

Contents

To get help on an item, click the underlined text. For more information on how to use Help, press F1 or choose How to Use Help from the Help menu.

InWatch General Info:

[OverView](#)
[Quick Start](#)
[Registration](#)
[Toolbar](#)

InWatch Functions:

[Backup](#)
[Express](#)
[Compare](#)
[Uninstall](#)
[View](#)
[Options](#)

Configuration files:

[Autoexec.bat file](#)
[Config.sys file](#)
[Msdos.sys file](#)
[System.ini file](#)
[Win.ini file](#)
[Protocol.ini file](#)
[Registration Database](#)
[InWatch.ini file](#)



InWatch Overview

Inwatch (Installation Watcher) 'Watches' your configuration files when you install a new Windows application.

NOTE: To use this program you should have at least a basic understanding of what your configuration files are, how they work, and basically what they are for. For a brief explanation of these files, click here: [configuration files](#)

Typically, when you install a windows application it will make modifications to your configuration files, usually without telling you what changes it is making. Even if you are aware of all the changes that have been made to your configuration files, unless you write down all these changes, you won't know what changes have been made later on. If you decide you don't want this application on your hard disk any longer, deleting the application files from your hard disk usually doesn't remove all traces of this application. Some applications add as many as 100 lines to your WIN.INI file. The WIN.INI is loaded into memory in entirety when you run windows, therefore the more lines in your WIN.INI, the larger this file is, and less memory and resources you will have available to you in windows. Many applications also add entries to your Registration Database.

Before you install an application, use the backup function of InWatch to back up your configuration files. After you install the application, use the compare function to compare the backup files to the new, possibly altered files. InWatch will create a comparison file that you can inspect and save for later reference. The comparison file will show you every line that has changed in your configuration files.

As an added bonus, InWatch will also inform you of all the files and/or directories that have been added to or updated in (Same name, different date) your root directories of all local hard drives, your Windows and Windows System directories, as well as some other key directories such as the Program Files and Fonts directories. This function is useful if you wish to remove an application from your hard disk, for it will show you all files that were modified or added to your windows directories. Many applications will add files (such as .DLL's, and .INI's) to your windows and windows system directories. After installing several applications, your directories may contain many, many files that will usually remain after deleting an application from your hard drive. Even if your intention is not to properly delete applications, it is useful to know where all the files in your windows directories came from, and what application they are associated with.

If, after using the Backup and Compare functions of InWatch (or use the simpler Express), you decide you no longer want this program on your hard disk, use the UnInstall function.

InWatch was written in C++ with Borland C++ 4.52 and ObjectWindows 2.5 (Copyright Borland International).

I would like to give special thanks to my wife for putting up with me while I was writing this program, and to Walter Light and Billy Abrams for all their help beta testing this

program.

InWatch QuickStart

Follow these steps to get up and running quickly with InWatch:

Click EXPRESS, or select Express from the Config Files Menu.

Express will make backup copies of your configuration files, which is used as a 'before' snapshot of your system's setup.

You will then be prompted for an installation application (SETUP.EXE or INSTALL.EXE) to run. If the program you want InWatch to monitor comes on floppy disk, then you would select the SETUP.EXE (or whatever the setup program is called) on the A: (or B:) drive.

InWatch will run the selected installation program.

After you have finished installing the program, you can return to InWatch, which will present a Compare Dialog box.

Type in a filename for the compare. The filename is typically the name of the application you just installed.

InWatch will then compare the backup (before snapshot) with the current setup and present you with a text file detailing all the changes InWatch has detected due to the installation of this program.

If you wish to remove the application you just installed (or to remove it at a later date), select UnInstall from the Config Files menu. UnInstall ONLY works if you followed the above steps for the application you want to uninstall. After clicking on the UnInstall button, select the compare file associated with the application you want uninstalled from the list and click on uninstall. You then can select all, or some of the listed uninstall actions to be completed.

InWatch Registration

Inwatch is SHAREWARE.

What is SHAREWARE? ShareWare is software that is freely distributed to people so they can try it before they buy it. When you receive a copy of a shareware program, you are given a specified period of time, in which you may decide if you like the program and find it useful. If you do like the program, or continue to use the program past the specified period of time, you **MUST** send a registration fee to the author of the program.

