to 10.
- Next, restart Firefox and enjoy.

### Tip #2: Overcome Large File Copying Problems in Windows 7

There have been reports of users having problems with large file transfers over a network when using Windows 7. Windows 7 has a new feature called 'receive window auto-tuning' - which automatically scales the size of each data packet it requests and receives to suit the current bandwidth. The problem is, some older networking hardware may have issues with approach and slow down performance.

If you are experiencing problems with large file transfers or timeouts on your connections problems, it's probably a good idea to restrict or disable receive window auto-tuning.

Here's what you do:

- Open a command prompt window with administrative privileges
- Type '*netsh interface tcp set global autotuninglevel=restricted*' and press Enter. This restricts receive window auto-tuning.
- If you continue to have network problems, you can totally disable the feature by using '*netsh interface tcp set global autotuninglevel=disabled*'.

### **Tip #3: Refresh shortcut for wireless network searching**

If you use the 'searching for wireless networks' screen in Windows 7, you will know that it does not have a refresh button. This will cause some inconvenience to some folks. If you're an impatient user, you simply need to hit the *F5* key to refresh the screen automatically.

### **Tip #4: How To Disable IPV6 In Windows 7**

In case you're not aware, Windows 7 is the first operating system from Microsoft to feature IP Version 6 as a default networking protocol. The problem is that network interfaces tend to use the standard TCP/IP by default, rather than IPV6. It would thus be a good idea to disable the unnecessary IPV6 protocol.

Here's what you need to do:

- Start *Regedit* and navigate to the following key: '*HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\tcpip6\Parameters*'
- Move to the right-hand pane, right click on an empty area and choose '*new\DWORD value*'. Name the DWORD '*DisabledComponents*' and give it the value '*0xFF*'
- Restart your computer for this to take effect.

### **Tip #5: Find Your Router's Homepage Easily**

If you want to configure certain aspects of your network, add WEP keys, boost the speed, control access or open ports, you need to log on to your wireless router's homepage. This Web page is usually difficult to remember, and it's something like *192.168.0.1*. You can instead find your router's home page easily using another approach.

Here's what you do:

- Go to the *Network and Sharing Center*
- Click on *View full map* at the top right, then right-click your router or wireless access device.
- Select *Go to Device Home Page*.

### **Tip #6: How To Update Windows 7's DirectX To Achieve Better Game Compatibility**

Some games require you to run the latest versions of DirectX (e.g. FEAR is one such game). To achieve compatibility for these games, you should download latest DirectX 11 re-distributable file from Microsoft.com, unzip the file and run the *DXSETUP* file. This will install the full DirectX 11 into your machine and allow you to run those games.

### **Tip #7: Disable Those Background Features For Faster Gaming**

Windows 7 is known for its memory hogging features, especially in the user interface. One thing you can do to extract just a little more performance out of your games is to the game's executable files and disable some background desktop features.

Here's what you do:

- Locate the executable file for the game. This should usually be an *.exe* file in game's subdirectory within *'C:\Program Files'*.
- Right click on the executable file and choose *Properties*.
- Click on the *Compatibility* tab and under the *Settings* heading, check *Disable Visual Themes*. Click *OK*.

This will disable the Windows 7 Aero desktop only for the game you just selected. That'll give you just a bit more performance the next time you run the game.

### **Tip #8: Use Windows XP Compatibility Mode For DirectX 9 Games**

If you're running Windows 7, you might know that Windows 7 has compatibility issues with old applications and games designed for XP. To get around this, try enabling the XP compatibility mode for your older games.

Here's what you do:

- Locate the executable file for the game. This should usually be an '.exe' file in game's subdirectory within 'C:\Program Files'.
- Right click on the executable file and choose *Properties*.
- Click on the *Compatibility* tab and just check the *Run This Program In Compatibility Mode For ...* box
- Set the dropdown box underneath to *Windows XP Service pack 2*. Click *OK*.

Hopefully, this will help you run that older game under Windows XP compatibility mode and save you some headaches.

