

MSCONFIG

What's that you ask? MSCONFIG is a very powerful utility that is provided in virtually every version of Windows. It holds many of the secrets to improving the performance of your computer system.

Practically every newly installed program loads parts of itself into Random Access Memory, (Ram), every time Windows is started. This practice allows some programs to load faster. Real Player is a good example for that purpose. Other programs are loaded into ram because they are waiting for some kind of signal to perform a task. Symantec's Norton Antivirus is a perfect example. This program loads several elements into ram to help keep your computer safe. CcApp is an essential component that actively scans your computer for virus; this is a component that you should definitely not turn off.

OK so why is this important? Great question! It all has to do with system resources. Obviously all computer systems start out with 100% free system resources when no software is installed. As you install software on your new computer system resources begin to decrease. For example, after installing Windows 98 you will probably see your system resources drop down between 85-90%. However, as you install additional programs many will load portions off them selves into the startup file of MSCONFIG. As more programs are loaded into ram memory during startup the system resources begin to decrease. As the system resources begin to decrease the computer will get more sluggish. I have seen many computer systems in my shop with system resources below 40%. These systems are normally very slow, and will typically encounter many illegal operations.

OK, know this is your warning, if you don't feel absolutely confident in your computer ability you should take your computer to your computer technician to have an expert take care of it. This is your last warning; you are responsible for your own actions!

To edit the MSCONFIG start up file find the RUN command in your windows menu. In the run command line simply type MSCONFIG and click OK. A menu screen will popup, click the STARTUP tab. Below the tab you will see a white box that shows command lines with check boxes to the left of the command lines. Each command line will activate on startup if a check mark is in the box. Your job is to play detective and find out what each command line does. As I stated before, there are some command lines that should not be turned off, ccApp and ccRegVfy are two important files needed by Norton Antivirus. If you are un-sure what a particular command line does you should either not disable it, or if you are feeling brave you could disable that one command line then restart the system. If turning off that command line produced an undesirable effect, simply edit the MSCONFIG file to turn that command line back on.

Again, please be very careful with this utility and seek professional help if you are the least bit leery of using this utility. If you are having computer problems please e-mail your question to sales@computerdepotonline.com or call Thomas or Roger at the Computer Depot 947-0749. Also, be sure to stop in and welcome our newest technician, Scott.