

The Handbook of

RegSupreme Pro 1.7

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The product versions used with the writing of this book are pre-release versions, therefore the user interface and the names of the features might be slightly different from the version of RegSupreme Pro you are using.

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Introduction

RegSupreme Pro is a Windows system utility suite which allows you to clean, optimize and repair your system with ease.

Minimum system requirements

- Any computer running Windows 98, 98 SE, ME, NT, 2000, XP or Vista
- Mouse or keyboard

Recommended system

- Any computer running Windows NT, 2000, XP or Vista
- Mouse and keyboard
- Internet connection (to download updates etc)

(Support for Windows 98, 98 SE and ME is slightly limited and not all features are present if the product is used under any of these operating systems.)

User friendliness

RegSupreme Pro is an example of a very user-friendly computer application. It allows you to use the program in your own language, and not just in English. You can control the product with only your mouse and/or your keyboard, it's up to you. It also contains full, printable documentation.

The user friendliness isn't something that only affects the user interface. The product doesn't integrate itself with your system without your permission. It doesn't connect to the Internet without asking for your permission. It doesn't modify your system's configuration or fill up C:\Windows\System32 directory with its files.

General usage

In the right hands, RegSupreme Pro is a very safe and powerful tool. Yet, even the most novice users can take benefit from its power if they just remember a few general rules.

The most important thing to bear in mind is that you are the one who always makes the final decision, that's why it's very important that you don't do anything with things you are not familiar with. For example, in RegSupreme Pro, if there are some items in the Registry Manager or in the Registry Cleaner that you don't know or can't identify, it's always the safest and best option to leave those items alone.

RegSupreme Pro only makes suggestions based on its analysis. You always make the final call, so you will always have to know what you are doing.

If you are using a Windows NT based operating system, such as Windows 2000, XP or Vista, you must be logged in as the computer's administrator when using RegSupreme Pro. The product will not operate well without full system rights. Without them the Registry Cleaner, for example, cannot analyze all parts of the registry.

Similarly, the *Open in RegEdit* feature will not work if the product doesn't have full user rights to the following registry key:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Applets\Regedit

Note: the *Open in RegEdit* feature doesn't work in any Windows 9x systems, including Windows ME.

Introduction to the registry

This chapter gives you some basic information about the Windows' registry. If you are already familiar with the subject you may skip this chapter.

Every Windows-based system has a feature called registry. It's a place where the Windows operating system and third-party software applications can store information. Many software applications, including the operating system itself, store their settings to the registry which makes the registry a very vital part of your system. Basically, the registry is a database containing any data the programs you use want to store there.

Structure of the registry

The registry is organized in a hierarchical tree structure (see image 1), and is comprised of subtrees and their keys, hives, and value entries. Here's an example of what a single registry key looks like: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion

The first part of it ("HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE") is the root key, also known as a (root) hive. It's just like the drive letter in file system. Then comes the registry key "Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion", it's like the directory path in a file system. Then there's also registry entries which contain all the actual data. These are a like files in file system, each registry entry having a name (known as the "entry" or "value name") and contents ("value" or "data").

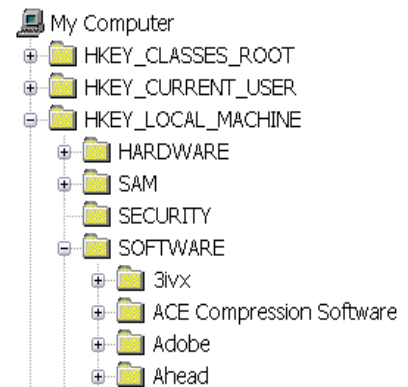


Image 1. The structure of the registry

Accessing the registry

The Windows registry cannot be accessed directly but only through two application layers. First, you will need an application which is designed to access the registry, for example RegSupreme Pro or Windows RegEdit. They can't access the registry directly either, but they use Windows core functions to access the registry. In a way, they are saying to the Windows "Could you pass me that information, please" and then system replies if it can be passed or not.

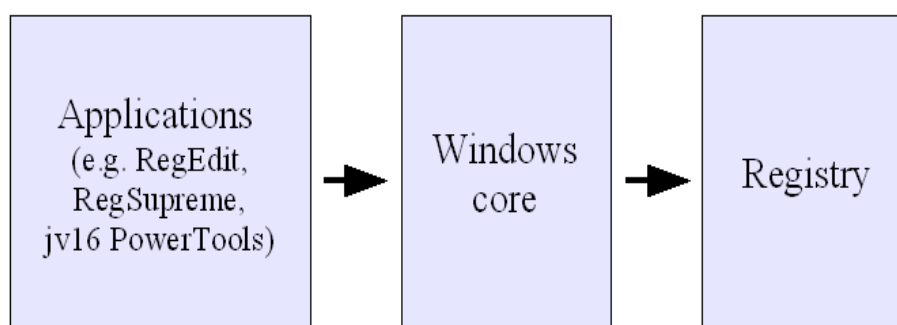


Image 2. The layered structure of accessing the registry

Warning: The registry is a very vital part of your system, always let the RegSupreme Pro to back up the items before you remove or modify them.