### **Tip #9: Play DirectX10 Games Under DirectX9**

Ok, if you are playing some of the newer DirectX10 capable games (e.g. Crysis or Bioshock) - and are seeing poor performance, then here's something to try. You can run these games under DirectX9 instead. You will lose out on some nice visual 3D glory, but you will probably gain some improvements in frame rates.

Here's what you do:

- Go to the games folder under *Start > Games* and right click on the icon that starts your DirectX10 game.
- Select the *Play DirectX 9* option.

### **Tip #10: Enable 3D Positional Audio**

In Windows 7, 3D sound effects are handled differently. As a result, many old sound cards was unable to render hardware 3D sound effects. If you have a Creative Audigy or X-Fi sound card, you can enable that lovely 3D positional audio again.

Here's what you need to do:

- Creative Labs created a program called 'ALchemy' which fixes this problem in Windows 7. Ok, here's the catch - ALchemy is NOT free. I know this goes against the title of this report "Top 50 Tips For Boosting Your Computer's Performance For Free" - but this is such an important fix, I had to mention it here.
- If you're willing to pay for it, download the program from Creative Labs and enjoy that 3D positional audio again.

### **Tip #11: Turn off User Account Control (UAC)**

This has got to be one of the most requested tips in Windows 7. User Account Control (UAC) is newly introduced in Windows 7 and it prevents unauthorized changes to the Windows system settings by requiring a manual 'OK' from you. That's a confirmation required for EACH and EVERY change. I got annoyed and so did many other people.

So here's how you can disable UAC:

- Go to *Start > Control Panel > User Accounts*
- Click on *Turn User Account Control on or off* and select *Continue* when the UAC box appears.
- Uncheck the *Use User Account Control (UAC) to help protect your computer* option.
- Click *OK* Restart Windows 7 and it's bye bye to irritating nag windows.

### **Tip #12: How To Shut Down Your Operating System Faster**

If you're shutting down Windows 7, you could have noticed that it takes a long time to shut off. Windows 7 tries to shut down all running services - if any one of these services are engaged, Windows 7 will wait as long as 20 seconds forcing each to shut down. You need to lower this 20 second timeframe so your machine will shut down faster.

Here's what you do:

- Open the *Start* menu, type '*regedit*' and hit Enter.
- Navigate to '*HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control*'
- Double click the *WaitToKillServiceTimeout* DWORD value to edit it. Just give a value between 5000 (5 seconds) and 12000.

Your computer should now shut down faster.

### **Tip #13: Set Power Options To High Performance**

By default, Windows 7 does not use high performance power settings. It uses fairly conservative power settings instead. However, if you want to squeeze maximum speed and performance, you need to set power options to a "High Performance" setting. Virtually all power saving features will be disabled,

Here's what you do:

- Go to the *Start > Control* panel
- Click on *Classic View* in the left hand pane and open *Power Options*.
- Select the *High Performance* power plan.

### **Tip #14: Disable Windows Defender Auto Scans**

In Windows 7, there's a anti-spyware scanner called Windows Defender. This beast will kick-off daily in the background and impact your computer just like a full system file scan will. I prefer to disable the automatic scanning and perform only the occasional manual system scan.

Here's how you do it:

- Open the *Start* menu and type '*defender*'.
- Click the *Tools* icon at the top of the window, then the *Options* selection.
- Uncheck *Automatically scan my computer*, then click *Save*.

### **Tip #15: How To Boost External Hard Drive Performance**

Here's an interesting one for those who regularly use a USB external hard drive to store large amounts of data.

By default, Windows 7 does not enable write caching on USB drives. Without this write caching, data you send to the USB drive is instantly transferred to the device - it is not written to a "buffer" between the hard drive and system memory.

With write caching, things speed up because your PC writes to the system memory cache and then sequentially transfer to the hard drive. This frees up the rest of your system to do other more important things. This tip benefits those with USB external hard disk more than those with small flash memory devices.

