

Enhancing/Transforming Win XP Manifestation and Feat

Sajad Ahmed, M. Sulleman Memon and A. Sattar Ansari

Abstract—In XP version of windows, Microsoft has already manipulated many changes as compared to previous releases of Windows versions but here in this piece of work first time in this type of software based research we have twisted its appearance and transformed its feat by extending its manifestation. We have concentrated to change both appearance and its performance by adopting our own universities environment that is very specific work. We did that by developing an application that contains some options which are not declared by Microsoft Windows XP. Actually we modify the values of the registry editor using visual basic 6.0 as a programming tool and also described some options that are not belonging to the registry editor but concerned with the Windows XP appearance and performance.

Index Terms—enhancing, appearance, performance, registry, graphics, WinXP, DLL

I. INTRODUCTION

The appearance of the windows XP is best of all previous versions. Due to three dimensional appearances, with huge number of colors seems to be more attractive. If the appearance of windows XP is better then the performance of the windows XP is not as fast as Win 98 runs on the same PC. The use of more colorful graphics, consume the more memory, that's why for good appearance we need more and more memory, and also need the big processor. If we modify the appearance of the Windows, by dithering or use any other process, we get good result as in performance.

In the windows XP there is an option of the Adjust best performance and Adjust best appearance. These both inversely vary to each other. We can not get both of them, because for a radio button we can only select the one item. As shown in Figure 1. But we enhance the windows XP Professional for more user friendly. We enhance the windows XP using its registry Editor. The registry editor is actually the database in which data is merged. We disturb the registry editor data base using the Visual Basic as a interfacing tool. In other word we can say it the tweaking windows XP. We have also defined other than registry editor

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Sajad Ahmed, Post Graduate student MS(IT), Department of Information Technology, Quaid e Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology, Nawabshah, Sindh, PAKISTAN

Muhammad Sulleman Memon, Assistant Professor (Corresponding Author) Department of computer Engineering, Quaid e Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology, Nawabshah, Sindh, PAKISTAN (email:sullemanhalai@yahoo.com)Ph:+92-3337037187,Fax:+92-2449370367.

Abdul Sattar Ansari is Assistant Professor in department of Electronics Engineering, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan

APIs those are for calling memory and registering and unregistering the .DLL and .OCX files.

We gave options in the software which are very important in some cases. The different options are may be useful for different kind of the users.

II. RELATED WORK

Win XP already has a lot of features and functionalities and all those work according to one's expectations. Researchers has included and modified a lot of other features by adding and removing functionalities. in XP. Here in Table No:1 we are presenting a detailed review of work conducted in this regard with the comparison of same attributes with all famous versions of Windows, so that reader should be aware with all available attributes in different versions and XP.

Still windows XP can be enhanced because some of the user friendly features are not capable. We can make them a user friendly aspect using the windows registry. Because registry contain all the database of user settings. It also contains the options which are not given in control panel or policies of the windows. Some options are there in deep for user friendly setup but they are very risky and difficult to apply.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

There are a lot of things that can be performed a, changed, enhanced in WinXP to enhance it performance as **System Information, System OS, Registered to, Computer Name, CPU Information, Desktop, icons etc** but here we are concentrating only on **Systray and its enhancements**.

A. Systray

Figure No 2 gives view of Systray items. In system tray we have only defined the start up options. Because if there number increases the PC becomes more and more slow in start. So this must keep less number of start up items to maintain your PC. If we disable that start up options, means uncheck the items, they remain there, we have done the thing that will empty from the msconfig also. Figure No 3 shows Msconfig startup and systray. The figure shows the non selected items in msconfig

1) Delete system tray OR Start up Objects:

Here we enumerate all the keys under the given registry key

```
EnumRegistryKeys(HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE, "SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Shared Tools\MSConfig\startupreg")
```

To delete the selected item from msconfig start up we just click delete the key from the registry that is written as above. Figure No: 4 give the scene for removal of items from systray. The operation of remove button as show in figure that is,

select the item and click remove.

TABLE NO. 1: COMPARISON OF WORK CONDUCTED FOR WINDOWS FEATURES ENHANCEMENT [1 TO 11]

Feature	Win 95/98/Me	Win NT 4.0	Win 2000 Pro	Win XP Pro
System Restore	APA	ANA	ANA	AA
Device Driver Rollback	ANA	ANA	ANA	AA
Reduce Need for Restart	ANA	ANA	AA	AA
Scalable Memory & Processor	ANA	AA	AA	AA
Windows File Protection	ANA	ANA	AA	AA
Windows Installer	APA	ANA	AA	AA
Internet Connection Firewall	ANA	ANA	ANA	AA
Encryption File System	ANA	ANA	APA	AA
IP Security	ANA	ANA	AA	AA
Remote Desktop	ANA	ANA	ANA	AA
Credential Manager	ANA	ANA	ANA	AA
Offline files	ANA	ANA	APA	AA
Offline Viewing	AA	AA	AA	AA
Synchronization Manager	ANA	ANA	AA	AA
Power Management	ANA	ANA	AA	AA
Hibernate	ANA	ANA	AA	AA
Hot Docking	AA	APA	AA	AA
ACPI	ANA	APA	AA	AA
Wireless Networking	ANA	ANA	ANA	AA
Setup Wizards	APA	ANA	ANA	AA
Network Bridge	APA	ANA	ANA	AA
ICS	APA	ANA	ANA	AA
Peer to Peer support	APA	ANA	ANA	AA

