

Optimise Your Windows System

After a while, you may notice that your Windows system (XP, Vista, possibly even 7) slow down compared to how they were when you first used them. This is remotely due to the amount of software and changes written to the registry overtime.

This guide will demonstrate how to optimise your machine.

DISCLAIMER: THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE. ANY MODIFICATIONS SHOULD BE DONE ONLY IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TOUCHING.

Contents

1. [Windows System Configuration](#)

The first step into making sure you know that you are in control of the software and settings of your machine.

1.1 [Services](#)

By looking at the running services, you will know what is expected to be running at each boot.

1.2 [Startup](#)

The startup table controls both registry and startup folder software.

2. [Using Software](#)

By employing the use of other software, you will be able to remove files that are no longer in use. Beware of the software you use. This section will highlight Hull Design Online's recommendations.

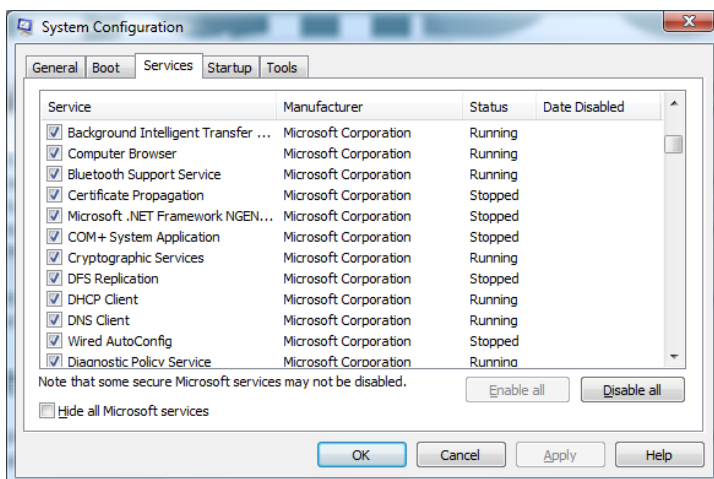
Windows System Configuration

This is a utility within the Windows operating system from XP onwards which allows you to take control of your machine. The easiest way to launch this utility is to navigate to **Start > Run...** then type '**msconfig**' (without the quotes). Users of Windows Vista onwards can simply type '**msconfig**' into the search box within the start menu. Any changes will require a restart, or a log off.

If you have User Account Control enabled, you will be required to **Continue** to open the utility.

Services

Typically, the services tab will not require any altering. It's simply an overview of what services are launched as soon as you log on or startup your machine. DO NOT change anything within this area unless you are ABSOLUTELY SURE about doing so. This is an essential part of the Windows operating system and should only be changed by advanced users.

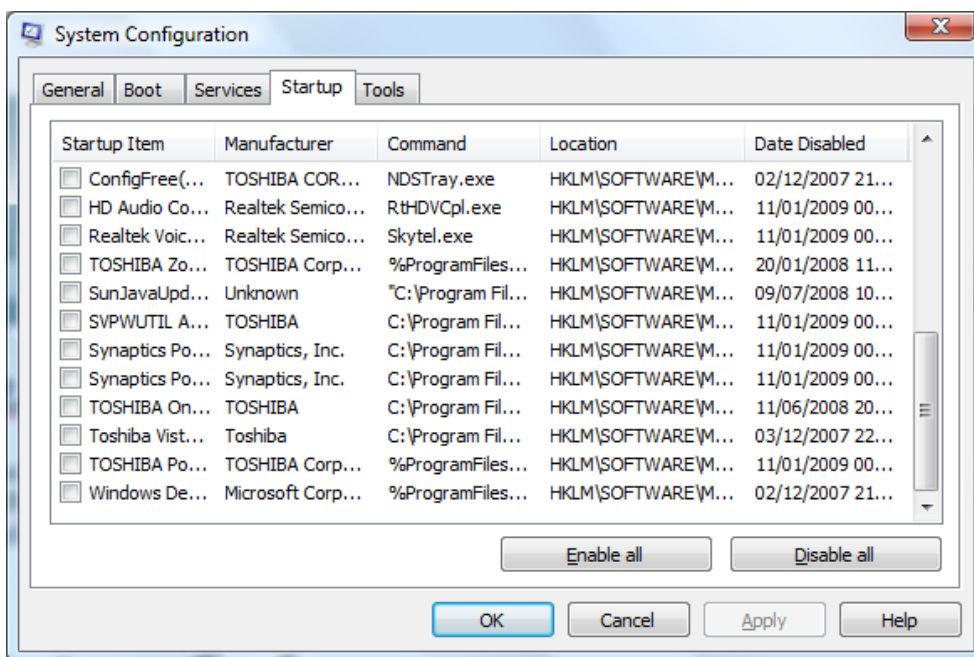


The next tab is the Startup. This is more customisable.

