



# Do it to music

Go beyond Control Panel/Sounds and add your favourite .WAVs on a per-program basis. Tim Nott shows you how to do it without third-party help. Plus, a surprise trip to the future.

**B**ack in the days of Windows 3.0, I had a shareware toy called "Whoop-it-up". It went beyond the capabilities of the Control Panel/Sounds feature in that it enabled you to assign sounds not only to overall system events (Open, Close, Maximise, etc) but also on a per-program basis. It offered hours of entertainment and displacement activity. You could have your word processor opening with a few bars of Buddy Holly's "Words of Love", or watch CorelDraw crash to a clip of Murray Walker saying "Oh my goodness, he's spun off... again!" Anyway, the good news is that you can do it all in Windows 95 without any third-party help. It does involve a little registry editing, so back up SYSTEM and USER.DAT first.

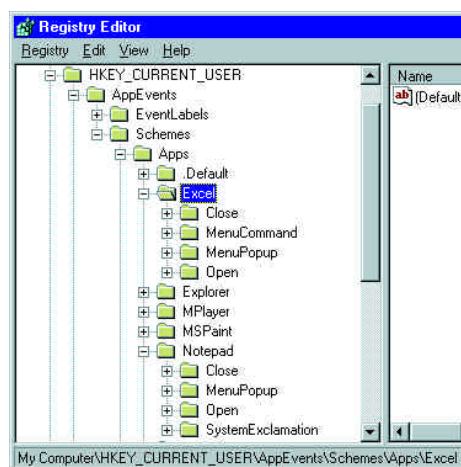
Fire up Regedit, and boldly go to HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\AppEvents\Schemes\Apps.

Under this, you'll see a key for ".Default" but there may be others. With "Apps" selected, right-click and pick "New Key". Type in the name of the program you want to add; that's the filename of the executable, without extension or path (e.g. "Notepad" or "Excel"). Highlight it and create new "Event" keys below it (e.g. "Open"). A list of the possible keys, and what they do, is in Fig 1.

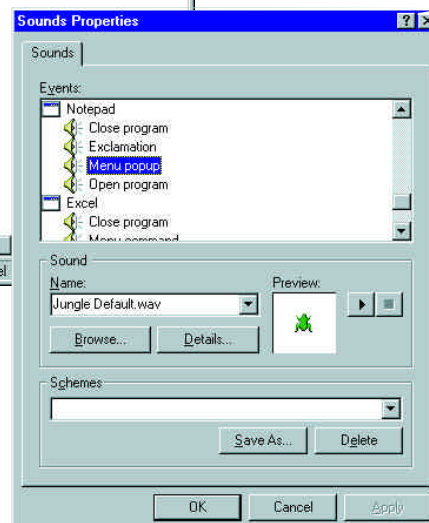
Continue adding program and event keys until you're bored but don't assign any values to them. Close Regedit. Open Control Panel/Sounds. All your new applications and events will be sitting there, waiting for sounds to be assigned. Browse away to your favourite .WAV files.

## What's app, Doc?

**Q.** Julian Toler has a mysterious file named "-oleapp.doc" which appears in C:\TEMP. He says it "is strange because I have 'SET



Add programs and events via Regedit (left) then find them in Control Panel to assign sounds (below)



TEMP=C:\WIN95\TEMP" in my AUTOEXEC.BAT. It appears immediately after boot-up, with a size of 1,536 bytes, and is not write-protected. I usually delete it manually if I spot it, and have a line in my AUTOEXEC.BAT which does the same, but like a bad penny it keeps on turning up."

**A.** Relax, Julian, for this is mostly harmless. The official Microsoft explanation is that if you have Office Fast Start loading in your StartUp folder, and a folder named TEMP in the root of the hard disk, "Fast Start creates the file in order to test OLE calls. Fast Start does not create the file if the temporary folder is set to a path other than the one at the root level." Which latter doesn't quite ring true with your experience, or mine: even with the TEMP environmental variable set elsewhere, it still gets created. Incidentally, you don't need an explicit SET TEMP = line in AUTOEXEC.BAT. It automatically gets set to the TEMP folder in the Windows folder. If you remove the entry and type "SET" from a DOS box, you'll see what I mean.

**Q.** "How can I run a screensaver on demand?" asks David Garrett. "I have seen

an undocumented tip referring to 'live' corners of the screen, but I've never managed to get it to work."

**A.** Me neither. It seems you need the Plus! pack installed and System Agent running. A method which will work, however, is to drag a shortcut from the screensaver (\*.SCR) file to the Desktop (or wherever). Double-click to start saving. Right-click to fiddle with the settings. You'll have to go via Control Panel to enable or change a password but once you've set this up it works for all .SCR shortcuts. Without the password, no-one can get back into Windows except by switching off the machine.