AA = Attribute Available

APA = Attribute Partially Available

ANA = Attribute Not Available

a) Add/Remove Help And Support form Start Menu

Remove Help And Support form Start Menu:

☒ Remove Help And Support form Start Menu

It is necessary for the advance users to remove help and support option from the start menu because they always run the things from the run that is in startup below the help and support options. Figure No:5 shows Add/Remove Help And Support form Start Menu. The help and support takes much time to open and a occupy the more process, finally it disturb the advanced users.

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER,"Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced", 4, "NoStartMenuHelp", 1]

Add Help and Support to Start Menu

☐ Add Help And Support form Start Menu

But it is recommended for bingers because they use the pc very slow and many and many times they need help.

To add the help and support in the start menu we use the following key.

b) Start

The start tabs in the desktop categories the start menu function in the windows. Figure No:6 gives View of Desktop>Start

Add Help and Support to Start Menu

☐ Add Help And Support form Start Menu

But it is recommended for bingers because they use the pc very slow and many and many times they need help.

To add the help and support in the start menu we use the following key.

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER,"Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced", 4, "NoStartMenuHelp", 0]

c) Increase / Decrease Start Menu Delay Time (Slow)

Increase Start Menu Delay Time (Slow)

☒ Increase Start Menu Delay Time (Slow)

When we click the start menu it will appear too late

We have used following key to enabling that option

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER, "Control Panel\Desktop", 1, "MenuShowDelay", "300"]

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER,"Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced", 4, "NoStartMenuHelp", 0]

d) Decrease Start Menu Delay Time (Fast)

☒ Decrease Start Menu Delay Time (Fast)

This will decrease the menu show delay we have used following key.

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER, "Control Panel\Desktop", 1, "MenuShowDelay", "0"]

e) Change Start Text Temporary

☒ Change Start Text Temporarily

GO->

f) Change Start Text Temporary

☒ Change Start Text Temporarily

GO->

If someone use the same thing he will be bored in little bit time the changing of the thing more excite the peoples, similarly if someone bored from this start text now he can change this. This is not put out from the registry but it is copied from the shell memory. We have known memory is volatile therefore starts text change temporary. Figure No: 7 shows Change Start Caption