The Software Manager

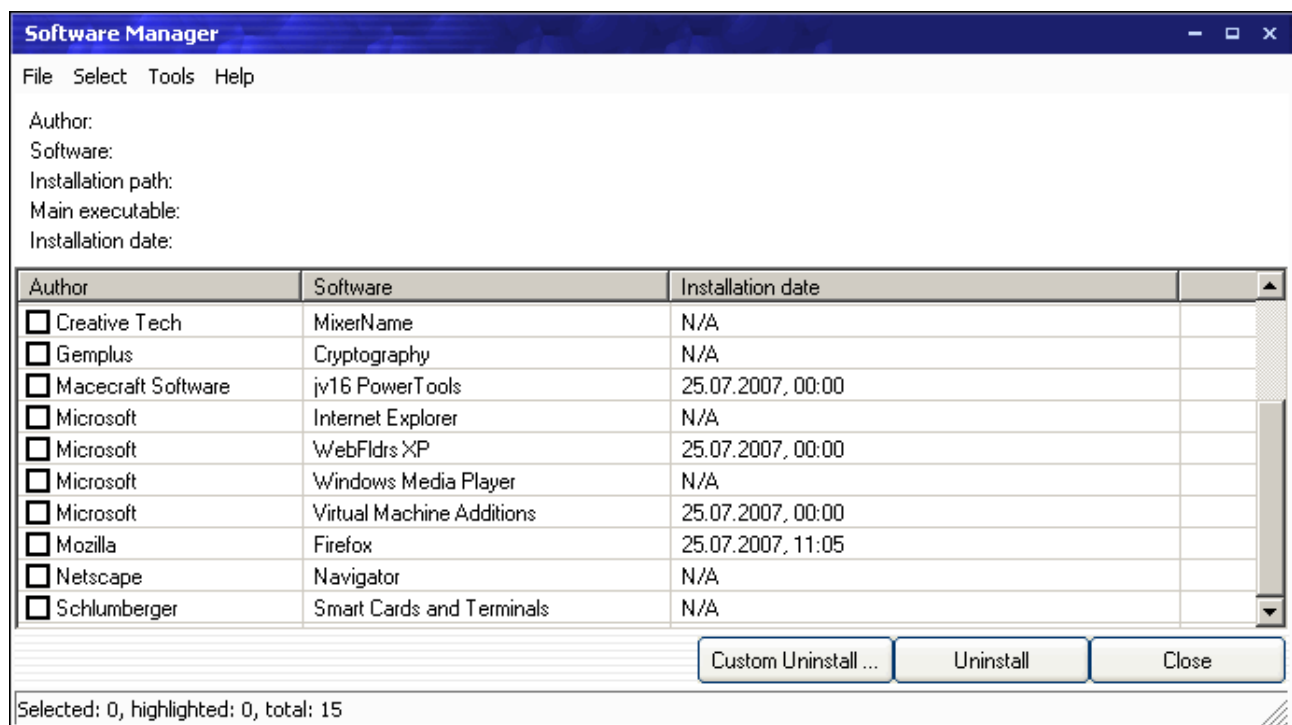


Image 3. The Software Manager allows you to remove hidden traces of installed software

The Software Manager is a highly improved version of Windows' Add/Remove Software feature.

Windows' Add/Remove Software feature works by an internal software list to which software can register itself to upon installation. Emphasis on the word *can*, this registration is not required and not all software therefore do it at all. This is why Windows' Add/Remove Software list doesn't contain all the software installed on the computer.

The Software Manager uses three approaches at the same time:

1. It reads the same internal software list used by the Add/Remove Software feature.
2. It analyzes the registry for common software data.
3. It quickly analyzes all hard drives to detect other installed software.

This is why the Software Manager can detect many more items than the Add/Remove Software, or some other similar third-party applications.

Please note that Software Manager works much based on approximations. This means the list can contain some number of errors: for example, the software's Main Executable information or the Installation Date might not show the correct data on all software. This is normal. Also, it's not always possible for Software Manager to detect all information for the software, in such case "N/A" is shown.

Because of this, the *Uninstall* button doesn't use the extracted information (such as the Installation Path) without asking permission from you. If you wish to remove all traces of the software you must use the *Custom Uninstall* feature.

Custom Uninstall Software

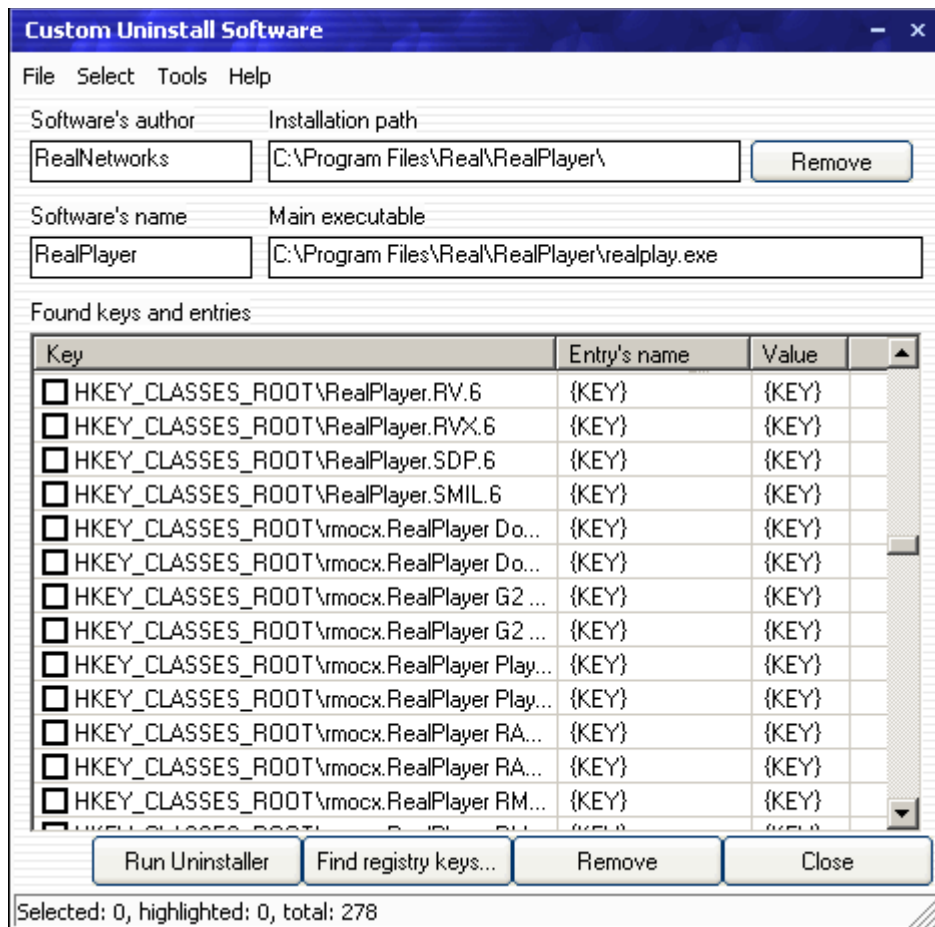


Image 4. Custom Uninstall Software allows you to detect and remove even the most hidden traces of installed software