Why should I register InWatch?

When you register InWatch you will also receive the latest version of InWatch and support for the program from the author, as well as receive notification when upgrades are released.

InWatch is not free, it is copyright 1996 by Rick Green. All rights reserved.

InWatch registration is US\$14.95 or CAN\$19.95, S&H INCLUDED (Outside of Canada/USA please add US\$2.00/CAN\$2.50 for additional shipping). You may try this program for 30 days, at the end of which you **MUST** register it or discontinue using it. You are free to pass this program, in its original, unmodified form, to anyone you wish. If you find this program useful, or use it past the 30 day limit, please send a check or money order for the above amount to:



















Rick Green
2388 Patricia Ave.
Port Coquitlam, British Columbia,
Canada V3B 2H3

Select Send Registration from the Register menu to complete and print a registration form.

If you have any questions, or comments regarding InWatch, please write to the above address.

InWatch Toolbar

The Toolbar is a row of buttons at the top of the main window which represent application commands. Clicking one of the buttons is a quick alternative to choosing a command from the menu. Buttons on the toolbar activate and deactivate according to the state of the application.

Button	Action	Menu Equivalent
	Exit InWatch	File Exit
	Create a new document	File New
	Locate and open a file	File Open
	Save the file in the active window	File Save
	Backs up config files	Config Files <u>B</u> ackup files
	Express Backup/Install/Compare	Config Files <u>E</u> xpress files
	Compares config files	Config Files <u>C</u> ompare files
	Uninstalls selected application	Config Files <u>U</u> ninstall
	View/Edit Compare files	Config Files <u>V</u> iew files
	Cut selected text to Clipboard	Edit Cut
	Copy selected text to Clipboard	Edit Copy
	Paste text from Clipboard	Edit Paste
	Undo previous editor action	Edit Undo
	Search for text	Search Find
	Repeat last Find operation	Search Next
	Print the active window	File Print
	Select InWatch options	Tools <u>O</u> ptions
	Display help file contents	Help <u>C</u> ontents

Backup



Selecting Backup from the Config Files menu will create copies of the following files: AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, SYSTEM.INI, PROTOCOL.INI, MSDOS.SYS, SYSTEM.DAT, USER.DAT (due to size, only select portions of the SYSTEM.DAT and USER.DAT are backed up), and create a listing of all files and directories in all Local Hard drives' Root directory, Windows, Windows System, Program Files, and Fonts directories. The copies of these files will be named: AUTOEXEC.IWB, CONFIG.IWB, WIN.IWB, SYSTEM.IWB, PROTOCOL.IWB, REG.IWB, and the directory listings will be named ROOTDIRx.IWB (where x is the drive letter), WINDIR.IWB, SYSDIR.IWB, PRGSDIR.IWB, FONTS.IWB, respectively.

These files will be placed in the Backup Directory specified in the Options dialog. The AUTOEXEC.BAT, and CONFIG.SYS are found in the root directory (Normally C:\) of your hard drive, and the WIN.INI, SYSTEM.DAT, USER.DAT, and SYSTEM.INI are found in the Windows directory (Normally C:\WINDOWS).

You should use the Backup function to backup these files BEFORE you install a new windows program. After you have installed the program, use the Compare function to show you what settings the new windows program changed when it was installed.

See also:

Compare

Express

Uninstall

Express



Express offers the user a quick way of carrying the normal Backup/Install/Compare procedure. When you select Express, InWatch will perform a Backup , and display a file open dialog box, from which you can select the SETUP.EXE, or INSTALL.EXE to install a program. After the install is finished, InWatch will be waiting with the Compare dialog box open, ready to do a compare.

There is nothing different about the Express way of monitoring an installation and using the standard method, although Express makes the entire process easier, and avoids the possibility of the user forgetting a step.

See also:

Compare

Backup

Uninstall

Compare



Selecting Compare from the Config Files menu will compare your current configuration files and the directories and files in directories you have selected for comparison. You MUST use the Backup function prior to using the compare function.

Before comparing the files, you will be asked for a filename. The description is placed in the COMPARE file. The filename must be a standard valid filename. The three-letter extension IWC will be added automatically to the filename when the COMPARE file is created.