Here's what you do

- Plug in your external USB drive.
- Go to *Start > Computer*, then right click the external drive in the computer window and choose *Properties*.
- Click on the *Hardware* tab, highlight your external drive in the list and click the *Properties* button.
- Select the *Policies* tab and choose the option marked *Optimize for performance*. Click *OK*.

## **Tip #16: Speed Up SATA Hard Drives In Windows 7**

Windows 7 can also improve the performance of internal SATA (Serial ATA) hard drives. To understand this, note that Windows 7's write cache has two levels - a basic one (enabled by default) and an advanced one. What you want to do is to enable the 'advanced disk performance' mode.

Note that this tip has some potential to damage your Windows 7 installation. When you enable write caching, you increase the risk of damaging your system files in the event of a crash. You will, however, get an increase in drive performance.

Here's what you do to enable advanced performance on a SATA drive:

- Go to *Start > Computer*.
- Right click the SATA drive in the computer window and choose *Properties*.
- Click on the *Hardware* tab, then highlight your SATA drive and click the *Properties* button.
- Select the *Policies* tab and select the *Enable enhanced performance* option. A warning comes up - just click *OK*.

## **Tip #17: Disable All Those Unnecessary Services**

In Windows 7, there are a few services that are enabled by default and they take up a lot of system resources. They are also unlikely to be needed by a home user. So I'd recommend you disable these in order to gain some increase in system performance.

Here's what you do.

- Open the *Start* menu and type '*services*' in the searchbar. Hit Enter.
- Locate any unneeded services and just disable them accordingly.

## **Tip #18: Upgrade To Windows 7 Service Pack 1 Beta**

If you've been using Windows 7 and are experiencing performance problems, then it's a good idea to upgrade to Service Pack 1 Beta. This service pack provides various tweaks and fixes for issues that limit Windows 7 performance. This service pack is especially useful for users on lower end computers. Installing a service pack is not without its risks, but generally I'd install service packs rather than avoid them - simply because they do in fact address serious problems in the operating system.

### **Tip #19: Make The Start Menu Open Faster**

One of the problems with the Windows 7 user interface is that it can be sluggish on lower end systems. Here's a tip to help you boost the speed of the start menu.

Try doing the following to increase the speed of your Start Menu:

- Open the *Start* menu, type '*regedit*' and hit Enter.
- Find the node '*HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Control Panel\Desktop*' in the registry.
- Double click on the *MenuShowDelay* value and change its value to something like 150.

### **Tip #20: Disable Superfetch If You Have Too Little RAM**

One of the interesting features of Windows 7 is its Superfetch feature. Superfetch allows Windows 7 to learn your most commonly accessed file and applications, then pre-configure them in its memory on startup. This makes them much faster to access. However, there's a caveat - this feature only works well on computers with 2GB or more of RAM. If you have less than 2 GB of RAM, its best to turn it off because it will lead to hard disk thrashing instead.

Here's what you need to do to disable the Windows 7 Superfetch feature:

- Go to the *Start* menu and type '*services*' in the search bar. Hit Enter.
- In the services window, scroll down until you reach the '*Superfetch*' service.
- Right click and choose *Properties*. Simply select *Disabled* to disable the Superfetch service.

### **Tip #21: Enable The Windows Classic Desktop**

I, for one, cannot get used to the look of the Windows 7 user interface. If you have the same problem, you might want to enable the Windows Classic interface, and get some speed improvements at the same time.

Here's what you need to do:

- Right click on the *Start* menu and click *Properties*.
- Select the *Classic Start menu* option and click *OK*.
- Right click on an empty area of the desktop and choose *Personalize*.
- Select the *theme* option and in the *theme* dropdown box, choose *Windows Classic*. Click *OK*.

And that's it - your classic Windows Classic desktop is now available.

### **Tip #22: Disable Thumbnail Previews**

Here's a tip that I implemented almost immediately in Windows 7. By default, Windows 7 renders almost every directory in thumbnails view. This causes performance to take a hit if you have a lot of files and little memory. To disable these automatic thumbnail previews, do the following:

- Go to *Start > Computer*.
- Open the *Organize* menu and choose *Folder and search options*.
- Choose the *View* tab and place a check next to the *Always show icons, never thumbnails* option at the top. Hit *OK*.