The Custom Uninstall Software function of the Software Manager helps you to find and remove hidden traces of installed software. To access it, select one application in the Software Manager's list of installed software, then right-click the selected application to display the pop-up menu, or use the *Custom Uninstall* button. Custom Uninstall can only be used when one and only one application is selected.

To fully uninstall a software using the Custom Uninstall Software feature follow these steps:

1. Verify that all the information on the top (e.g., name of the software, installation path, etc.) is correct. If there are errors, fix them if you know how to. If you are unsure, you can leave the boxes empty.
2. Click *Run Uninstaller*. It attempts to locate and launch the product's own uninstaller application. If one is found, follow the instructions from the screen and uninstall the software. If not, skip this step and move on.
3. Click *Search registry keys*. After the search is done you should always examine the list of registry keys through before doing anything. If all the found registry entries are relating to the software in question, select all and click the *Remove* button from the bottom of the window. If you are unsure whether some entries are relating to the software in question don't select those items. It's always better to be safe than sorry!
4. Click the *Remove* button which is located to the right of the Installation path text box. The button is only enabled if the text box contains a valid path.
5. Click *Close* and you're done!

Warnings: Always remember to validate the given information about the software: the author of the software, the name of the software, its installation path and the location of its main executable. If any of this information is wrong the tool might list entries not related to the software in question, and removing these entries could be dangerous. If you are unsure about any piece of information, just leave the box empty. Also, using this tool to detect entries of software with a very generic name (e.g., "System", "Browser", "Icon" etc) can be very dangerous.

The Startup Manager

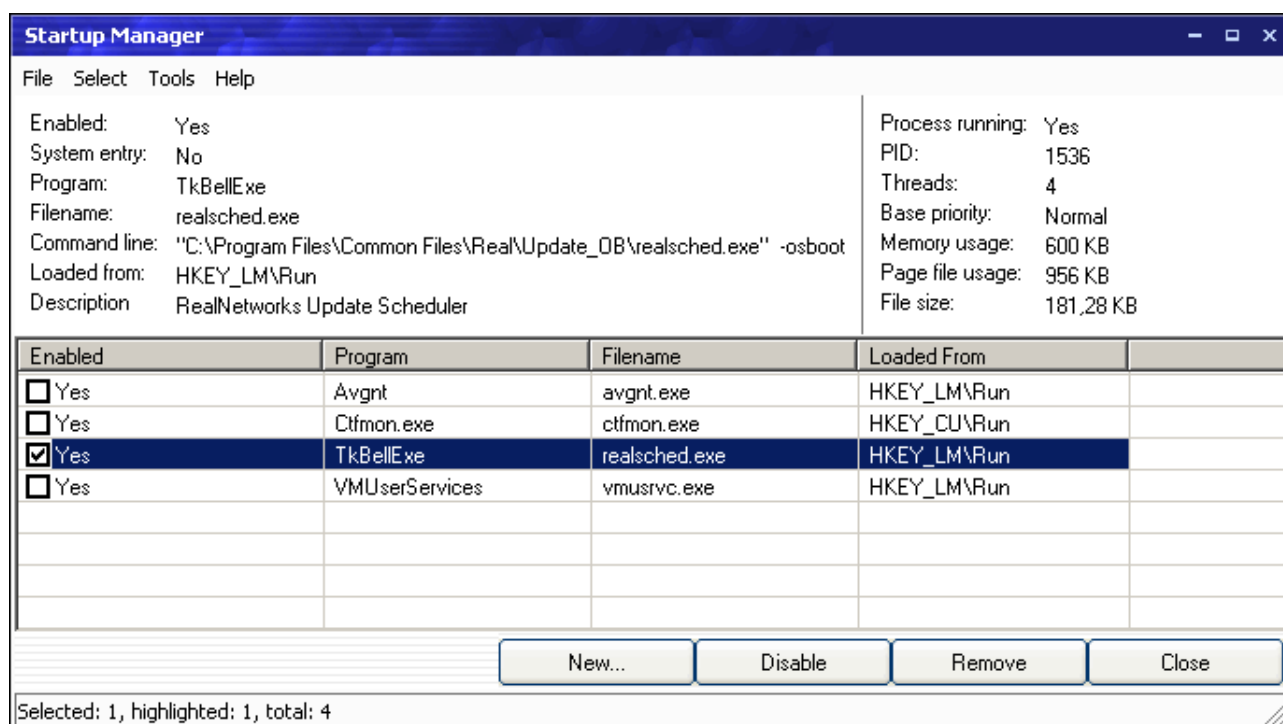


Image 5. The Startup Manager allows you to control which applications start with your computer

The Startup Manager shows you the list of all applications that are set to automatically start with your computer. The tool analyzes the registry and the Windows Start Menu to locate the applications. Other startup definition locations are not analyzed (such as Win.ini), since they are no longer used.

Clicking an item shows you more information about the software, such as whether it is currently running, its path and from where it was loaded. If you have enabled the network usage, the tool downloads more information about the software from Macecraft's server, which is shown on the Description field. If network access is not enabled, the Description field will show the description data extracted from the executable file.

