

### **What is the registry?**

The Registry is the central hierarchical database used in Microsoft Windows operating systems to store information necessary to configure the system for one or more users, applications and hardware devices.

### **Why do I need to clean the registry?**

When you install an application, new registry entries will be created. These entries should automatically be deleted when you uninstall the application. Unfortunately, it does not always work that way. Sometimes, you will find that some applications fail to remove their own registry entries. These entries then become obsolete. Over time, the Windows Registry begins to hold data that are invalid and obsolete. This invalid data eventually accumulates in the Registry, slowing Windows down, compromising PC performance and causing other problems. So, to keep your computer in top performance, it is recommended that you periodically clean your Windows registry.

### **What are "not fully safe to delete" entries? Can I remove them?**

This means that these entries appear to be invalid entries. However, some applications may still use these entries. So, to remove these entries may not be 100% safe. Usually you can delete all entries, including those marked as unsafe entries. It's about 90% certain that doing this is secure. (I always fix all problems.) It is important to know that even if your PC has a problem after you remove all entries, you can still very easily restore your registry.

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### **Application Paths**

Disk directories which are not referenced correctly can often cause programs to fail.

### **COM/ActiveX**

Invalid COM or ActiveX object entries in the Registry can cause application failures, document and information loss, and system crashes.

### **Empty Registry Keys**

Registry keys that have no value are useless entries that clog up your system.

### **File Types (File/Path References)**

Some registry items can be associated with non-existent files and folders – such as when temporary files are used for storage.

### **Fonts/Font Entries**

Application errors – especially in word processing applications – are caused by missing or corrupt font files.

### **Help Files/Help Files Information**

The last thing you need when you are looking for help on an application is for it to crash due to invalid help file references!

### **IE Url History**

### **Components SubSystem**

#### **Invalid CLSID**

#### **Invalid TypeLib**

#### **Invalid Interface**

#### **Invalid Paths**

## **Software Section**

### **All User**

### **Current User**

## **Program Shortcuts**

Incorrect program shortcuts can cause applications to take much longer to start – or simply stop them from running at all.

## **Shared DLL**

Invalid entries in the Shared DLLs section of the Registry can cause a certain type of application failure commonly known as “DLL hell”.

## **Shell Extensions**

Shell extensions provide you with useful enhancements to the working environment of your PC. Invalid shell extension entries can cause irregularities that will frustrate and slow you down.

## **Sound and AppEvents**

### **Uninstall Section/Uninstall Entries**

When an application’s installer does not correctly set up the uninstall process, the Registry becomes clogged with invalid information.

## **Startup Program/Start Menu/Windows Startup Items**

Incorrect installation programs will cause missing program entries in the startup items area of the Registry.

## **User MRU Lists**