### **Tip #23: Disable That Windows 7 Sidebar**

If you find no use for the Windows 7 sidebar, then it is definitely a good idea to disable it, since it does eat up system resources. Here's what you need to do:

- Right click on a blank area of the sidebar and choose *Properties*.
- Uncheck the *Start sidebar when windows starts* option. Hit *OK*.
- Next, right click on a blank area of the taskbar and choose *Close sidebar*.

### **Tip #24: Start The Task Manager Directly**

Traditionally, the *CTRL+ALT+DEL* keyboard shortcut opens up the task manager screen directly. In Windows 7, this shortcut gives you a more general option menu. To still access the task manager screen directly, hit *CTRL+SHIFT+ESC* instead.

### **Tip #25: How To Run Sidebar Gadgets Without The Windows 7 Sidebar**

Did you know that you can run Microsoft sidebar gadgets without the sidebar physically present? Simply click your favourite gadget, drag it out of the sidebar and then onto the desktop. Now close that sidebar and still keep the use of your favourite gadget. One caveat here - when you "close" the sidebar, it is still resident in system memory. This is required to keep your gadget running. If you totally "disable" the sidebar, then you will not be able to keep your favorite gadget on the desktop.

### **Tip #26: Select Multiple File Using Checkboxes**

You know how you have to press *Shift* or *CTRL* when trying to select multiple files in Windows XP? Well, Windows 7 has a special feature that enables you to select multiple files using checkboxes. Enable this feature and you will see a little checkbox next to each icon in the Windows Explorer window.

Here's what you do:

- Go to *Start > Computer*.
- Click the *Organize* menu and choose *folder and search options*. Select the *View* tab.
- Scroll down and check *Use check boxes to select items*.

### **Tip #27: Restore The Run Command To The Start Menu**

If you find you really can't live without the Windows XP style 'run' command on the start menu, it's easy enough to restore. If you're used to having the 'Run' command appear on the Start menu, you have an option to restore it in Windows 7. Here's what you do:

- Right click the *Start* menu and choose *Properties*.
- Choose the *Start menu* tab and click the *Customize* button.
- Scroll down, find the option *Run command* and check it. Click *OK*.

### **Tip #28: Use The Search Bar As The Run Command**

If you're used to using the *Run* command in Windows XP, then take note that you can do the same using the search bar in Windows 7. Not convinced? Well, the search bar will by default check all your folders, program files and Windows directories (even your Email and Internet history and favourites) every time you key in something. This means any stuff you recently accessed is just a few keystrokes away. Some examples: Hit the Windows key once, type mail and press Enter. Or you can try it again, this time with *'cmd'*. Quite neat, eh?

### **Tip #29: Remove The RSS Feed Sidebar Gadget**

See that default RSS feed sidebar gadget enabled by Windows 7? That little gadget runs intensively every few minutes and clogs up your system, slowing things down. It's serious enough to cause delays in games and applications. You should definitely remove it. Here's what you do - just highlight the feed gadget by positioning your mouse over it. Then click the small 'x' that appears to the top right of the icon. That's all there is to it.

### **Tip #30: Optimize The Mouse Scroll Wheel**

Did you know you can change the resolution of the mouse scroll wheel? By default, Windows 7 scrolls 3 lines at a time - but if you want a faster scrolling rate, this can be easily changed.

Here's what you do:

- Open the *Start* menu and type '*regedit*'
- Navigate to the node '*HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Control Panel\Desktop*' in the registry.
- Scroll down to the '*WheelScrollLines*' value. Double click it and edit the value to a suitable value. A larger value gives larger "scrolls" on the mouse wheel.

Note that you need to restart the PC for this tip to take effect.

