



Speed Up your computer! 2009 03

If you have a Microsoft Windows PC, you probably have noticed your computer takes longer and longer to start up. What is the cause of this slowness? Over the years you probably have install numerous software. Some software is started up automatically every time you start the computer without you knowing. Take a look at your task manager; do you recognize all these process that's running on your PC?

Image Name	User Name	CPU	Mem Usage
AcPrfMgrSvc.exe	SYSTEM	00	4,712 K
acrotray.exe	Eric	00	3,100 K
AcSvc.exe	SYSTEM	00	6,728 K
alg.exe	LOCAL SERVICE	00	3,688 K
AppleMobileDeviceService.exe	SYSTEM	00	2,516 K
BbDevMgr.exe	Eric	00	4,784 K
ccApp.exe	Eric	00	7,888 K
ccEvtMgr.exe	SYSTEM	00	2,908 K
ccSetMgr.exe	SYSTEM	00	3,960 K
csrss.exe	SYSTEM	00	4,276 K
ctfmon.exe	Eric	00	4,212 K
cypnd.exe	SYSTEM	00	6,148 K
DefWatch.exe	SYSTEM	00	4,028 K

Each and every one of these processes takes up CPU time and Memory. There are some processes that are essential to the PC's operation, while others may be unnecessary or may even be malware. How do you figure out which ones you can safely turn off?

If you have Windows XP, go to START, RUN, and type in MSCONFIG. Windows Vista, type "msconfig" in the search box. In the Startup Tab, you will see a list of processes that automatically starts when you start the computer. Since most of us are not computer experts, how do we know which one to keep and which one to turn off?

Startup Item	Command	Location
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> igfxtray	C:\WINDOWS\system32\igfxtray...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hkcmd	C:\WINDOWS\system32\hkcmd.exe	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> igfxpers	C:\WINDOWS\system32\igfxpers...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMax4PNP	C:\Program Files\Analog Devices\...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smax4	C:\Program Files\Analog Devices\...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SynTPLpr	C:\Program Files\Synaptics\SynTP...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SynTPEnh	C:\Program Files\Synaptics\SynTP...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acrotray	"C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat ...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EngUtil	"C:\Program Files\Common Files\R...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DrgToDsc	"C:\Program Files\Roxio\Easy CD ...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RxDMon	"C:\Program Files\Roxio\Easy CD ...	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft

Google is our friend. For example, I did a search for igfxtray. I found it is a non-essential system process. Unless you are a computer graphic artist, you probably won't be changing any graphics chipset settings. You can turn it off. Go through the list, and determine what is essential, and what is not. Don't worry about messing up, you can ALWAYS undo by re-click the check box. When you restart the computer, there will be a message stating you have used msconfig to change the start up configuration. Click through the steps.

igfxtray.exe description

Description igfxtray.exe is a process which allows you to access the Intel Graphics configuration and diagnostic application for the Intel 810 series graphics chipset. This program is a **non-essential system process**, and is installed for ease of use via the desktop tray.

Turning off unnecessary process, should, help speeding up your PC. However, don't forget to defrag your hard drive and do regular back up to external hard drives!

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