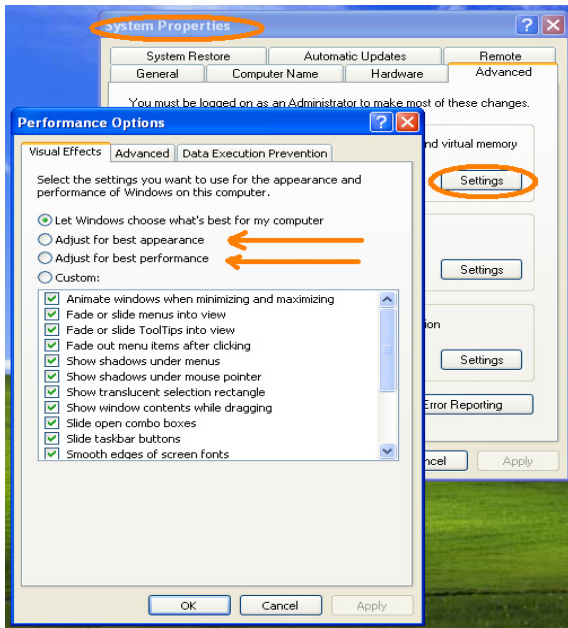


Figure 1: Show the best appearance and best performance options

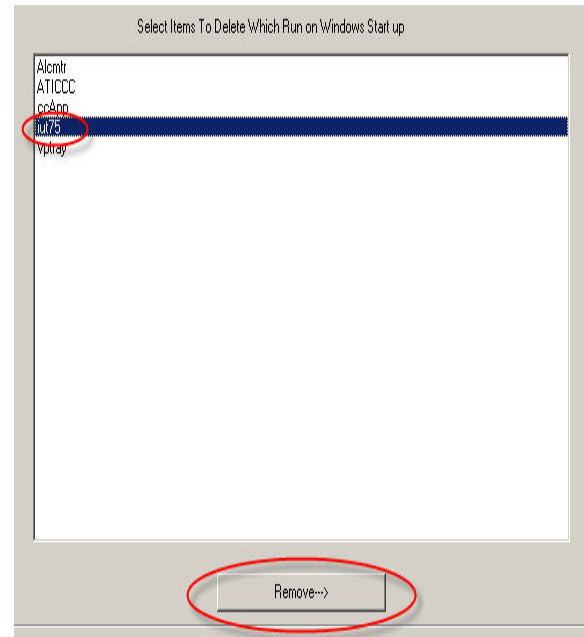


Figure 4: Remove item from systay

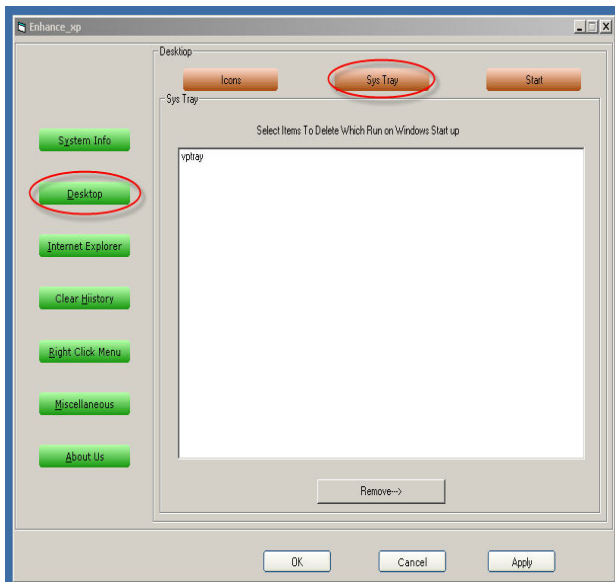


Figure 2: View of Systay item

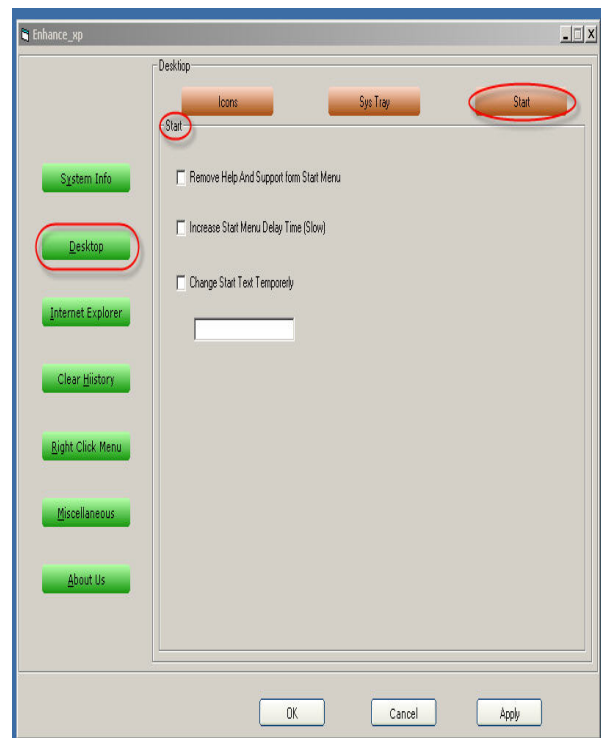


Figure 5: View of Desktop>Start

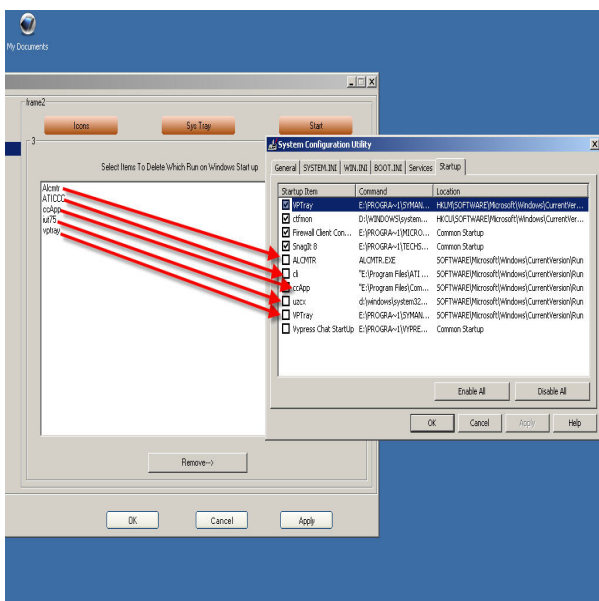
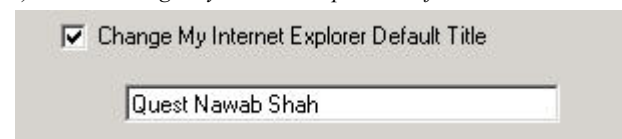


Figure 3: Msconfig startup and systay

B. Internet Explorer

Internet explorer is a built in application in windows and for the internet the browser is an important and frequently in use. Figure No: 8 is the Snapshot of internet explorer tab

a) Change My Internet Explorer Default Title



When any user changes the style or the theme of the shell that will more heavy and will be third party and unauthenticated software, instead of that we can change internet explorer title text. This is much better for

organizations computers. Figure No: 9 shows Change in My Internet Explorer Default Title.

