

Starting ICQ with ISoaQ Process Tweaker

It is recommended that you close any ICQs running before launching the client through ISoaQ PT. If you're experiencing problems running ISoaQ Process Tweaker, try running it with no ICQs active.

Open ISoaQ Process Tweaker

Verify the contents of **ICQ executable path and filename** on Controls Tab box. Browse to your ICQ.EXE if the path/filename is incorrect.

Press **Launch ICQ**. If the launch is successful, the path will be saved to registry

Retriving IPs

There are two ways to see IPs. **First way: User's Details window.**

Open someone's Info window

Look at the IP box on Tools Tab inside the Tweaker

ISoaQ PT always has the option to get IPs from User's Info window, it cannot be turned off.

If you open one's Info and IP is detected as "0.0.0.0" or "deleted by ICQ" it means that ICQ has deleted it. ICQ deletes on any convinient occasion. When you go offline, close your contact list or when a user goes offline IP, ReallIP, Port and some other info is destroyed. Currently ISoaQ prevents deletion of info when a user in contact list goes offline.

It means that you can still retrieve the IP by opening Info window when a user goes red.

Other situations (like when you restart ICQ) are not handled yet (as of beta 7 of ICQ).

Second way: ISoaQ Contact list

Look into ISoaQ PT Contact list. You may want to use

Retriving password

ISoaQ can help you to retrieve your password in case you have forgotten it. It cannot be used retrieve any remotely-stored password or steal passwords from Mirabilis servers.

The password is retrived when the one you enter is compared with the one stored in your database. Most often it occurs when you enter the password when entering an account in High Security mode (see your Security/Privacy settings). It is also compared when you are changing your security mode.

To retrieve your password click on "Password (comparison)" checkbox on Tools Tab. If the checkbox was checked before the actual comparison is done, the password would appear in the appropriate box on Tools tab of ISoaQ.

About ISoaQ Process Tweaker

ISoaQ Process Tweaker is an application that will help you tune up your ICQ client. It is designed for ICQ versions 4.29 and higher (see [Supported ICQ versions](#) for more info)

The latest version of ISoaQ can be downloaded from [ISoaQ homepage](#)

Some versions of ISoaQ PT have certain limitaions.

In the basic version of ISoaQ PT you can spoof only with UIN 1 and ISoaQ contact list doesn't show all the contacts intercepted.

Supported ICQ versions

By the moment the following ICQ versions are supported:

4.31

4.30

4.29

Check [ISoaQ homepage](#) for the latest version of ISoaQ.

Controls Tab

This tab contains basic controls to run/close ICQ and ISoaQ, and ISoaQ Settings

ICQ executable with full path

Specifies the path and filename (e.g. C:\Program Files\Mirabilis\ICQ\ICQ.EXE) of ICQ to launch. You may want to press **Browse...** button to browse to the ICQ.EXE you want to launch if you have multiple ICQs installed.

Terminate button

Forces ICQ process to terminate. Use this button only when unable to close ICQ using Shut Down option in ICQ's menu or by pressing [x] on the top of contact list.

Launch ICQ button

Launches ICQ process from the file specified. Only one process can be launched from one instance of ISoaQ at a time

Settings

Indicates specific ISoaQ PT behaviour. See [ISoaQ PT Settings](#) for more info.

Automatically start ICQ when ISoaQ PT starts

Starts ICQ automatically when ISoaQ starts. Usefull when [Integrating with NetDetect Agent and other programs](#).

Close ISoaQ PT when ICQ process terminates

Quits ISoaQ when ICQ quits. It is recommended to close ISoaQ after each single session with ICQ

Integrate into NetDetect and other apps

Changes App Path\ICQ.exe key so that it points to ISoaQ PT executable rather than to ICQ.EXE. You can integrate ISoaQ PT with programs that automatically launch ICQ this way. See [Integrating with NetDetect Agent and other programs](#) seccion.

Start minimized

Minimizes ISoaQ to system tray when started

Minimize when ICQ starts

Minimizes ISoaQ window to system tray when ICQ process is created

Integrating with NetDetect Agent and other programs

ISoaQ Process Tweaker is able to integrate with NetDetect and other programs that rely on Windows "App Path" registry key. To integrate, just check **Integrate with NetDetect and other programs** checkbox in ISoaQ PT Settings.