Automatically starting programs can easily slow down even the fastest computer; therefore, it's highly recommended to keep the list as short as possible. You can use the *Disable* button to disable software, in other words, to deny it from starting automatically again. You can later on enable it again, if you wish. The *Remove* button does the same, but also removes the software from the list.

You can use the *New...* button to add your own software to the list.

The Registry Manager

The Registry Manager contains all the necessary tools for manual registry repair and maintenance. You can uninstall software, remove leftover registry entries from software you thought you had removed ages ago, edit or remove shell extensions and so on. The Registry Manager is your easy-to-use interface to the Windows registry, and you really don't have to have an extensive knowledge of the registry to be able to use the Registry Manager.

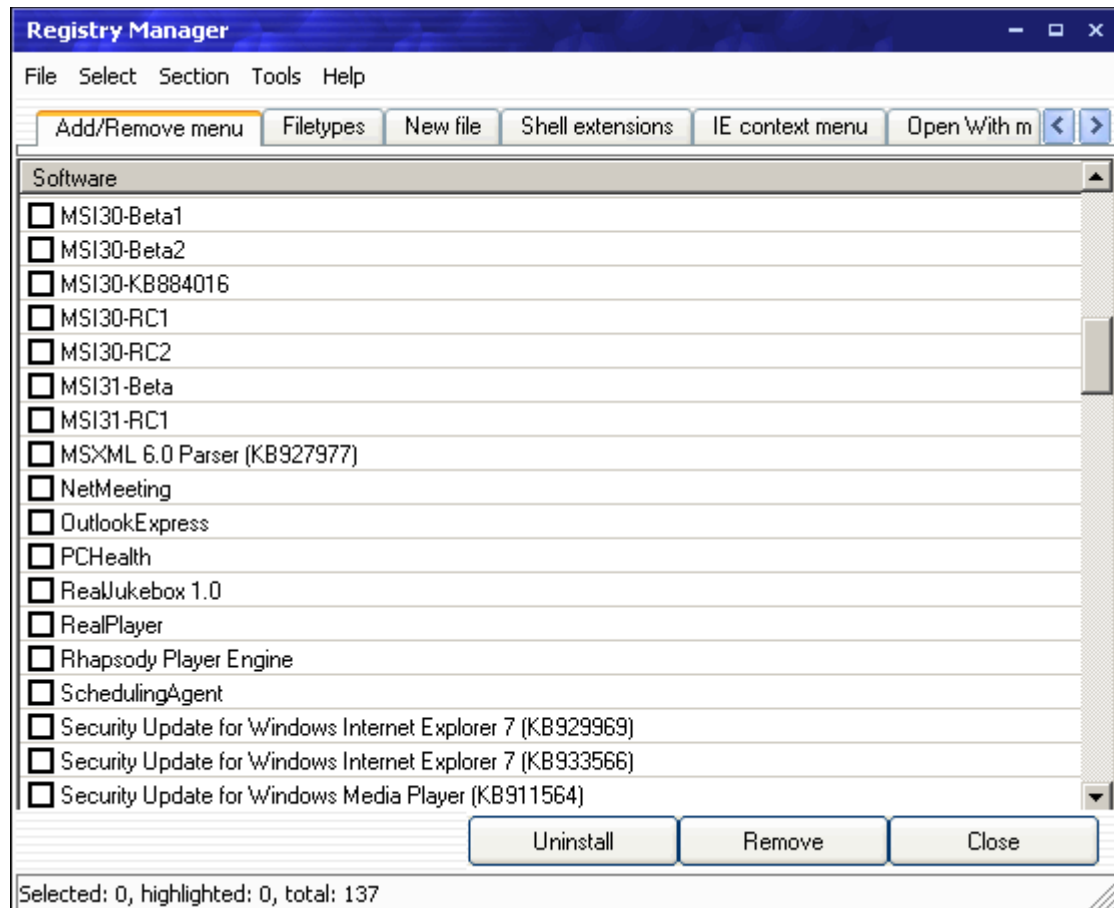


Image 6. The user interface of the Registry Manager

Features

- *Add/Remove menu* feature shows you items from the Windows Control Panel > Add/Remove programs. The feature also lists the hidden items not normally visible in Add/Remove programs. Notice that the *Remove* button just removes the software from this list and the *Uninstall* button actually uninstalls it. For your own safety, you can uninstall only one piece of software at the time.
- *File Types* shows you all the registered file types. For example that .txt files are text files and so on. It's very common that programs you remove from your computer leave their file type registrations behind.
- *New File* feature shows you a list of file types you can create using the right-click > New menu (you can see this menu by right clicking the Windows desktop, for example). Note that if you still use the program whose shell extension you wish to remove from the right-click menu the, program will most likely automatically recreate entry the next time you use the program.

- *Shell Extensions* list contains all the registered shell extensions. Shell extensions are operations you can perform on certain types of files. For example, you can view a text file (.txt) with Notepad by double clicking it but you can also print its contents by right clicking it and selecting print from the right-click menu. You can remove all the shell extensions you think you won't need.
- *IE Context Menu* list contains all the context menu tools of Internet Explorer. Context menu extensions are those additional tools which are shown in the right-click menu when you right-click anything on a web page. Some programs, such as FlashGet, create these kinds of new entries.
- *Open With... Menu* feature shows you the list of programs Windows can show in the list it shows when you try to execute a file of unknown file type. This feature is only for NT-based operating systems, such as Windows NT, 2000 and XP.
- *Search with Menu* feature shows you the list of items in Start Button > Search. You can remove all the items you don't need. This feature is only for NT-based operating systems such as Windows 2000 and XP.