The current configuration files will be compared to the backup files created with the Backup function, with the results being placed in a text file, in the backup directory specified, with the name you specify. The COMPARE file will show every line that has been added, deleted or changed. When comparing *.INI files, the section heading ([boot] or [fonts] etc.) will appear above the line listed that has changed/deleted/added. The COMPARE file will also show which, if any, files or directories have been added to or updated in the selected Compare directories. Lastly, compare will show any entries that have been added to your Registration Database (SYSTEM.DAT, USER.DAT).

When the compare process is finished the compare file will be displayed, you to view. The COMPARE file shows what lines have been added, deleted or changed in your configuration files, as well as showing what files and/or directories have been added/updated in the selected directories.

See also:

Compare Results File

Backup

Express

Uninstall

Compare Results File

The COMPARE results file:

The COMPARE file is generated by comparing your backup files and the current files. First InWatch compares your AUTOEXEC.BAT file with the backup AUTOEXEC.IWB. This first step will find lines that have either changed or been added since you did the backup. The process is then reversed, reading one line from AUTOEXEC.IWB and comparing it to every line in AUTOEXEC.BAT. Any lines in AUTOEXEC.IWB not found in AUTOEXEC.BAT are lines that have changed or been deleted since the backup. Any lines that have simply been changed (Not added or deleted entirely) will show up under both headings in the COMPARE file. By visually comparing both occurrences, you can tell what changes have been made. For example if the first comparison showed this line as not found:

C:.EXE /D:MSCD001

and the second comparison showed this line:

C:.EXE /D:MSCD000

you would know that originally the identifier for the CD-ROM extensions was MSCD001, then changed to MSCD000.

InWatch then compares the CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, SYSTEM.INI and Windows, System, and Root directories, appending the results of these comparisons to the compare file. Since INI files are (much) more structured than AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS, the compare results for your INI files are easier to follow, and more exact. The compare results for INI files will show if a line was ADDED, DELETED or CHANGED, showing the value of the line originally and after the comparison.

InWatch will also report any increase or decrease in free disk space on all local Hard Drives.

Free disk space change reports:

This part of the report displays the difference (if any) in free disk space on all local hard drives. Sometimes this function will report a change in disk size when it appears nothing has been added or deleted; this is due to the fact that Windows 95 tracks file moves/copies/deletions in Explorer and the Recycle bin. Since tracking these changes use disk space, you may notice minor decreases in disk space due to this. Also, since the Windows 95 Swap File (Virtual memory) size is changed dynamically, InWatch may incorrectly report free disk space changes. InWatch tracks the size of the swap file, but due to the dynamic nature of the swap file, InWatch does not always accurately report the free disk space changes.

See also:

[Brief Compare Files](#)

[Backup](#)

[Compare](#)

Express
Uninstall

Uninstall



Selecting Uninstall from the Config Files menu will restore your configuration to the state it was in before it was altered by the installation of a selected application. Uninstall only works if you followed the procedures for doing the backup first, then installed the application, then used the compare function. Also note that Uninstall only works with Compare files (.iwc, .atc) created with version 1.9 (or higher) of InWatch. Uninstall uses the .IWU file, with the same 8 letter name as the compare file, to accomplish its uninstall: You should NEVER edit any .IWU file. Uninstall ONLY uninstalls applications that you have created a COMPARE file for using the Compare function.

You will be presented with a dialog box, listing all the compare (.IWC, .ATC) files found in the selected backup directory. To View a compare file, select the file and click on View. To delete a file, select the file and click on Delete. To uninstall a program, select the compare file from the list for the program you want to uninstall and click on Ok. After clicking on this button, a list will display, showing all the actions that are necessary to complete the uninstall. Select all or some of the actions you want carried out then Click on cancel to cancel the uninstall, Ok to carry out the UnInstallation. The list of uninstall actions may include: REMOVE (removes an entry from an INI file), ADD (adds an entry to an INI file), CHANGE (changes an entry in an INI file to the value following 'TO:'), REMOVEFILE (deletes the specified file from the directory shown, placing it in the Recycle Bin), REG_DAT_REMOVE (deletes entries added to your Registration Database file.) If the Verify Every Action checkbox is checked, InWatch will ask for verification before completing each and every action listed. This can be very useful if the program added lines that you want to remain as they are. To verify an action, click on YES. Click on NO to skip this one step, and click on CANCEL to stop the uninstall at this point. Note that cancel will NOT undo the actions you have already verified, it simply stops the uninstall process where it is. A text file will be created after you complete the uninstall process. This text file will have the name of the compare file plus the extension .LOG, and lists all actions DONE and NOTDONE so you have a log of the actions you completed. If you have already completed an uninstall for that program, the LOG file will be appended to the current log.