We have used the following key to change the text of the IE title bar.

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER, "Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Main", 1, "Window Title"]

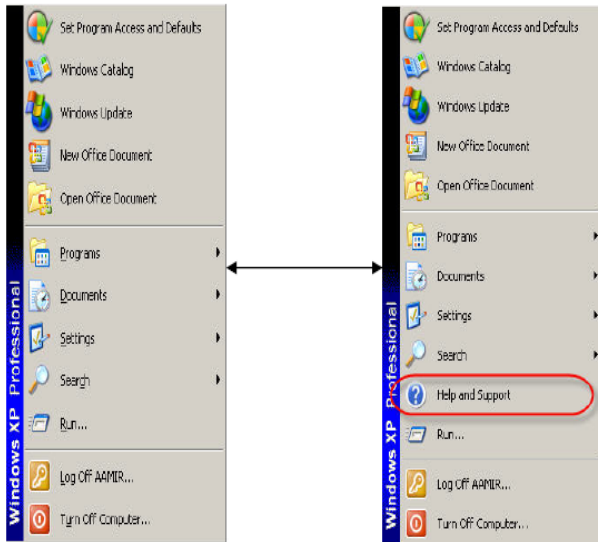


Figure 6: Add/Remove Help and Support from Start Menu

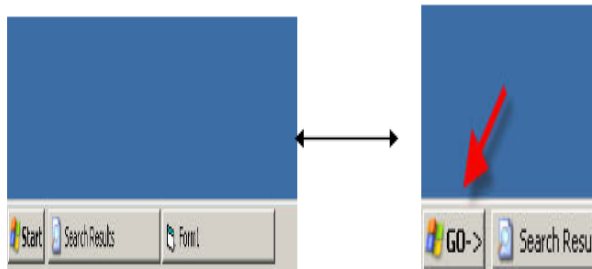


Figure 7: Change Start Caption

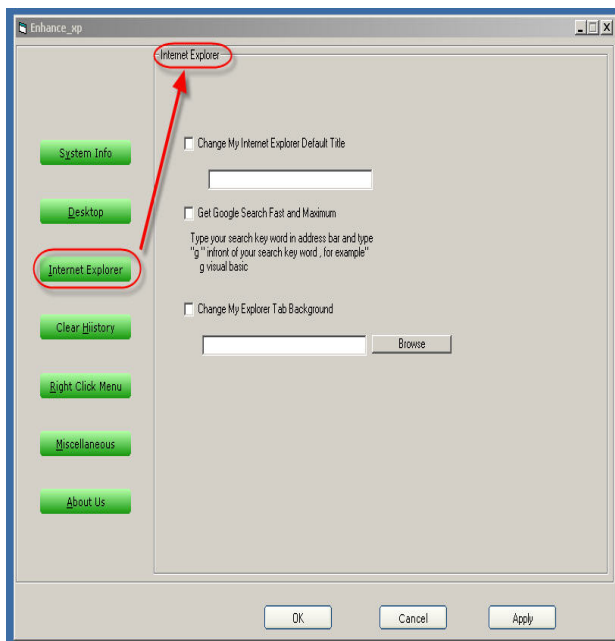
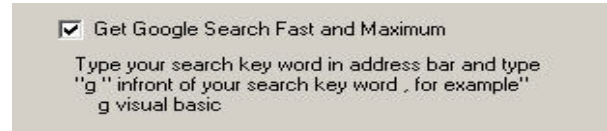


Figure 8: Snapshot of internet explorer tab

b) Get Google Search Fast and Maximum



The most using searching engine in the world is the Google search engine. But by default it will give you 10 results per page. We have merged the query of Google for internet explorer to give you maximum and quick search. Figure No:10 is View of Google search query. You can locate that query at the following registry key

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER, "Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\SearchUrl\g"]
 "http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=%s&num=100")