The Registry Cleaner

While the Registry Manager represents a semi-automatic registry cleansing tool, the Registry Cleaner is fully automatic. It analyzes the entire system registry in a snap and shows you the items that are erroneous.

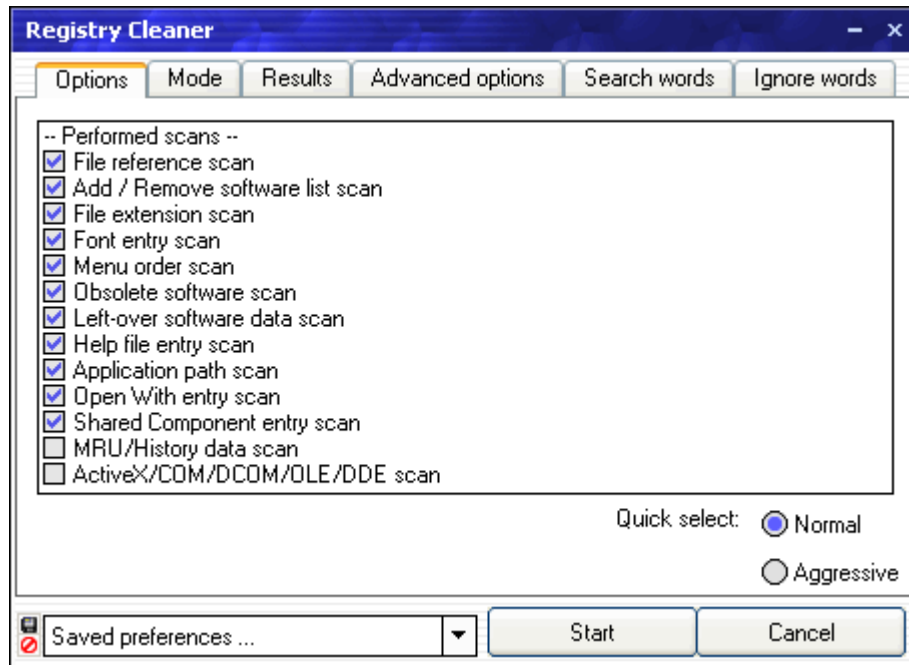


Image 7. The initial options dialog of the Registry Cleaner

When you start the Registry Cleaner it will first ask you a few questions about what you want it to do. If you are unsure what the different scan options mean (see the image), simply click the *Normal* radio button and then click *Start*. The scan will usually take under a minute on a modern computer.

Advanced users can also use the *Aggressive* option which means that the Registry Cleaner also analyzes the system's ActiveX, COM, DCOM, OLE and DDE items.

The Advanced Options section contains the following settings.

- *Fully automatic mode (NOT RECOMMENDED)* means that the program automatically removes all the found items without asking you. Using this method is **not recommended**.
- *Use as little CPU power as possible* option tells the program that you are currently doing something with your computer and the Registry Cleaner should only use free computer processing time.
- *Don't show items that would be automatically re-created*. There are certain types of registry data that will be always re-created, either upon system startup or when you use certain applications. This option allows you to ignore all the registry entries which would be most likely be re-created either immediately or almost immediately after removal or modification.
- *Don't pop up the window after finished* option is only effective if you minimize the window during the scan. If you minimize it, the window will by default pop back up when the job is done. You can disable that behavior with this option.

The *Ignore Words* section allows you to define so called ignore words. Simply put, if the program finds an item which matches any words on the ignore words list, the item will be automatically

ignored. For example, if you have a Canon digital camera and you want to make sure that nothing during the Registry Cleaner scan even touches its registry entries, you can add the word “Canon” (without the quotes) to the ignore words list.

The Scan Report

You will see a detailed Scan Report after the Registry Cleaner's scan is finished. The Scan Report shows you some statistics about the scan, such as how long it took, how many items were analyzed and so on.

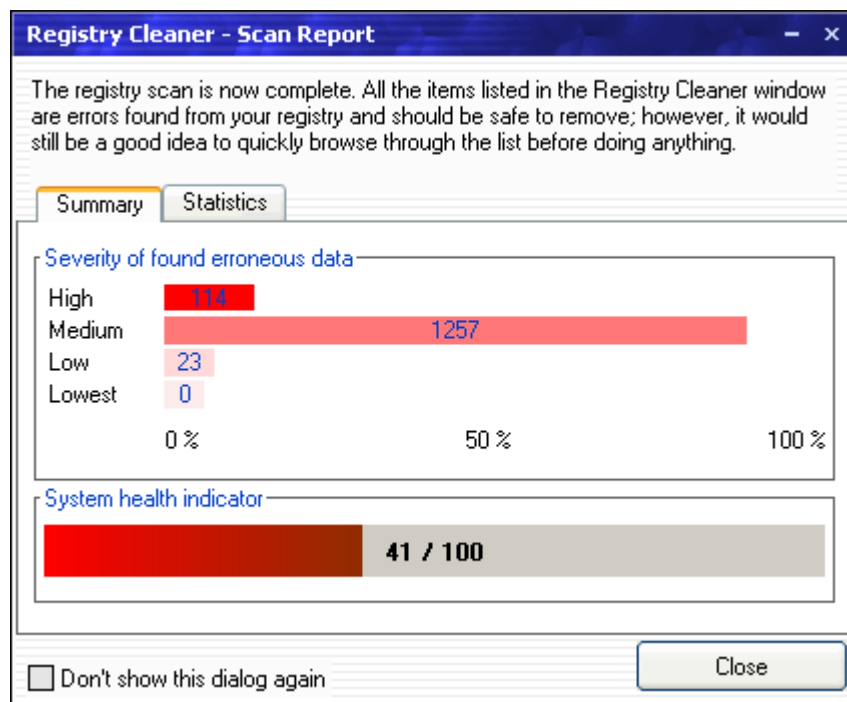


Image 8. The Registry Cleaner's Scan Report

The beauty of the Scan Report feature is the *Severity of the found errors* and the *System health indicator* features. The *Severity of found features* shows four bars representing how many errors of different severity levels were found. For example, in the image above there were 139 errors of high severity, 14 of medium severity, 1 of low severity and 7 of the lowest severity.

