

Windows^{xp} Q&As



Q I downloaded the Tweak UI, Image Resizer and CD Slide Show Generator PowerToys for Windows XP. Tweak UI installed in my Program menu but the others are not listed and cannot be accessed. I tried deleting and reinstalling them twice, with the same result each time. What's wrong?

A Tweak UI can be used as a normal application. Some of the other Windows XP PowerToys are extensions to standard Windows features and aren't supposed to be called up from the Start menu. The fault is really the skimpy documentation, which doesn't explain this, but as these utilities are free it's churlish to complain.

To use Image Resizer, select an image with the mouse and then right-click on it.

A new dialog box, Resize Pictures, will appear in the Context menu (shown below). If you select it, you'll see a choice of four screen size options. Select one and the image will be stretched or shrunk to suit the selected screen size and saved to a new file.

The CD Slide Show Generator works as an extension to the facility built into Windows XP to burn CD-R and CD-RW discs. To use it, create a CD containing only images by dragging image files to the CD writer. When you choose 'Write these files to CD' the wizard starts as usual to guide you through the process. You will now see a new option to generate an autorun file for the slideshow. This will be written to the disc too, creating a CD that will automatically start and run a slideshow on any Windows PC.

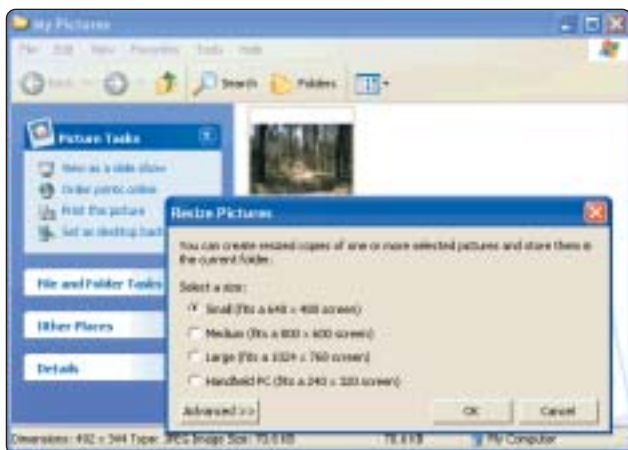
Q I am trying to install Windows XP Home on my computer. After I boot from floppy, I try to run Setup.exe but receive the error 'This program cannot be run in DOS mode'.

A The usual way to install Windows XP is to boot the system from the CD-ROM itself. A boot floppy isn't required unless for some reason the system won't boot from the CD-ROM. Just about any PC new enough to be able to run Windows XP should support booting from the CD-ROM, so if yours won't check the Bios settings to see whether this boot option has been disabled.

If it is necessary to install Windows XP Home from a DOS prompt, change to the i386 directory on the CD-ROM and type the command winnt.exe to start Setup.

Q I frequently make use of Tweak UI for Windows XP. Is it possible to add it to the Control Panel, where it used to be in Windows 95, instead of under PowerToys for Windows XP on the Programs menu?

A Yes, it is. Adding an item to the Control Panel is a matter of registering its details in the appropriate place in the Registry. It's not an easy thing to do manually, though, as it involves creating a Guid (globally unique identifier) – a 32-character long string made up of



← The Image Resizer PowerToy adds a Resize Pictures option to the context menu for image files



↑ You can add Tweak UI for Windows XP to the Control Panel

→ Quickly restore deleted desktop icons under Windows XP

letters and numbers that must be typed correctly. To make things easier, we've created a REG file containing the necessary information and included it on the cover CD. So to add Tweak UI to your Windows XP Control Panel (shown above left) just double-click this file. (You must, of course, download and install the Tweak UI for XP PowerToy first.) After that, if you wish, you can delete the PowerToys for XP entry on the Programs menu.

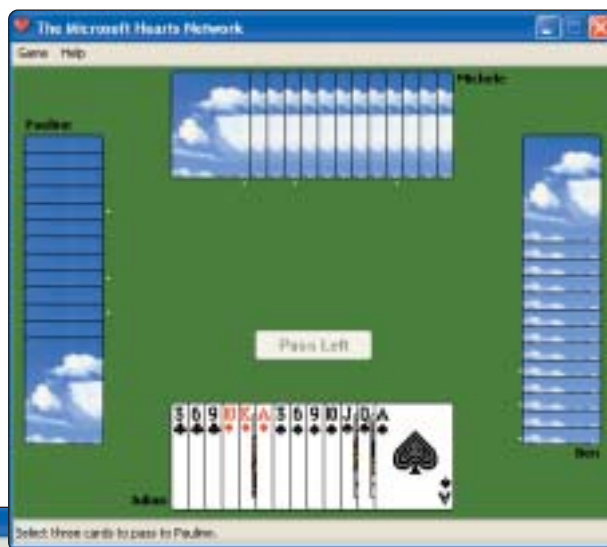
Q I deleted the My Network Places icon from my Windows XP desktop because my computer wasn't on a network. I recently networked our two computers, so I would like to get the icon back. How do I do this, please?

A It's quite simple to restore system icons that have been removed from the Windows XP desktop. Right-click the desktop, select Properties from the Context menu, then select the Desktop tab from the Properties dialog box. Click the Customize desktop button near the bottom of the dialog. Check the box next to My Network Places in the Desktop Items panel (shown above centre), then close the dialog boxes by clicking ok. The missing icon will soon reappear.



Q I have an IBM ThinkPad 600E notebook that ran Windows 98. After upgrading to Windows XP I am having problems with the sound. After startup there is no audio and Sounds and Audio Devices in Control Panel shows 'No Audio Device'. Device manager shows a yellow warning sign beside 'Crystal WDM Audio Codec'. If I manually update the driver, I see a message about copying file ksolay.ax from c:\Windows\System32 and everything then works normally until shutdown. Why won't it stay working?

A We haven't come across this problem before and we can find no mention of it on the IBM website. However, there do appear to be a number of problems with ThinkPad 600 systems and Windows XP. Try searching the IBM technical support database at www-1.ibm.com/support/search using the keywords 'ThinkPad 600 XP'. There is a



↑ MS Hearts for XP no longer works on a LAN

Bios upgrade, the last revision of which (version 1.22) contains the new feature of 'Compatibility with Windows XP'. This may be worth trying. You can download a Bios upgrade disk from www.pc.ibm.com/qtechinfo/dshy-3vrjpk.html.

Q I upgraded the PCs in our network to Windows XP and now I can't play MS Hearts with other users. How can I make it work?

A We're afraid you can't. Windows XP includes a new networked version of Hearts called Internet Hearts which allows you to play with other players on the web. Unfortunately, the facility to play using a LAN (local area network) seems to have been removed at the same time. We tried copying old executables from Windows 98 to our XP systems but they couldn't be persuaded to work on the network either. So if you're a network Hearts fan and are about to upgrade to XP, be prepared for a disappointment. ■

For top hints for all versions of Windows, as well as top software, hardware and browser shortcuts, don't miss the latest issue of Tips & Tricks