### **Tip #31: Remove The 'GUI Boot' For Faster Startup**

You know that little animated bar you see while Windows 7 is loading? Well, you can disable that to improve your startup time. Here's what you do:

- Open the *Start* menu and enter '*msconfig*' in the search bar. Hit Enter.
- When the *MSConfig* window opens, navigate to the *boot* tab.
- Check the *No GUI boot* option, then click *OK*.

### **Tip #32: Hidden Context Menu Power Tools**

Did you know that the right-click context menu in Windows 7 has some power tools behind it? What you do is to press and hold the SHIFT key while you bring the context menu. If you apply this action to a file, you get "power" options to pin the file to the start menu, add it to the Quick Launch bar or even save its name and directory as a path for cut-and-paste. You can also apply the same power tool to a folder - revealing a "copy as text path" option or even popping up a command prompt window within the folder you selected.

### **Tip #33: Launch Applications Faster**

Did you know that when you place items in the Quick Launch bar, Windows 7 automatically assigns shortcut keys to them? Those shortcut keys are really convenient - just press the Windows and a number key corresponding to the icon's position in the bar. Let's say Internet Explorer is the fifth application in the Quick Launch bar - pressing *Windows-5* will launch Internet Explorer. Cool, huh? If the Quick Launch bar is not visible, then right-click an empty part of the Taskbar and select it under the Toolbars menu.

### **Tip #34: Capture Screen shots With Ease**

In Windows 7, there's an in-built Snipping Tool (just press *CTRL-SHIFT-P*) which allows you to capture an image of any object on your screen. You can then also annotate, save, or share the image. If you've captured a clip from an Internet Explorer window, saving that capture as an HTML file will automatically append the URL is to the image. No more grappling with the *PrintScr* key to capture screen shots!

### **Tip #35: Eliminate Those Security Warnings**

The thing about Windows 7 is that it is very "pumped up" about security. If you don't have an antivirus program or a firewall, Windows 7 will keep nagging you about it. Which is really tiresome and irritating.

What you need to do is to:

- Access the *Security Center* shield icon in the system tray.
- Stop it from popping up constantly by right-clicking the icon and clicking *Open Security Center*.
- In *Security Center*, click *Change the Way Security Center Alerts Me*. Select *Don't Notify Me* and *Don't Display the Icon*.

There, say bye bye to nagging pop-up warnings.

### **Tip #36: Create an XPS Document**

Did you know that Windows 7 allows you to create XML Paper Specification (XPS) documents? This is a very useful file format - it's an open-standard version of the Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. With Windows 7, you can print, edit and save XPS files without an Adobe license. To access this feature, simply click on Print in a word processor or any application that allows you to print. Then you just need to select the automatically installed XPS Printer to print the document to an XPS file.

### **Tip #37: How To Add Your Photos Faster**

In Windows 7, there is great support for digital cameras. You no longer need any proprietary software for importing pictures into Windows. Just use Windows Photo Gallery - it allows you to dump photos from your camera and erase your camera's memory card with a single click.

Here's what you do:

- Select *Options* from the *File* menu.
- Under the *Import* tab, select *Always erase from camera after importing*.

Use this with care though - you wouldn't want to accidentally erase photos of your trip to Spain ...

### **Tip #38: Easily Share Your Calendar With Others**

Did you know that Windows 7 has a neat calendar feature? You can share your schedule with others online - amazing stuff.

Here's what you do:

- Type '*calendar*' into the Start menu
- This launches the calendar. Add a few appointments and click the *Share* menu.

And that's it - you're off sharing your calendar with others.

### **Tip #39: The Set Affinity Option**

By default, Windows 7 assumes you like to multitask, i.e. spread resources across multiple CPUs. If you've a single application that consumes heck of a lot of system resources (culprits like Norton AntiVirus) - you might want to bypass that multitasking and force the PC to run exclusively off a single CPU. This might improve efficiency.

Here's what you do:

- Bring up the *Task Manager*, find the resource-hogging process
- Right-click on it and select *Set Affinity*.
- Simply deselect one of the cores - you will isolate the process and boost its efficiency.