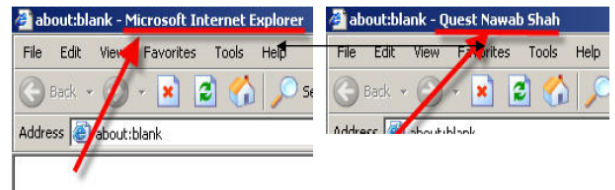


Figure 9: Change My Internet Explorer Default Title

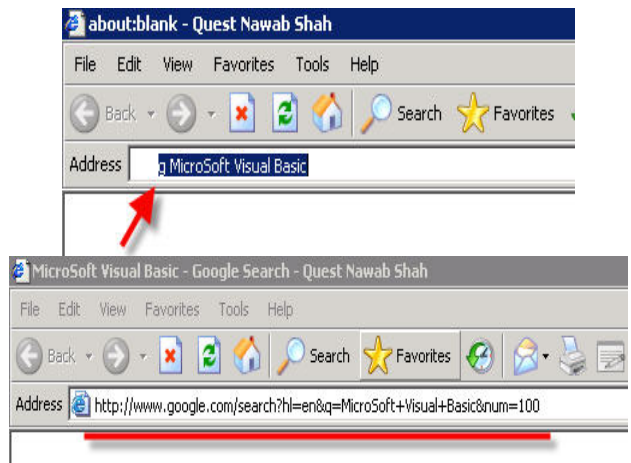


Figure 10: View of Google search query

c) Change My Explorer Tab Background

When any user changes the style or the theme of the shell that will more heavy and will be third party and unauthenticated software, we can change the look for internet explorer tab background. Figure No: 11 is about Change My Explorer Tab Background. We have used the key for changing explorer back bitmap given below value: "your path"

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER, "SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Toolbar"]
 value name: "BackBitmap"

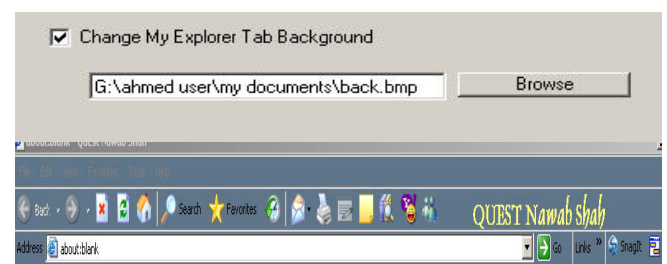


Figure 11: Change My Explorer Tab Background

C. Clear History

History is actually a data base which will store in the Data base files. For recalling the previous action it may be helpful, but it will be dangerous when the pc is shared. Figure No: 12 is Snapshot of clear history tab.

a) Clear Typed URLs List



The typed URL list is stored in the following key, if we delete all the keys under it the typed URL stored list will be vanish.

[HKEY_CURRENT_USER, "Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\TypedURLs"]

In this option we can also do functions about Clear Run Command List, Clear Recent Document List, Clear Common Dialog List, Clear Common Dialog List, Clear Word Pad File List, Clear Search Assistant List and Clear Media Player File List in the same way by using their specific keys. We can also Prevent Recent File List by the same technique.

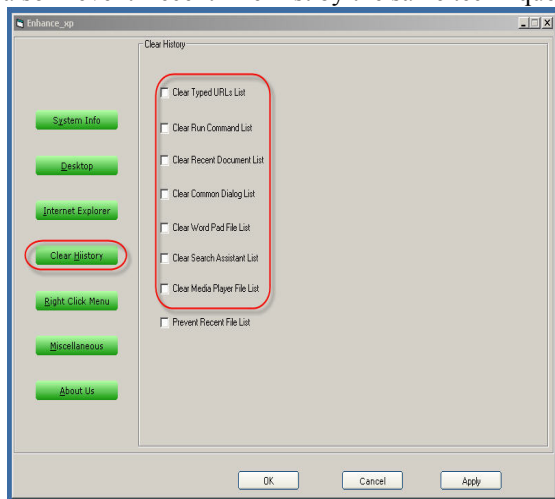


Figure12: Snapshot of clear history tab

D. Right Click Menu

The right click menu plays very important role in the windows. Right click popup menu items are also called context menu handlers. In this section we have defined some enhancements for the right click context menu handlers. Figure No: 13 is Snapshot of right click menu tab

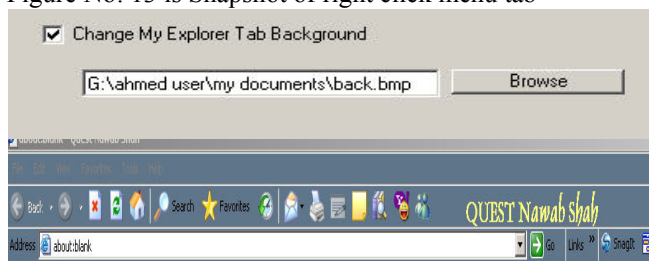


Figure 13: Change My Explorer Tab Background

E. Desktop

The desktop right click is mostly used by the user. Not for other things but mostly using for refresh the desktop and the explorer. In desktop we have mentioned some options that is only for desktop right click.