NOTE that you should use caution when uninstalling applications, since InWatch will restore modified INI lines to the value they were BEFORE the application was installed. Therefore, if you use Backup, then install an application, then happen to modify an entry in an INI file that this installed application modified when it was installed, InWatch will change the INI entry back to the value it held BEFORE the application was installed, ignoring the change you had made to the line. You should also take care with DLL (Dynamic Link Library) files, since many of these are shared with other applications. InWatch is careful about this, since it will only delete files that were ADDED, not updated. You should still use caution when deleting files in the Windows System directory; If, for example, you installed a program that copied BWCC.DLL (Borland Windows Custom Controls DLL) to the Windows System directory, then installed a second application that also uses BWCC.DLL, then uninstalled the first application, BWCC.DLL would be deleted, causing the second application to not work.

See also:

[Backup](#)

[Express](#)

[Compare](#)

[DLL Dependency Checking](#)

[Verify Uninstall Actions](#)

View

You can view/edit compare (.IWC & .ATC) files three ways:



FILE|OPEN
Open dialog box.

Presents you with a standard Windows File



CONFIG FILES|VIEW
descriptions.

Presents you with a list of filenames and



CONFIG FILES|UNINSTALL
descriptions.

Presents you with a list of filenames and

Selecting open from the File menu displays the standard Windows open dialog box, from which you can open compare files, as well as any other small ASCII text file for viewing or editing. The default directory presented will be the InWatch Backup Directory , but you can select any drive/directory you wish.

Selecting View from the Config Files menu presents a dialog box which shows all Compare (.IWC/.ATC) files in the Backup Directory. Just select the file and click on OK to view it. This dialog is easier and more descriptive than the standard file|open dialog, but you are limited to selecting files from the backup directory. Clicking on the Show file types radio buttons allows you to view .IWC (InWatch Compare), .ATC (Autotrak Compare) files or both at the same time.

Selecting UnInstall from the Config Files menu presents a dialog box similar to the View Files dialog, except this dialog is normally reserved for uninstalling applications. You may, however, select a compare file and click the VIEW button to view the file as above.

InWatch Options

The InWatch Options dialog has the following options the user can change:

Backup Directory

Load InWatch Maximized

Load Documents Maximized

Show Large Icons on Toolbar

AutoTrak Options:

Enable Autotracking

Open Last ATC at Startup

Only keep latest ATC files

Confirm ATC deletions

Uninstall Options:

Verify Uninstall Actions

DLL Dependency Check

Compare Options:

Brief Compare Files

Keep blank compares

Don't Report Updated

Default name

Directories

Backup Directory

InWatch needs to know where you want the backup files to be placed and read from.

To select a directory, click once on the directory name. To view sub-directories below the current directory, double-click on a directory name. To view directories above the current directory, double-click on the '[..]' entry in the list (i.e. double-clicking on '[..]' in the C:\WINDOWS\COMPARES directory would move to the C:\WINDOWS directory)

To select another drive, double-click on the drive letter in the list.

The currently selected drive and directory is shown at the top of the dialog box, beside 'Backup To:'.

Load InWatch Maximized

With this option enabled, InWatch will load (open) in the maximized (full screen) state. When disabled, InWatch will load normally, with whatever position and size Windows assigns it.

Load Documents Maximized

With this option enabled, InWatch will display opened in the maximized (full screen) state. When disabled, InWatch will display open documents normally.

Show Large Icons on Toolbar

With this option enabled, InWatch will display the icons on the toolbar in a larger size. This is useful if your display is set up for a high resolution, enabling the button icons to be read/seen more easily.

Enable AutoTrak Checkbox

This Checkbox allows you to enable or disable the AutoTrak function.