The severity indicates how likely the error is to cause problems in your system. The error severities should be interpreted as follows.

Severity	Meaning
High	These errors are quite likely to cause some system or user-level problems. Typical such system-level problems are error messages upon system startup or system crashes. User-level problems include applications that stop working or start to show error messages of missing files or components when used.
Medium	These errors could cause some problems but that is not very likely.
Low	In theory, these errors could cause some minor user-level problems but it's quite unlikely.
Lowest	These errors are very unlikely to cause any problems whatsoever.

The *System health indicator* shows an overall system health score based on the scan results. The system health score is a number from 0 to 100, 100 would be the best score and 0 the worst. A graph of the system health is also shown. The one on the image shows that the system has a lot of errors in the registry, which is normal since the image is from my test computer.

You can close the Scan Report window by clicking the *Close* button. If you don't wish to see the Scan Report again, check the *Never show this dialog again* box.

The Results Window

The results of the Registry Cleaner are listed in the Registry Cleaner window after the scan is completed. All the items listed are erroneous and should be safe to remove.

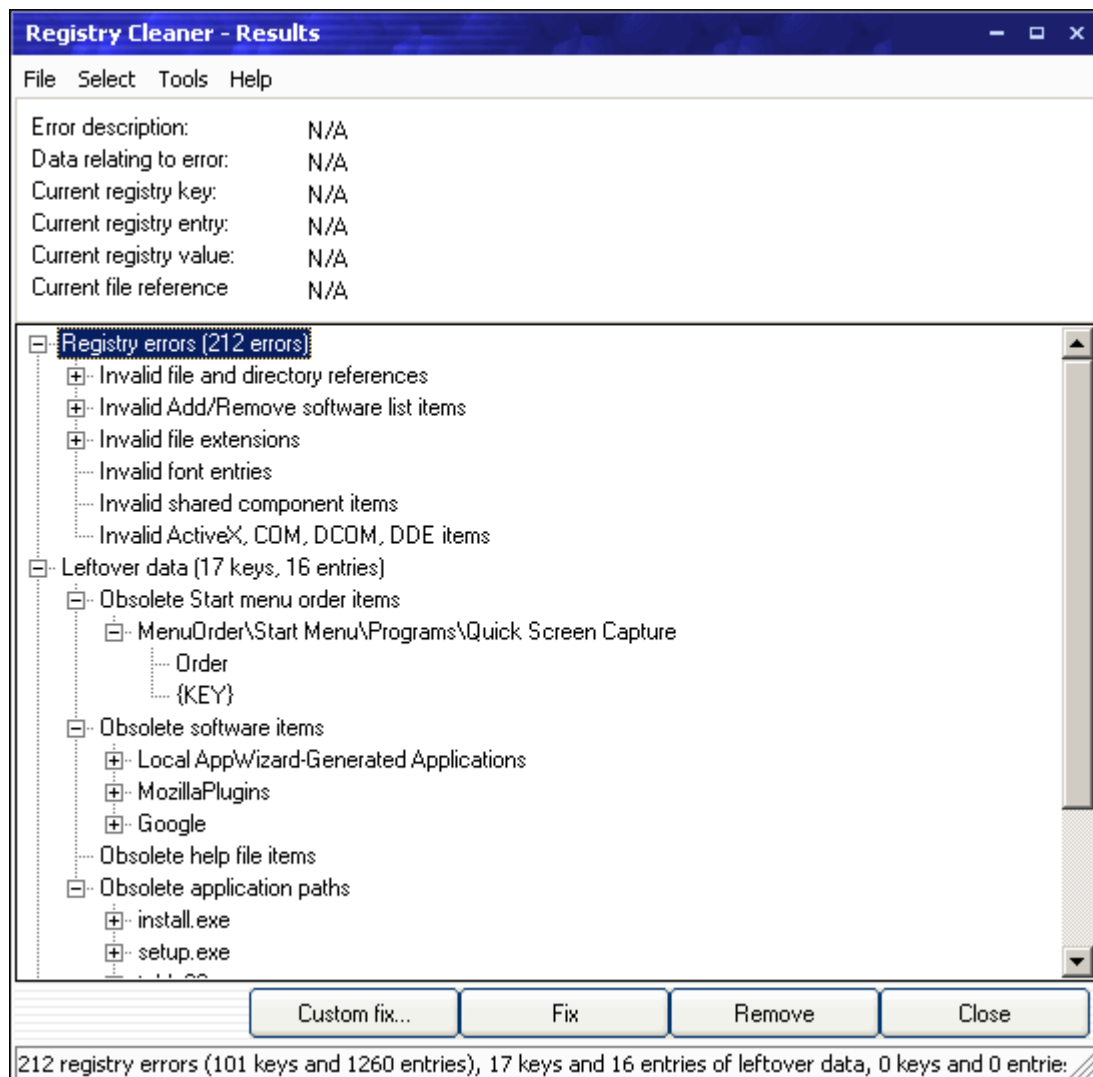


Image 9. The list of found errors created by the Registry Cleaner

Fixing the found errors

After the Registry Cleaner is done you have three options what to do next:

1. Remove the found items.
2. Fix the found errors.
3. Use the Custom Fix feature to fix the found errors.

If you are not an expert, always repair the found errors with the *Fix* button! It automatically attempts to fix the found errors, then if no fix is found the feature removes the erroneous registry data.

If you want to specify how each error should be fixed you can use the Custom Fix feature.

