

# Batch Files / GUI Manipulation

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  - *Date:* Fri, 17 Jun 2005 13:18:12 -0700
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I've got a rather strange and yet interesting question. Is there a way to manipulate the graphical user interface in Windows through batch files (i.e. Windows scripting) in terms of being able to enter text into text fields, clicking or using buttons without a mouse, or changing component focus for example?

Something similar to the installation of Windows 95 where it brings up the Start > Run dialog and then you can actually see something being placed in the text field character by character and then run that command. (Either this was a very, very realistic and cool animation, or it actually happened.)

That was pretty freaking cool actually. I only now remembered it; I haven't seen it in years. It came back to me when I was faced with the task of automating or at least speeding up the process of upgrade everyone at work to XP SP2. There are small tweaks after the installation that need to be done to the Windows Firewall among installation of other things that don't have MSI packages.

I am aware of unattended installations and MSI stuff, kind of. (Just starting to learn now.)

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