### **Tip #40: A More Powerful File Restore Feature**

If you've used Windows XP before, you'll know it has a System Restore feature that fixes your operating system problems. However, if you did something silly like save a Word file instead of quitting, then Windows 7 will be able to help (not XP). In Windows 7, you have "shadow copies" of your files created daily. You just need to right-click a file to roll it back to its earlier versions. Neat stuff.

### **Tip #41: Reveal That Digital Keyboard**

Windows 7 has a neat feature - it comes with a virtual keyboard. If you somehow lose your real, physical keyboard, you can access this virtual one. Here's how – Key in 'OSK' into the *Start* menu's *Search* field. Hit enter to bring up the on-screen keyboard and then just use your mouse to key in data.

### **Tip #42: Remove 8.3 Name Creation For Files**

Ok, let's be realistic - the 8.3 namespace is no longer necessary these days. It existed as a method of naming files used in DOS and Windows 3.1. However, this naming standard has not been necessary since the days Windows 95 was introduced. I seriously doubt you will be using some DOS-based 16-bit application that can only recognize 8.3 character file names - the only situation where you will need 8.3 name creation support. In other words, just disable the thing.

Here's how you do it:

- Open the *Start* menu, type '*regedit*' and hit Enter.
- Navigate to  
'*HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\FileSystem*'
- Change the value of the '*NtfsDisable8dot3NameCreation*' *DWORD*' to *1*.

And that's it – no more cumbersome 8.3 name creation mumbo jumbo.

### **Tip #43: Make Your Network Private**

Windows 7 runs two types of wireless networks - public and private. By default, Windows 7 makes your network public - but this gives you a less comprehensive view of the network behind your router. What you might want to do is to set your network to Private - this allows you to view your network in a more comprehensive light using a protocol called Link Layer Topology Discovery. Here's how to set your wireless network private:

- In the *Network and Sharing Center*, click on *Customize* under the picture of your network at top.
- Switch the network to *Private* and click *Next*.

And that's it – you're now running a private wireless network with a much better view of what's going on behind your router.

### **Tip #44: Disable The Last Access File Update**

If you've been using the NTFS file system, you might know that Windows will by default update each file with a date stamp every time it is accessed. If you don't need this, then save some CPU cycles by disabling it. Oh, this is not the same feature as the 'file last modified on' - that bit of information is still captured for all files in Windows Explorer.

Here's how you disable last access file updating:

- Open the *Start* menu, type '*regedit*' and hit Enter.
- Navigate to  
'*HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\FileSystem*'
- Change the value of the '*NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate*' *DWORD* to *1*.

### **Tip #45: How To Show Super Hidden Files in Windows Explorer**

In Windows 7, even if you turn on 'Show hidden files' in Windows Explorer, some files will still remain hidden. I call these files are super hidden. To show these, here's what you do:

- Click on the *Start* button and type '*regedit*'.
- Navigate to the key  
*HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced*
- Set the value of the '*SuperHidden*' key to 1.
- Reboot the machine and the super hidden files will be shown.

### **Tip #46: Windows Easy Transfer**

If you need to transfer your important programs from a Windows XP-based PC to a new Windows 7-based PC, try using the [Windows Easy Transfer program](#).

This software will move more than 100 of the most popular programs. It will also move many others that you may have installed. You can easily select which programs to move and which not to move, and the program will also alert you which ones cannot be moved and which ones cannot be moved with high confidence. Note that you will probably not be able to move security related software.

Also, take note that you can connect the Windows XP PC and the Windows 7 PC using a home network or using a companion package called Easy Transfer Companion.

### **Tip #47: Dual Boot XP and Windows 7**

If you have software that used to work in Windows XP but just cannot work in Windows 7, then you're not alone. There are thousands of users out there with application compatibility issues in Windows 7. For example, some classic PC games just will not run under Windows 7 no matter how you tweak the compatibility options. To get around these problems, you will need to dual boot Windows XP and Windows 7.