AutoTrak is a program that, when enabled, will automatically run when you start windows. AutoTrak will, exactly like the InWatch function Backup, create backups of your Configuration files and a list of files/directories in the selected key directories. The next time you start windows, AutoTrak will do a comparison of your current configuration files with the backup files, just like the InWatch Compare function. Autotrak will save the resulting compare file using a filename consisting of the month, day, hour and minute, in this format MMDDHHMM.ATC. AutoTrak uses the ATC filename extension to distinguish AutoTrak compare files from InWatch compare files.

AutoTrak doesn't typically replace the normal Backup and Compare functions of InWatch, but rather supplements them. AutoTrak will track changes made during a windows session; A session starts when you load windows, and stops when you exit windows using the Shut Down option from the Start Menu.

Use Backup and Compare just before and just after installing a program, to track the changes that program makes when it is installed. Use AutoTrak to track changes made by you, and programs you run during a windows session. AutoTrak is particularly useful in this manner because it will automatically keep a record of changes you have made, so if you make some configuration changes that adversely affect the operation or performance of your system, AutoTrak will keep a record of these changes. Each time you start windows, AutoTrak does a comparison of your files, exactly like the InWatch Compare function.

Enabling/Disabling AutoTrak adds/removes the reference to AutoTrak.exe, located in the InWatch directory (normally C:\Program Files\InWatch), in the Startup Folder on the Start menu. If you disable the AutoTrak function, and decide NOT to use it, you can delete all the *.ATB (AutoTrak Backup) files in the InWatch Backup directory. However, do NOT delete these files during a windows session if your are still using AutoTrak, since AutoTrak needs these files to operate.

You may want to view a autotrak compare file after you start your next windows session, by using Open function from the File menu. You can also have the last ATC(AutoTrak Compare) file loaded automatically when you start Windows by enabling the open last ATC at startup option.

Open Last ATC at startup

Enabling this option will open the ATC file, when Windows starts, that was created with the Autotrak function the last time you started Windows.

Only Keep Latest ATC files

Enabling this option will instruct InWatch and Autotrak to only keep a specified number of Autotrak (ATC) files. This is useful since the number of ATC files can grow after time. This option, when enabled, will delete the oldest file(s). If, for instance, you specified to keep the latest 20 files, once there are 21 ATC files, autotrak will delete the oldest one.

If you want the files deleted, but don't want autotrak to automatically delete them without notifying you, enable the Confirm ATC deletions option.

Confirm ATC deletions

Enabling this option will instruct Autotrak to present you with a dialog box on Windows startup if there are any ATC files tagged to be deleted. See the Only keep latest ATC files option for more info on automatic ATC deletions.

Verify Every Action Checkbox

When using the Uninstall function, this checkbox allows you to verify EVERY uninstall action, before it is done. With this box checked, you will be asked to verify each and every uninstall action, before it is done. If you want all the uninstall actions completed, without further verification, leave this checkbox blank.

This checkbox appears both in the Options dialog and in the Uninstall dialog.

DLL Dependency Check

When using the Uninstall function, this checkbox allows you to have InWatch check the dependencies of any DLL files you will remove during the uninstall process.

DLLs (Dynamic Link Libraries) are files which contain pieces of code which can be shared among applications, BWCC.DLL (Borland Windows Custom Controls) for example. A DLL is loaded once, then can be used by many applications at the same time, thus saving memory. BWCC is used by many applications to give dialog boxes a grey 'chiseled in steel' look, as well as pictures on buttons (The checkmark on the OK button, the X on the Cancel button) and more.

If an application copies a DLL to your hard drive when it is installed, it would seem logical that you could delete that DLL when uninstalling that application, but since DLLs can be shared another program may use the DLL you are about to delete. InWatch will scan all your hard drives and find all .EXE and DLL files that reference a DLL you want to delete during the uninstall process. If a DLL is referenced by any files other than ones you will be deleting during the uninstall, then you should NOT delete the DLL, since these other programs will usually not work without that DLL. NOTE that the DLL dependency checking is not an exacting process, since some programs use undocumented ways of referencing DLL files. It is often wise to move DLL files to a backup directory, then if you find a program that needs a DLL, you can move it back from the backup directory.

