

Windows XP: Security, Speed, Performance

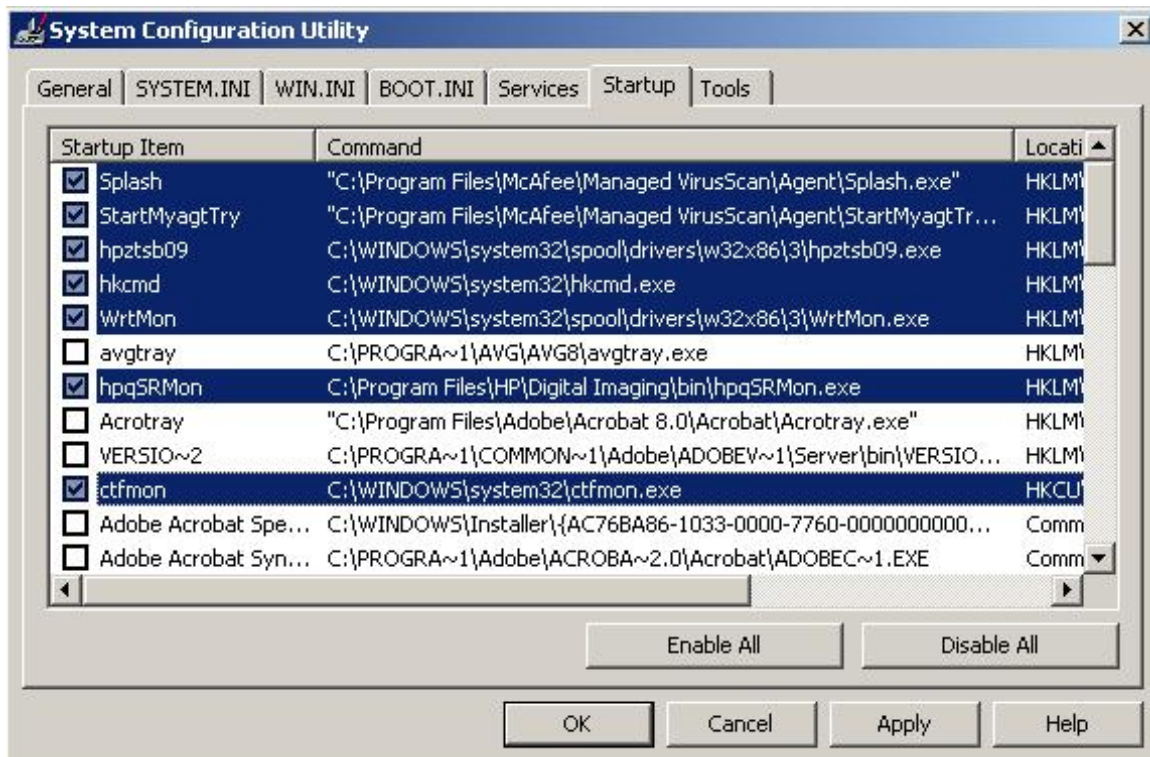
Start → Control Panel → Switch to Classic View (if needed) → System → Remote → uncheck both boxes → Apply

- “ “ → Automatic Updates → chose Automatic → change the time → Apply
- “ “ → Advanced → Setting → choose Adjust for best performance → Apply
- “ “ → System Restore → make sure Turn Off is not checked → Apply

Start → Control Panel → Security Center → Windows Firewall → check On

Start → Run → type in “msconfig” → Startup → *uncheck items that you’re 100% sure you do not need (use caution) → Ok → Exit Without Restart (unless you want to)

* keep anything dealing with your virus protection, your printer (spooling), hkcmd, and ctfmon. Items you’re not 100% sure of, leave checked. Typical items you *might* uncheck are google, yahoo, realplayer, quicktime, java, notifiers, updates, etc.



Start → Control Panel → Display → Screen Saver → choose one → adjust settings → check On Resume Password Protect

Virus & Spam Protection

- You must have an active subscription – it's the new viruses that get you, not the old ones!
- McAfee or Norton is recommended. AVG is a great free one: www.free.avg.com
- Do not open any email attachments, or click on any links in an email, even from friends, that you are not 100% sure "they meant" to send you. Even then use caution!
- Do not download any free software (calendars, screensavers, weather alerts, games, virus or spam protection --except AVG of course).
- Do not click on any free offers or give out you email when registering for a product. Created a bogus email thru Google or Yahoo and use it to register/purchase products.

Checking Internet History

- While in Internet Explorer press Ctrl+Shift+H

Deleting History, Passwords, Cookies and Temporary Internet Files

Start → "Right"-click on Internet Explorer → Internet Properties → Delete → check everything → Delete

Google

- Un-register your address:

Google's home page → type in your phone number including area code → if it shows up in the Google address book, click the link to remove it. And follow steps.

- Set strict filtering on searches:

Google's home page → Preferences → scroll down check → Use Strict Filtering → Save Preferences

- Free Pop-Up blocker. Install Google toolbar:
<http://toolbar.google.com>

Net Nanny

- Highly recommended.
- Filters inappropriate material, monitors, protects and reports all activity.
- www.netnanny.com

More Tips

a) always shut your computer down every night; b) use a UPS battery back-up c) backup important files daily or weekly (CD or Flash Drive); use a Credit Card to make online purchases, not your check/debit card.