CONTROL THE PROGRAMS THAT RUN AT STARTUP

A computer's poor performance could be due to the number of programs that run automatically at system start-up.

Virtually all program applications that you install using the default installation decide that they should start-up when Windows starts. If you allow these to take control, you can end up with a situation where every program slows down to the point of being unusable. The reason for this is that all of these programs use a portion of the system memory and resources (RAM) which leaves a smaller percentage for other programs once they're opened.

The first and best place to look for programs that run at startup is to open the System Configuration Utility.

Press Windows key + X, then press T (for Task Manager). Select the Startup tab and deselect the offending programs.

The two Websites that follow are great references for providing detailed descriptions of the programs that are running at startup on your computer:

❖ **SystemLookup** (**www.systemlookup.com**) invites you to enter the name from the Startup Item section and will provide a detailed description of that program.

❖ **Bleepingcomputer** (**www.bleepingcomputer.com/startups/**) provides an up-to-date list of the possible programs that may be running in the background.

Please note that you are not uninstalling the program from your system. You are merely causing it to refrain from running at startup and, thus, becoming a resources hog!

Each time you uncheck a box and restart your PC, you'll get a warning that you've used the System Configuration Utility to disable a program from starting automatically. If you don't want to see that warning, disable it by checking the box in the dialog itself. Be advised, however, that it will reappear at bootup every time you make a change to the System Configuration Utility.

Two FREE Programs that will Drill Down into the Registry Looking for Programs that Run at Startup:

These third-party programs will safely scour the **registry** looking for programs that are launched automatically at startup. These two programs will catch programs that

are not listed in the System Configuration Utility (**msconfig**). Both are highly recommended by experts.

WhatsInStartup (http://www.nirsoft.net/utils/what_run_in_startup.html)

This utility displays the list of all applications that are loaded automatically when Windows starts up. For each application, the following information is displayed: Startup Type (Registry/Startup Folder), Command-Line String, Product Name, File Version, Company Name, Location in the Registry or file system, and more. It allows you to easily **disable** or **delete** unwanted programs that run in your Windows startup. WhatInStartup also supports a special "Permanent Disabling" feature - If a program that you previously disabled added itself again to the startup list of Windows, WhatInStartup will automatically detect the change and disable it again. Scroll down to the bottom of the Webpage for the download option.

Autoruns (http://www.filehippo.com/download_autoruns/)

This program shows you what programs are running "in the background" during system bootup. These programs include ones in your startup folder, msconfig, and other Registry keys. There are a lot of programs running at startup. You will be able to see how much you can increase the speed of your boot up time. Always backup first before making changes.