Once they've done this, and probably lost your unsaved data, left your machine full of TMP files and generally messed things up, then it's simple enough to disable

Fig 1 Sound event keys

AppGPFault	Application GPF error
Close	Close program
Maximise	Maximise program
MenuCommand	Select from a menu
MenuPopup	Menu drop
Minimise	Minimise program
Open	Start program
RestoreDown	Restore from maximised
RestoreUp	Restore from minimised
SystemAsterisk	Asterisk message
SystemExclamation	Exclamation mark message
SystemHand	Stop sign message
SystemQuestion	Question mark message

password protection on screensavers. Just go into Control Panel/Display/Screensaver and untick the box. Changing the password is simple, too, as you don't need to know the old one. (There is a known bug which causes passwords with more than 19 characters to hang, but that shouldn't be a problem for any but the obsessive.)

**Q.** Clive Tomkin was wondering where all his disk space had gone, until he "found a huge file in C:\Exchange named Mailbox.pst".

**A.** This, as he correctly guessed, is the Exchange database containing all incoming and outgoing mail messages, including faxes which, as they are essentially bitmaps, can be large. So go through your Inbox and Sent Items, delete everything you don't want to keep, and you'll find that Mailbox.pst has remained the same. This is because Exchange doesn't delete or send the items to the Recycle Bin; it simply flags them as "deleted items" and shows them in the pseudo-folder of that name.

Clive was wise to this, of course, so promptly deleted the entire contents of "Deleted Items" and they disappeared. A quick check on Mailbox.pst showed that the file size was... exactly the same. It seems as if Exchange just doesn't want to let those old messages and faxes go. The answer is to go to Tools/Services in Exchange (or right-click on the Inbox icon, Properties/Services) and highlight "Personal Folders". Click the "Properties" button and in the ensuing dialogue, click "Compact now". Intuitive, I don't think.

## Top tips of the month

An encouraging response this month to my request for readers' suggestions to replace Windows' "Tips of the day": a

bumper email from Neil Jarvis included "Avoid tumbling off the cliff of triteness into the black abyss of over-used metaphors" and "Who is General Failure? And why is he reading my drive C:?" Adrian Sutton's selection included this fine quote from Douglas Adams; "The secret of flying is to throw yourself at the ground, and miss." Do keep them coming.

## A hex on it — and other tips

Some applications store information in the registry in hexadecimal format. Usually this is used to encode things like user preferences or toolbar settings, but some applications use it to store things normally expressed in plain text (e.g. file locations). I'm too ignorant to fathom why this should be desirable, let alone necessary, but suffice it to say, according to Regedit, WordPerfect stores its templates at 66 3a 5c 43 6f 72 65... (Fig 2). Not very helpful. But if you double-click on the entry, the dialogue box provides a translation; in this case f:\Corel\Office7\Template. Note that you can edit in either format, by clicking in the appropriate section.

To display the size of a folder and all nested folders, right-click the folder, select "Properties" and (if there's a lot below) wait.

It isn't compulsory to have all shortcuts branching off the "Programs" item in the Start menu. Right-click the start button and select "Open". Right-click in the "Start Menu" and select "New". Create a new shortcut and this will appear at the top level of the start menu: create a new folder, and any shortcuts created within will branch straight off the top level.

The tip (Hands On, October) for getting a permanent record of your hardware settings from the "Print" button of Control Panel/System/Device Manager has been enhanced by Howard Anderson, who complains that there's no way to get all this

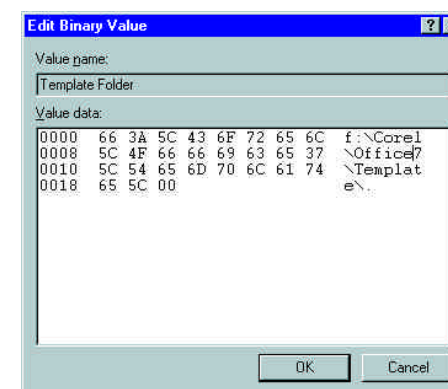


Fig 2 What the hex? Regedit provides a translation

info on-screen. His workaround is to "Print to HTML", using the driver that comes with Power Toys, to view the file in his web browser. Do not forget the old standby of installing the "Generic/Text Only" printer driver and printing to file — this produces plain text.

■ Further developments in Graham Slope's query about how to get Startup shortcuts to load in the desired order (Hands On, January). Malcolm Burch reckons they execute in the order they appear in the DOS directory and the secret is to move them all to another folder, then move them back in the desired order. Doing a DIR from an MS-DOS prompt should list them in the order they will execute. I've tried it, and it seems to work, but I've noticed that slow-loading apps tend to get "leap-frogged" by faster-loading ones. And this also applies to my solution of using a batch file. So hats off again to Alex Nichol, who pointed out that you can use the "/W" switch with the DOS "START" command. This waits until the called program has loaded (or finished doing whatever it does) before returning control to the batch file.