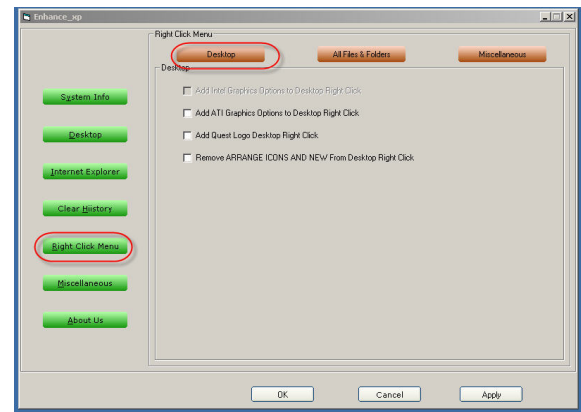


Figure 13: Snapshot of right click menu tab

a) Add/Remove Intel Graphics Options to Desktop Right Click

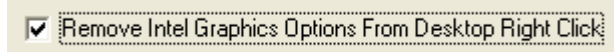
Add Intel Graphics Options to Desktop Right Click



This option will be enabled on that PCs which have intel graphics drivers installed. we have use the following registry key to add in the right click menu.

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT,"Directory\Background\shell\ContextMenuHandlers\igfxcui"]

b) Remove Intel Graphics Options From Desktop Right Click



To remove this is very important because this graphic option loads many heavy files and this option is rarely used. Figure No: 14 is to Add/Remove Intel Graphics Options to Desktop Right Click This option is produced disturbance for beginner as well as advanced users this option may helpful for professional graphic designers. We delete the following for removing the Intel Graphic option from Desktop right click.

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT,"Directory\Background\shell\ContextMenuHandlers\igfxcui"]

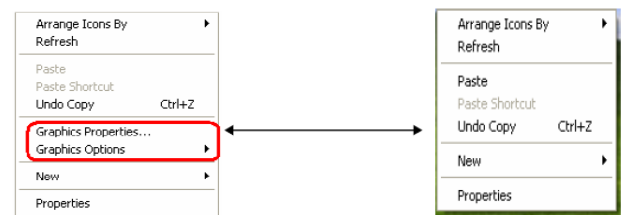


Figure 14: Add/Remove Intel Graphics Options to Desktop Right Click

c) Add/ Remove ATI Graphics Options From Desktop Right Click

Remove ATI Graphics Options from Desktop Right Click

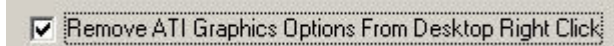


Figure No: 15 give idea about Add/ Remove ATI Graphics Options From Desktop Right Click This options will be enabled in that PCs in which the ATI Radeon graphic Card and drivers are installed. Else it will be disabled. We can use the following registry key to add and remove the ATI controller extension.

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT,"Directory\Background\shell\ContextMenuHandlers\ACE"]

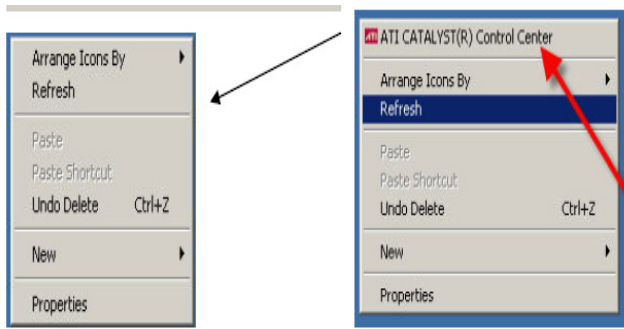


Figure 15: Add/ Remove ATI Graphics Options From Desktop Right Click

Add ATI Graphics Options to Desktop Right Click

☒ Add ATI Graphics Options to Desktop Right Click

d) Add/Remove Quest Logo Desktop Right Click

Add QUEST Logo Desktop Right Click

☒ Add Quest Logo Desktop Right Click

This is my personal addition in the Desktop right click menu only for the QUEST Nawabshah. Figure No: 16 is to Add/Remove Quest Logo Desktop Right Click. I have not used registry but register and register dll file that will automatically merge to the context menu handlers.

Remove QUEST Logo Desktop Right Click

☒ Remove Quest Logo Desktop Right Click

It is the inverse process of above, previously we register the dll file now we unregister the dll file.

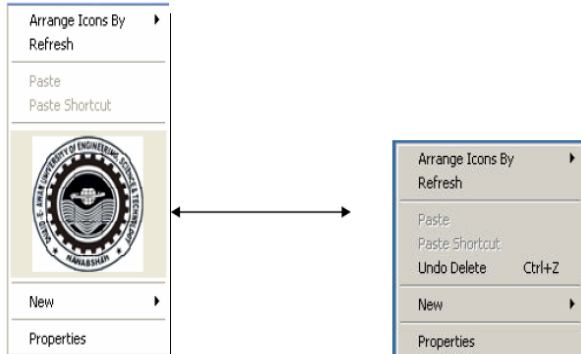


Figure 16: Add/Remove Quest Logo Desktop Right Click

e) Add/Remove Arrange Icons and New From Desktop Right Click

Remove Arrange Icons And New From Desktop Right Click

☒ Remove ARRANGE ICONS AND NEW From Desktop Right Click

This is not more important to delete the arrange icons and new from the desktop right click menu but if any one have problem with the arrange icons and new he can remove. As we know the arrange icons and new are not uses frequently. In new we use mostly for new folder and new text document. Figure No: 17 Add/Remove Arrange Icons And New From Desktop Right Click we use the following key to remove or the new and arrange icons menu.