Startup

Moving along the top of the System Configuration utility, the Startup tab lists all of the applications which start on log on to your system. These are generally the applications which sit in your system tray beside your time.

The screenshot below shows what the Startup tab looks like.



As you can see, the applications here are disabled and the date which they were disabled is shown next to the software.

The key to knowing which software to disable is to look at the name. For example, Windows Defender is not required at startup as it's not the software of preference for spyware removal. Therefore, it has been disabled from starting up on logon.

If you're at all unsure about unticking the box, don't. It's always easier to research the software before disabling it. This is also a quick way to check for programs that shouldn't be starting up when you logon, such as spyware or other unwanted software.

Using Software

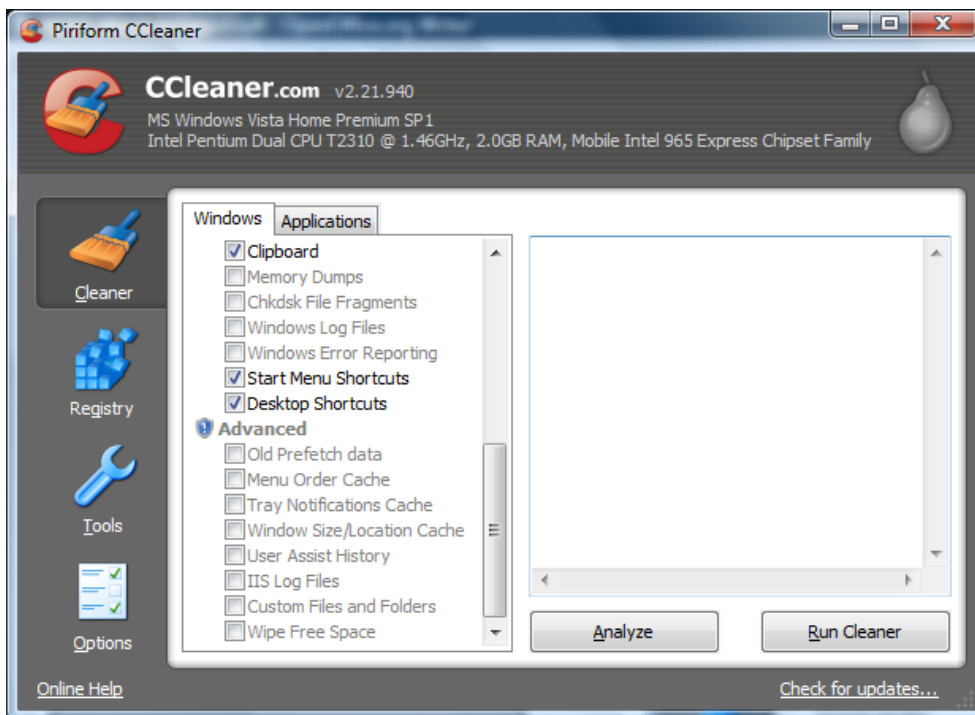
There is a lot of software available which claims to restore your RAM usage to a lower amount, or clean the registry. **Be very careful** as, typically, these types of software are designed to erase wanted files in order to clean your system.

Not all software does this however. An excellent utility is Piriform's CCleaner. You can download this by navigating to: <http://www.ccleaner.com>.

The setup is very straightforward and if you need any assistant, use the Help & Support link on the website.

Any user of Windows Vista onwards and having the User Account Control activated will need to **Continue** to allow the software to run.

Once opened, the software has plenty of options to chose from.



As a general rule, **untick the Advanced section** as this will help to make sure that



no important files are accidentally erased. Furthermore, check the settings and **do not remove** any Windows logs or error reporting – it may be useful to diagnose any errors occurred on your system.

A controversial choice is to remove temporary files. Sometimes this may cause errors, although nine times of out ten, it will generally be fine to remove any temporary files as long as no other applications are running at the same time.

The **Registry** section is there. It doesn't have to be used as registry entries only take kilobytes of space and shouldn't be altered unless there is any major reason to do so.

Hopefully now you should be in control of your system! Your running applications should be the ones that you know of and want to be running, or they should be essential.

Remember, any modifications done should be monitored. Any errors occurring after modification would suggest that you will need to undo the changes you have made.

Hull Design Online can NOT be held responsible for any misconfiguration caused by following this guide.