After scanning all hard drives Dependency Check will display a list of all files that reference the DLL you are about to delete during the uninstall. At this point you may choose to keep, or delete the file.

This checkbox will be grayed out on the Uninstall dialog box if there are no DLLs in the Uninstall Action List.

Brief Compare Option

When this option is enabled the compare (output) file produced by the Compare function will be shorter, excluding the descriptive lines normally included in the file. When first using InWatch, it is a good idea to leave this option off, but as you get familiar with the compare files, you can turn this option on to reduce the size and increase the readability of the compare files.

Keep Blank Compare files

When this option is enabled, blank compare files (those that reflect no changes to any files) will still be created. With this option turned off, the compare file is NOT created, thus saving disk space.

Why would you want to save blank files? One of the reasons for keeping a blank file is so you will know that the program installed made no changes that InWatch tracked. At a later date you may wonder if the program made changes or not; if you kept the blank compare, you would have evidence that no changes were made.

Don't Report Updated

You may not want certain files included in the compare process. InWatch gives the option of excluding (ignoring) updated .SWP (paging/swap File) and/or .INI files when the compare is done. Often .INI files are updated through routine functions in Windows, therefore every compare may include a long list of updated .INI files. Since the Swapfile (Normally WIN386.SWP) is updated and changed dynamically while Windows is running, you will normally want to exclude this file. If you want either updated .SWP or .INI files excluded from the compare process, check the appropriate boxes in the Options dialog box. Note that ADDED .INI files are still included in the compare process and this option applies only to .INI files in the Windows Directory.

Default Name

InWatch gives you the option of having the default name (the compare Filename which is presented as a default each time you use the Compare function) be either 'COMPARE' or a filename consisting of the month/day/hour/minute in the MMDDHHMM.IWC format.

The choice between default filenames is completely dependent on user preference, but each offers benefits over the other. Using 'COMPARE' gives a consistent name, but if you use this name once, the next time you use it you will have to overwrite the previous file, or choose a new name (InWatch prompts you if a filename already exists.)

COMPARE is a good choice for experimentation and quick compares. Using the MMDDHHMM format gives an accurate account of when the compare was done and (mostly) avoids the problem with having to overwrite an older compare because the filename is the same. The only down side of this format is that you could create a large number of compare files, since a new file is created each time.

Directories

By checking the appropriate 'Standard Directories' checkboxes, you can determine if InWatch will scan the selected directories for changes during the compare process. By default, InWatch will scan the following directories: Root directories of all local Hard Drives, Program Files, Fonts, and Windows, Windows(The actual name of the Windows directory may be different on your machine, such as Win95).

You can also enter the paths for up to 5 additional directories for InWatch to Compare. Enter the entire path, including drive letter in the appropriate 'Optional Directories' edit box. NOTE that you must enter the directory names BEFORE doing a Backup, as InWatch is unable to compare a directory it has not backed up.

Autoexec.bat file

The autoexec.bat contains commands that the computer carries out to configure your computer. The autoexec.bat is carried out, when you start your system, immediately after the config.sys file. Autoexec.bat can contain commands that set environment variables, set the screen prompt, load Terminate and Stay Resident (TSR) programs, or run executable files, load CD-ROM extensions, etc.

If you have set up your autoexec.bat file to use the multi-config option, your autoexec.bat will be broken up into sections. These sections are separated by the character ':' and a word, i.e. :dos or :games.

See also:

[Config.sys file](#)

[Msdos.sys file](#)

[System.ini file](#)

[Win.ini file](#)

[Protocol.ini File](#)

[Registration Database](#)

Config.sys file

The config.sys file contains commands that the computer carries out to configure your computer's hardware. The config.sys is carried out when you start your system, and is immediately followed by the autoexec.bat file. Config.sys can contain commands that specify where DOS should be loaded, what language conventions to use, how much memory to reserve for transferring information to and from disks, how many disk files can be open at one time, or to load device drivers such as a mouse or CD-ROM driver etc.

If you have set up your config.sys file to use the multi-config option, your config.sys will be broken up into sections. These sections are separated by the characters '[' and ']' with a word in between, i.e. [dos] or [games].