To do so, simply select all items with *Select > All* (or by pressing Ctrl+A), and click the *Custom Fix* button on the bottom of the window. After a few seconds, a fixing tool opens. It allows you to select how would you like to fix the problem.

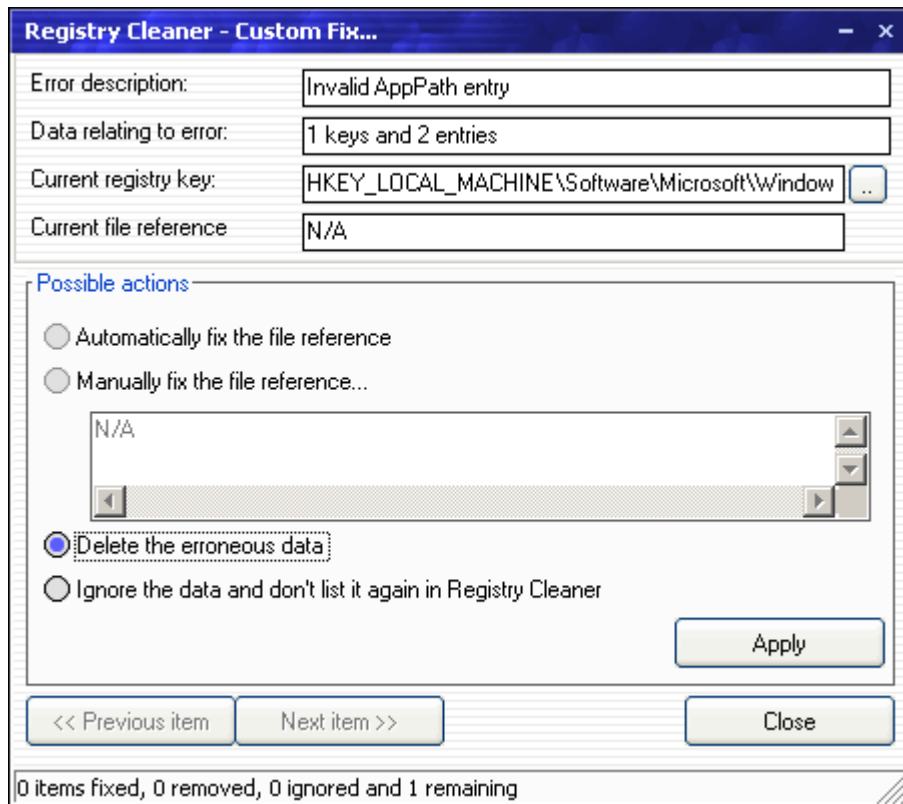


Image 10. The Custom Fixing feature allows you to select what you wish to do with the found registry errors.

A simple rule of a thumb how to use the fixing tool (see the image): Select *Automatically select the best possible solution* if you can; if you can't, select the *Delete the item* and click OK. The *Automatically select the best possible solution* is enabled only when the application can automatically detect a way to fix the error.

The fixing tool also contains other fixing method for advanced users, such as the *Fix manually* feature which allows you to modify the erroneous data by hand and then insert it directly to the registry. One should be very careful with this feature.

If you think that the item listed is not erroneous and shouldn't be listed at all, you can select *Don't show this item ever again* and the item won't be shown again.

The Registry Compactor

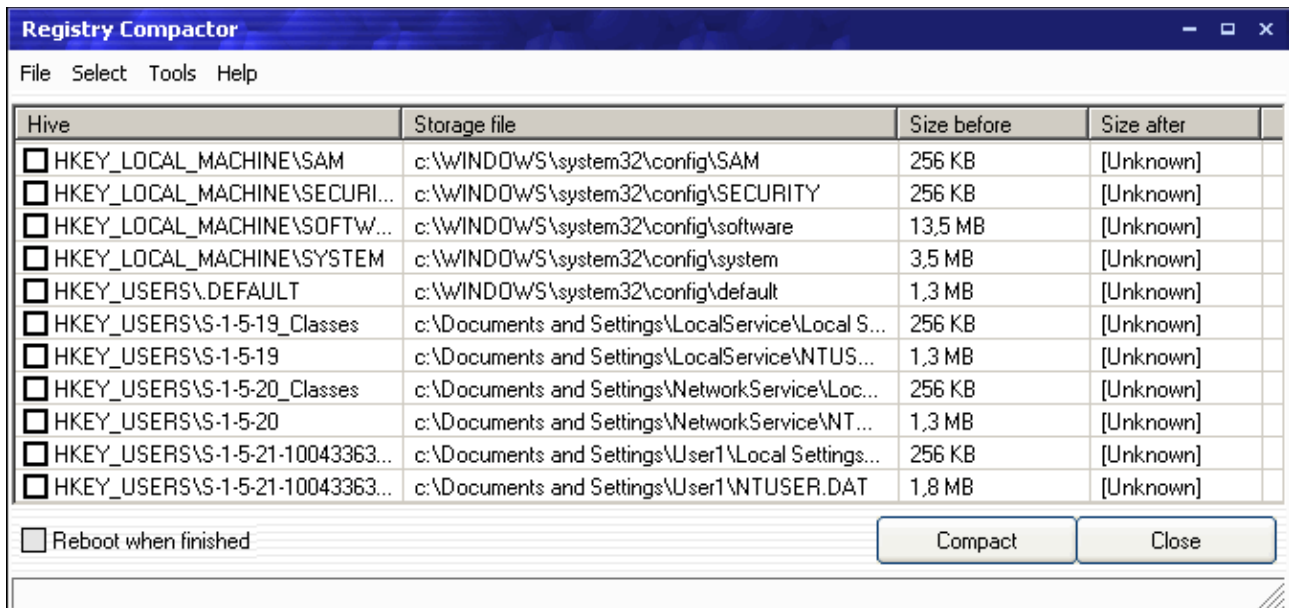


Image 11. The Registry Compactor allows you to reduce the size of the registry storage files

The Registry Compactor allows you to easily reduce the size of your registry without removing any data from it. This is done basically by reconstructing the entire registry structure from scratch, this eliminates all empty spaces and other unneeded data from the registry structure.

