

## Re: Where is the startup folder in WXP? Programs under Windows

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers/2004-12/1155.html>

---

**From:** Sharon F (*sharonfDEL\_at\_ETEmvps.org*)

**Date:** 12/17/04

Date: Fri, 17 Dec 2004 01:44:53 -0600

On Thu, 16 Dec 2004 20:58:23 -0600, ~ FreeSpirit ~ wrote:

- > *Not on my WXP-PC. All it says is they're in WINDOWS/current version. There*
- > *is no "current version" under windows. Also, that's no help since there are*
- > *loads of things in Windows, but no programs that I can see. And there is*
- > *nothing in the START-UP folder.*
- >
- > *I just looked again. There are no PROGRAMS under Windows in WE.*
- >
- > *I would think programs would be under "programs"... not under Windows where*
- > *msconfig says they are.*

MSCONFIG shows you a registry path. It starts with letters such as HKLM (HKEY\_Local Machine) or HKCU (HKey Current User). Unfortunately, MSCONFIG is not a resizable window and tends to truncate these paths. You'll see "... " at the end. That's an indicator that there is more than what is visible.

If you use Start> All Programs> Accessories> System Tools> System Information, there is a section in this tool titled Software Environment. Click next to those words to expand that section. Click on "Startup Programs" and wait a few seconds as the list builds. When that's done, you'll see a list in the right hand pane of this program that has better descriptions of your startup programs. Plus the paths are more likely to be displayed in full. If they are not, at least this window is resizable.

Paths you are likely to find will be:

HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServices

When I disable startup programs, I start with the application itself: Open the program and go through its menus looking for the preference and option settings that control the startup behavior.

microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers: Re: Where is the startup folder in WXP? Programs under Windows

If those menus are not to be found, I would have to find a different way to disable the program. If there is no shortcut in the startup folder, than it is likely there is a RUN key in the registry that starts the program.

When it gets down to this point, I usually uncheck the box in MSCONFIG instead of editing the registry. Reason: I may change my mind down the road and decide that I actually want that program to run at startup. It's easy and convenient to add a check to a box in MSCONFIG.

There are times when a program is uninstalled but it fails to clean up a RUN key in the registry. Or there may be a program that does a check at startup and re-enters itself in MSCONFIG after it's been disabled. Or an item that I don't use or want that loads as a service. In these cases, I prune the registry.

NOTE: Rude programs that re-enter themselves in startup after I've gone to great lengths to disable them, don't stay installed on my system for long.

--

Sharon F  
MS-MVP ~ Windows Shell/User