See also:

[Autoexec.bat file](#)

[Msdos.sys file](#)

[System.ini file](#)

[Win.ini file](#)

[Protocol.ini File](#)

[Registration Database](#)

Msdos.sys file

The Msdos.sys file contains settings that are used by Windows 95 for startup purposes. Under DOS/Windows this was a Binary file used to load a portion of MS-DOS itself. Under Windows 95, it is a editable text file with the System, Hidden and Read-Only attributes set.

The Msdos.sys file is read by IO.SYS when your computer starts up. Settings in this file determine whether your machine will start up in the Graphical Windows 95 User Interface, or in a DOS 7.0 command prompt mode. Some other options set whether the Windows 95 logo is displayed at startup, if the network (if present) is to be used, as well as some other useful options.

See also:

[Autoexec.bat file](#)

[Config.sys file](#)

[System.ini file](#)

[Win.ini file](#)

[Protocol.ini File](#)

[Registration Database](#)

System.ini file

The System.ini file contains configuration information about your computer system hardware and setup. System.ini is used by windows when it starts up so it can determine what your hardware setup is and what hardware settings to use. This file contains several headings, such as [Boot] or [Keyboard], with each heading separating the file into distinct sections. The system.ini file will contain information such as: the video driver to use, the mouse driver to use, the keyboard type, system-level settings and so forth.

See also:

[Autoexec.bat file](#)

[Config.sys file](#)

[Msdos.sys file](#)

[Win.ini file](#)

[Protocol.ini File](#)

[Registration Database](#)

Win.ini file

The Win.ini file contains configuration information about how windows is configured. Win.ini is loaded into memory when you start windows. This file contains several headings, such as [Windows] or [Desktop], with each heading seperating the file into distinct sections. The win.ini file will contain information dealing with the way windows is setup, including color settings, keyboard repeat rates, international settings, installed printers, installed fonts, and desktop settings like wallpaper and icon spacing. Many applications add lines to this file that contain configuration information for the application. As more applications are installed, often the size of your win.ini file will greatly increase.

See also:

[Autoexec.bat file](#)

[Config.sys file](#)

[Msdos.sys file](#)

[System.ini file](#)

[Protocol.ini File](#)

[Registration Database](#)

Protocol.ini file

The Protocol.ini file contains configuration information regarding networking, such as the Network Interface Card settings.

See also:

[Autoexec.bat file](#)

[Config.sys file](#)

[Msdos.sys file](#)

[System.ini file](#)

[Registration Database](#)

Registration Database

The Registration Database contains a myriad of information needed by applications and Windows 95 itself. InWatch compares the ROOT entries and keys added to the SOFTWARE key. The ROOT entries are what used to be the REG.DAT file under Windows 3.1x, which contained all the information needed by applications that used OLE (Object Linking and Embedding), and a listing of all the data filename extensions that are associated with applications. These associations are used by Explorer when you double-click on a data file, so it knows which application to launch to load this data file, or in other words, which application is associated with that file type. The Registration Database consists of two (in some cases three) files: SYSTEM.DAT and USER.DAT, which are located in your Windows directory.

See also:

[Autoexec.bat file](#)

[Config.sys file](#)

[Msdos.sys file](#)

[System.ini file](#)

[Win.ini File](#)

[Protocol.ini File](#)

InWatch.ini file

The InWatch.ini file contains configuration information that InWatch needs. This file is located in the Windows directory. Most of the options presented in this file can be changed through the options dialog box of InWatch. The only options that may need to be changed manually (if you were to change to directory where InWatch is installed for instance) would be the LOCATION and DIRECTORY entries. These entries specify the directory where InWatch is installed (LOCATION) and the currently selected (through the options dialog) backup directory (DIRECTORY).

Configuration Files

Configuration files are: AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, MSDOS.SYS (all three located in your boot drive's root directory), SYSTEM.INI, WIN.INI (Windows configuration Files, located in the Windows directory), PROTOCOL.INI (used for networking) and USER.DAT & SYSTEM.DAT(Registration Database)

See Also:

[Autoexec.bat file](#)

[Config.sys file](#)

[Msdos.sys file](#)

[System.ini file](#)

[Win.ini File](#)

[Protocol.ini File](#)

[Registration Database](#)