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT,"Directory\Background\shell\ContextMenuHandlers\NEW"]

Add Arrange Icons And New From Desktop Right Click

☒ Add ARRANGE ICONS AND NEW From Desktop Right Click

If someone has removed the new and arrange icons he can rollback that changes

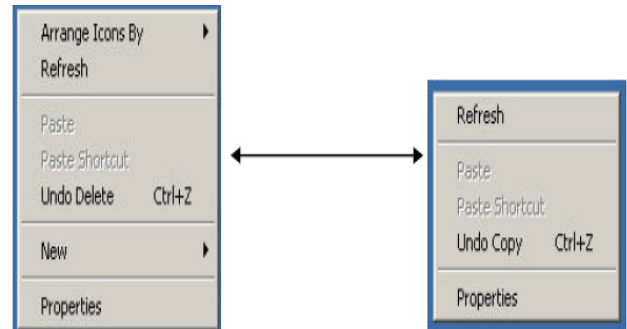


Figure 17: Add/Remove Arrange Icons and New From Desktop Right Click

f) All Files and Folder

This tab contains the right click popup menu for all files and folders. Figure No: 18 is Snapshot of All Files & Folders tab

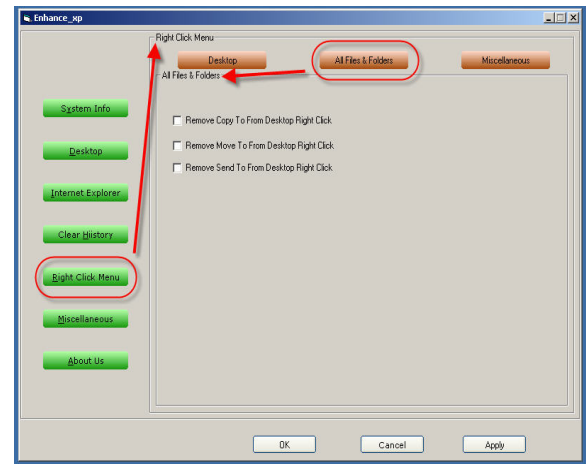


Figure 18: Snapshot of All Files & Folders tab

g) Add/Remove Copy To In Desktop Right Click

Add Copy To In Desktop Right Click

☒ Add Copy To In Desktop Right Click

Add copy to folder is an important feature that has been missed because when we copy a thing then first we need to open the destination. But with help of this we don't have to open the destination, only select the destination via right click as in send to menu. Figure No: 19 shows Addition of copy to in right click

We have used following key to play with that option

Remove Copy To From Desktop Right Click

☐ Remove Copy To From Desktop Right Click

Remove is only the reverse process of the above.

h) Add/Remove Move To In Desktop Right Click

Add Move to In Desktop Right Click

☒ Add Move To In Desktop Right Click

Copy to folder is working for copying the file similarly move to folder is working for cutting the file form source and paste to the destination. Figure No: 20 show Remove Send To From Desktop Right Click.

The working principle of move to folder is similar as copy to folder but in this the source will be erased. Here we use the following key to apply the option.

Remove Move To From Desktop Right Click

☐ Remove Move To From Desktop Right Click

Remove is only the reverse process of the above

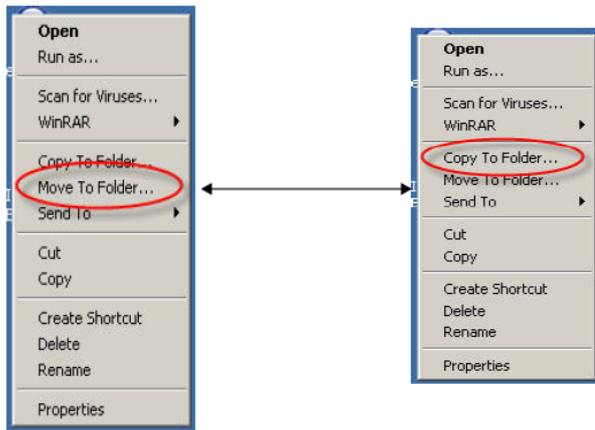


Figure 19: Add copy to in right click

i) Add/Remove Send To From Desktop Right Click

Remove Send To From Desktop Right Click

☐ Remove Send To From Desktop Right Click

Send to is an option that is already in windows right click. But any administrator wants to restrict this option for any user. Then he can do with help of this. We have use the following key for removing the send To option delete this value {7BA4C740-9E81-11CF-99D3-00AA004AE837}

[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE,"SOFTWARE\Classes\AllFilesystemObjects\

shellex\ContextMenuHandlers\Send To"]

Add Send To In Desktop Right Click

☒ Add Send To In Desktop Right Click

Add send to desktop right click is the reverse process of the above it will be happened by adding the key that we have deleted previously.