If you dual boot between Windows XP and Windows 7 on the same computer, you will get a boot menu which allows you to specify what operating system you want to run. This menu will be shown just after you power on the PC.

There are two scenarios here which I want to step through - one where you've already installed XP and one in which you have already installed Windows 7.

If only Windows XP has been installed and you want to dual boot XP and Windows 7, then you've not much work to do. Just do the following:

- Boot to your Windows 7 install DVD
- Select *Custom Install*
- Install Windows 7 on a separate partition or physical drive than where you had XP installed.

This will leave your Windows XP installation intact and automatically install a boot menu with both XP and Windows 7 listed. That's all there is to it.

If only Windows 7 has been installed and you want to dual boot XP and Windows 7, then things will be a bit more complicated. Here's what you do:

- Boot up your computer with a Windows XP install CD and install Windows XP to a different partition or physical drive than where you had Windows 7 is installed. Once complete, your PC will automatically boot into Windows XP - no worries, Windows 7 is still there but you can't see it.
- Now when you installed XP above, the Windows 7 Boot Manager was replaced by boot components from Windows XP. You need to fix the Windows 7 Boot Manager by using the Windows 7 install DVD.
- Next, boot your computer using the Windows 7 install DVD.
- Click *Next* on the '*Regional Settings*' screen and then click on '*Repair your computer*'. Just select your Windows 7 install and then run *Startup Repair*. This fixes the boot manager and Windows 7 henceforth startup automatically again.
- The last thing to do is to add an entry to the Windows Boot Manger for Windows XP. Get into Windows 7, then open a command prompt window. Next, run the following commands:

```
bcdedit /create {ntldr} /d "Windows XP"  
bcdedit /set {ntldr} device boot  
bcdedit /set {ntldr} path \ntldr  
bcdedit /displayorder {ntldr} /addlast
```

Reboot your computer and you should now see the boot menu listing both Windows 7 and Windows XP.

### **Tip #48: Launch Flip 3D**

Here's one of the most demonstrated features of Windows 7. To launch the Flip 3D feature to toggle between applications, do the following:

- Press and hold the *Windows Key + Tab*.
- Scroll wheel on your mouse or the up and down keyboard arrows to navigate through the windows.
- When the window you require is on top, release the *Windows* and *Tab* keys.

### **Tip #49: - Change Taskbar Time to International Format**

If you've always wanted to change the time format in the taskbar to international time format, here's what you need to do:

- Click on the *Start* button and type in '*intl.cpl*'. Hit Enter.
- Click the button called '*Customize this format*'.
- Click on the *Time* tab.
- Next, change the time format to *H:mm:ss* and hit OK.
- Hit *OK* again to close *Regional and Language Options*.

### **Tip #50: Increase Maximum Internet Explorer 7 Downloads**

In case you're not aware, Internet Explorer 7 restricts you to downloading a maximum of two files from the same server at a time. This limit is imposed by the web standard and can be increased.

- Click on the *Start* button and type in '*regedit*'.
- Navigate to the entry *HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER, Software, Microsoft, Windows, CurrentVersion and Internet Settings*.
- Right click on *MaxConnectionsPerServer* and choose *Modify*. Set the decimal value to something greater than 2.
- Right click on *MaxConnectionsPer1\_0Server* and select *Modify*. Set the decimal value to something greater than 2.

Reboot the machine and you maximum downloads in Internet Explorer would have increased.

## Conclusion

I hope this report has shown you various secrets to unlocking the productivity of Windows 7. No doubt that at first glance, Windows 7 might seem like an inefficient and cumbersome new operating system, but as you get more used to it, the more gems you'll find inside. If you're interested in more Windows 7 tips and tricks, check out [Windows 7: The Missing Manual](#) – I find it a really good resource book.

That's all from me for now. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to improve this report, do feel free to [drop me a note](#).

Until next time, here's wishing you good luck and happy computing!

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*Gary Hendricks runs a hobby site on building computers. Visit his website at <http://www.build-your-own-computers.com> for tips and tricks on assembling a PC, as well as buying good computer components.*

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