■ This tip may also solve Rab Steven's query on CIX. He wanted to *"run a couple of utilities, just before the computer is shut down (file tidies and the like). It's easy to get the beast to do it at start-up, but how do I get it to do something automatically at shutdown?"* Bearing in mind January's tip about exiting Windows without the confirmation dialogue, the following batch file should do the trick, where THIS and THAT are the utilities concerned:

```
START /W THIS.EXE <parameters>
START /W THAT.EXE <parameters>
C:\WINDOWS\RUNDLL32.EXE
user.exe, ExitWindows
```

■ Here's another tip from Alex Nichol (which takes him into the realms of CD/book token winners). Sending files to a printer in Win95 usually involves launching an associated application, if only to add word wrap. But there is sometimes a need to send a file directly to the printer, say as a print image or PostScript code. Launching the application is time consuming and may not even be available. You can do it with the COPY command in a DOS box, but this tip automates the business. With NotePad make a small file containing only

```
COPY %1 LPT1:
```

and save it in the Windows folder as PRINTIT.BAT. Now right-drag this to the Desktop, and choose "Make Shortcut".

## Back to the future — strange days indeed

There I was, having just finished a feature minutes ahead of my deadline, when I opened the folder, selected the .DOC file, the .XLS feature table and sundry .GIF screenshots. I right-clicked and selected "Add to Zip": WinZip duly fired up, barfed, and fell over. I eventually managed to Zip the files using raw PKZip from a DOS window and went to start Ameol (the off-line reader for CIX) so that I could send the zipped files to PCW. Ameol duly fired up, barfed, and fell over.

In the end, I managed to transmit the file using Hyperterminal, two tin cans and a piece of wet string, but something was obviously VERY WRONG. Having tried a few obvious things such as rebooting, virus checking, running ScanDisk and going out for a few beers, the problem remained. Just by chance I happened to waft the pointer over the Taskbar clock — and up popped the date. The day and the month were as expected but somehow I was in year 2096.

Now, I've dozed off at my desk before, but this was ridiculous. Strangely enough,

Name it, say, "Copy to Printer". Right-click Properties/Program and add "%1" (including the double quotes) to Cmd Line. It should read C:\Windows\PRINTIT.BAT "%1". Set it to run minimised and tick "Close on Exit". You can also change the icon to something appropriate, like the printer icon in Shell32.dll. Dropping any file onto this icon will copy it "raw" to the printer. Note, though, that text files may or may not have hard returns in them; if they don't, they will still need to go via Notepad or WordPad to add word wrap.

### Error messages

Thank you, Colin Green, for pointing out that the new Microsoft Mouse Wheel (Hands On, January) also works in Help. Thanks, also, to Robert Bruce for pointing out that *"The registry Hearts cheat key lurks in .../Windows/Applets/Hearts and not in .../Windows/Hearts as stated."* Alex Nichol pointed out that my problem with not getting "MORE" to work (Hands On, December) is because I didn't have the DOS keyboard driver loaded. Honestly, I did know that once... You need both

```
COUNTRY 044, 850, C:\WIN95\
COMMAND\COUNTRY.SYS
```

in CONFIG.SYS, and

2096 looked and felt very much like 1996. So, taking into account this weight of empirical evidence, I reset the computer's date and all my problems disappeared. Well, almost, because I still had loads of files with 2096 creation and modification dates. Loading them into the relevant application and resaving them cured this for some, but not all. And there were rather a lot of them.

Somewhere, a little bell rang, and I restarted ScanDisk, blew the cobwebs off the "Advanced" button, and there it was: a "Check for invalid dates and times" option waiting to be ticked. This found even more invalid dates in files and folders, including places like the "Fonts" folder that "Find File..." doesn't. And it seems to have mended them.

As to what caused this great leap forward remains a mystery. Fellow sufferers blame everything from a particular Compaq BIOS (which I don't have) to rogue software, of which I have lots. Anyway, should strange things start to happen on your PC, *check the date.*

### KEYB UK

in AUTOEXEC.BAT. You can put this directly into the "batch file" pane of the DOS Prompt shortcut.

## Relax...

Let all troublesome thoughts, such as getting any work done, float away as you listen to Syntrellium's Wind Chimes (WC1SETUP.EXE on this month's cover-mounted CD-ROM, or available from [www.syntrellium.com](http://www.syntrellium.com)). This uses the MIDI capabilities of your sound card to generate more or less random tunes. You can choose the instrument and any one of 64 preset scales. You can control the number of chimes, the distance between them and even the variation in the wind speed. And if this all sounds far too complicated, there are over 40 predefined schemes. Two things you must try are: running your fingers (well, your mouse pointer) through the chimes at the top right of the control dialogue, and running two or more instances of Wind Chimes. It's quite the most delightful thing I've had on my hard disk for a long time, and so relaxing that... I really don't... think... I can write another... Zzzzzzz.

## PCW Contact

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