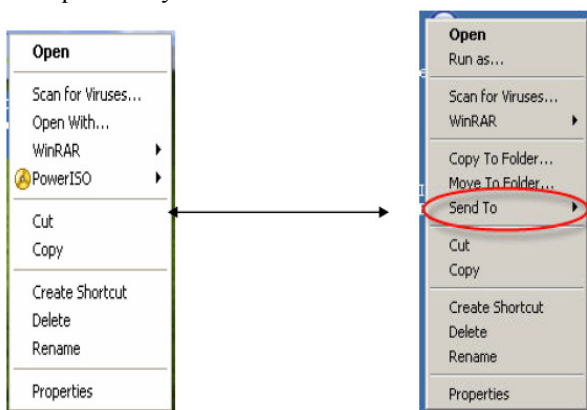


Figure 20: Remove Send to From Desktop Right Click

F. Right Click Menu > Miscellaneous

1) Add/Remove Winrar right Click Options

Remove Winrar right Click Options

☒ Remove Win Rar right Click options

This is especially for that PCs in which winrar already installed. It removes the option of winrar that contained by the right click. Figure No: 21 give Snapshot of Miscellaneous tab

The adding will be the reverse process to above. In this we insert the CLSID for the winrar. For removing we have remove the CLSID

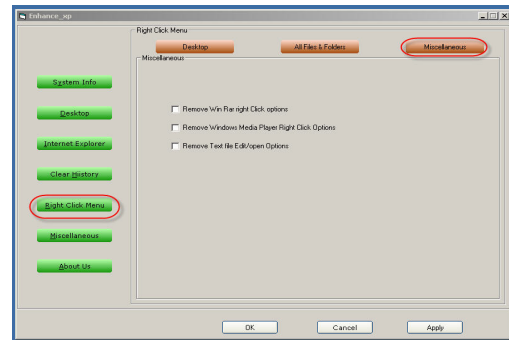


Figure 21: Snapshot of Miscellaneous tab

Remove Windows Media Player Right Click Options

☒ Remove Windows Media Player Right Click Options

when we right click on the windows media player associated files, then it shows a big list of options, and that is used in very rare cases. This slows down to open the context menu handlers. To make it real time fast we have deleted the CLSID of that options.

Remove Text File edit /Print Option

☒ Remove Text file Edit/open Options

Similarly as above for windows media player as described, the text file also contain the options of edit and print, edit and open job is similar but print option not used so much, because 95% have not the printer facility, therefore they have no need of that option.

IV. CONCLUSION

This is a new type of work rarely conducted in past. In this paper researchers have made an attempt for Transforming Win XP manifestation and enhancing its feat. All is done by keeping a local university environment and enhancing the daily routine functionalities by modifying values of the registry editor using visual basic 6.0 as a programming tool. By conducting this we have opened doors for new enhancements in Win XP.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Authors are thankful to Director Post graduate and administration of Quaid e Awam UEST, Nawabshah, PAKISTAN to provide the lab facilities to conduct this piece of research.

REFERENCES

{NOTE: ALL 'HKEYS' COMMANDS are taken from Microsoft SOFTWARE, only there values are changed w.r.t USABILITY, therefore no specific reference is given at all keys}

- [1] <http://www.bizcentral.co.uk/products/os/compare.msp>
- [2] http://www.kuku.co.il/disable_administrative_shares.htm
- [3] <http://uksupport.wordpress.com/tag/registry-hack/>
- [4] <http://www.freewebs.com/adeelonline/hackingshits.htm>
- [5] <http://www.is-it-true.org/nt/registry/tips2.shtml>
- [6] <http://pkomputer.uum.edu.my/doc/Manual%20Error%20WinXP%20A%20to%20Z.doc?>
- [7] <http://www.microsoft.com/hk/windowsxp/pro/evaluation/whyupgrade/default.msp>
- [8] <http://service1.symantec.com/SUPPORT/sharedtech.nsf/0/b5bc48477b8d15c3652572d000684016?OpenDocument&seg=hm&lg=en&ct=us>
- [9] <http://cdxperso.infoliens.com/viewtopic.php?t=535&sid=>
- [10] <http://www.forums.webasenet.com/lofiversion/index.php?t921.html>
- [11] http://internetvdc.com/diendan/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=1233&whichpage=1