Compacting the registry reduces the amount of both RAM and hard drive space required to store the system registry.

The registry compaction is also sometimes called "**registry compression**" or "**registry defrag**", all of these terms refer to the same process.

Frequently Asked Questions

This chapter contains many common questions with their answers about RegSupreme Pro. The questions are divided in to categories for easier navigation.

Questions related to the installation of RegSupreme Pro

Q: What kind of registry entries does RegSupreme Pro add to the registry during the installation?

A: RegSupreme Pro itself doesn't add or modify any registry entries when installed. However, the product's trial system will place a tiny hidden data file inside your system to prevent the abuse of the 30 day trial opportunity. The size of the hidden data is no more than 1 KB. In other words, if you have a small 2 GB hard disk the space reserved by the trial system is roughly 0,0000005% of your hard drive space. If you don't agree with this policy, do not use RegSupreme Pro.

Q: What system files does RegSupreme Pro modify during installation?

A: None, but please see the question above.

Questions before using the RegSupreme Pro

Q: Can RegSupreme Pro do any harm to my computer?

A: Yes. Basically, it only does what you tell it to do.

The product is like an axe. If you know how to use it you can use it as a powerful tool but if you don't really know how to use it you can someday hit your leg with it.

Q: What does the disclaimer in the license agreement really mean?

A: It basically means that, what ever you do with RegSupreme Pro, you are on your own. If you destroy something with it, it's not our fault, just as a manufacturer of knives isn't responsible if you cut your finger. For more information, please read the license agreement thoroughly. If you don't agree with this policy, do not use RegSupreme Pro.

Questions related to the Software Manager

Q: What are those [Unknown] items in the Software Manager?

A: They are items that RegSupreme Pro can't recognize. This doesn't mean, however, that they are safe to remove.

Q: Are items marked with "N/A" always safe to remove?

A: No. There really are no general rules on how to identify items that are safe to remove.

Q: I can't recognize any of these items. What can I do?

A: Don't do anything. If you don't know what those items are then it's always safest to leave them alone.

Q: Why I can just remove items and not modify them?

A: Modifying, for example renaming, some items might cause trouble. The software whose entries

you modified might not work properly anymore.

Q: How can I know which items to remove?

A: You just have to know it. If you don't know what to remove, don't remove anything, that's always the safest option.

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Questions related to the Registry Cleaner

Q: What is the Registry Cleaner?

A: Registry Cleaner is a tool that automatically finds erroneous registry entries and lists them for you.

Q: What are threads?

A: The thread number represents the number of registry analyzer units that are currently running. When all threads are finished running (thread number is zero), the Registry Cleaner is finished.

Q: When I use the Registry Cleaner the threads value decreases while all the other values increase. Is this normal?

A: Yes. Threads are the Registry Cleaner components which check some part of your registry. When the component has finished its job it will terminate itself and the threads value will decrease.

Q: The Registry Cleaner reports after the scan that Keys analyzed: 264,397 and Values analyzed: 231,376. However, when I use other parts of the product, for example the Registry Finder, the product reports that it analyzes only about 100,000 keys and 363,000 values in my registry. What causes these differences?

A: Analyzing the registry for errors (which is what the Registry Cleaner does) means that each data item (key or a value) is analyzed many times. For example, a value is first analyzed to see its type. If it is a string it goes to a string analysis. When a string goes through the string analysis process it might be analyzed by many other subanalyzers, which, again, increase the Values Analyzed number.

While the Registry Finder, for instance, only analyzes each value and key against the given search word or words, this is a very simple and straightforward process compared to the one in the Registry Cleaner. This is why other tools of the product might report smaller numbers of keys and values analyzed. However, the Registry Finder analyzes many forms of data the Registry Cleaner doesn't, for example numerical data (dword data type), which is why the number of values analyzed could also be larger in the Registry Finder.

Basically, the number of keys and values analyzed is shown only to let the user know there is something going on, they shouldn't be used as any kind of reference values nor used for comparison such as against other products.

Questions about licensing

Q: If I buy a license how and how fast I will have the licensed version?

A: The license is delivered to you with e-mail usually within a few minutes after the payment has been verified.

Q: What payment options do you support?

A: At the moment of writing this, we support PayPal, Visa, Visa Electron, MasterCard, Maestro, Discovery and American Express. Please see www.macecraft.com for the most up-to-date information.

Other questions

Q: If something goes wrong, can I restore my backups from DOS?

A: Usually, yes. If you can access the backup directory (usually \RegSupreme Pro\Backups) you can restore the backups. You must manually restore all the .reg files by importing them back to the registry.

Q: Why do some lists have those little boxes where one must put a tick to and some list don't ?

A: This is used for safety reasons. Every time you tick an item you know that you are about to do some procedure to it, such as to remove it.

Q: I could translate RegSupreme Pro to my language; would you be interested in adding it to the official distribution package?

A: Yes, of course. See the default language file (\Languages\English.lng) for more information.

Q: My question is not answered here, what can I do?

A: Please see our discussion forums at: www.macecraft.com/forum/

They might already contain the answer to your question, or if not, you can register to the forums (that is free, of course) and ask the question there. Using the discussion forum to ask your question rather than sending us e-mail is highly recommended and in most cases it gives you a much faster response.

Appendixes

Supported command line parameters

RegSupreme Pro doesn't support command line parameters or any kind of automation. For these features, please upgrade to jv16 PowerTools.