It is recommended that you check Automatically start ICQ when ISoaQ PT starts (ISoaQ PT Settings) when using this feature.

LastOwner property

ICQ's registry key that stores the UIN to load at ICQ's startup.

You can change it by running ISoaQ PT with parameter:

```
isoaoptw.exe 123456
```

Launches ISoaQ and sets LastOwner to 123456

Tools tab

This tab contains basic tools to tweak ICQ

IP

Controls to see IP addresses

> **Prevent deletion of info when user goes offline** prevents deletion of IPs, etc., when a user from your contact list goes offline. Doesn't include cases in which you restart your ICQ yourself.

Password checkbox

Turns off/on password retrieval feature

No authorization to add users in search mode checkbox

Eliminates authorization to add users when adding from Search mode (ICQ\Add - Invite User\Find User - Add to list).

UIN Spoofing controls

Controls to spoof originating UIN field. The box to the left contains the UIN currently used by ICQ, the box to the right - UIN you want to spoof with. See Spoofing UIN.

Spoofing UIN

UIN Spoofing means that you change originating UIN when sending ICQ messages to something different from your real number.

In the basic version of ISoaQ PT the number you can spoof with is pre-set to 1.

Changing it in Spoofing controls will not affect "From" UIN field.

To spoof successfully make sure that:

- 1) Your ICQ has to be able to establish direct TCP connection with the target. Messages sent through server cannot be spoofed.
- 2) The ICQ TCP connection between you and the target does not exist yet by the time of spoofing

Once a spoofed TCP connection is established, all your messages will appear from the spoofed UIN in target's contact list. To recover from spoofed connection reconnect your ICQ.

Step by step instruction to spoof:

- 1) Make your ICQ reconnect (to make sure there's no TCP connections)
- 2) Type in the UIN you want to spoof with into the rightmost box of Spoofin controls on Tools Tab
- 3) Press the Square button (in Spoofing controls)
- 4) Make sure that "Automatically send through server when direct connection fails" in your ICQ settings is off
- 5) Send a message to the target UIN

Spoofing (UIN spoofing)

UIN Spoofing means that you change originating UIN when sending ICQ messages to something different from your real number. See [Spoofing UIN](#) for more info.

Welcome to ISoaQ HELP

To search for a specific topic press Index or Search button.
To browse through the help choose Contents instead.

ICQ Security Mode

ICQ can behave in three different ways, depending on Security mode settings.

In High security mode ICQ client, before asking (if ever) password to send to ICQ network asks it to compare with the one stored in your ICQ Database.

At this point it can be intercepted by ISoaQ.

See Retriving Password seccion.

ICQ Database

ICQ Database (also "DB files") is where all your personal ICQ information and contact list are stored. It contains contacts, users' info, message history, your password and a lot of other data.

ICQ Database is usually stored inside ICQ directory under DB, NEWDB, DB99B or 2000A folder, depending on ICQ version you are using. Your ICQ directory may contain several of these folders at a time, since ICQ doesn't delete old databases when upgrading to a newer version.

Internal database errors may destroy your contact list completely. In older versions, such as 98, ICQ deleted the database if it detected something suspicious (for example, the owner of contact list had his own UIN in his contact list). These days ICQ Database management became more tolerant. If you feel that your database contains errors, use DBCONVERT to fix it. See [DBCONVERT warning](#) for more info about conflict between DBCONVERT and ISoaQ PT.

DBCONVERT warning

If you are planning to use ICQ's DBCONVERT to fix your Database, please make sure that it is launched not through ISoaQ PT.

Some versions of ISoaQ PT may hang if a program other than ICQ is launched through them. Especially if ICQ quits before launching them. No ICQ/ISoaQ data is harmed during such hangups, but you may have to shutdown the tasks through Task manager.

Search mode

There are several modes you can go into to add a new user to your ICQ Contact list. One of them "**Search mode**" is that where you add new users after searching for them in ICQ directory. To go into **search mode** select **Add/Invite Users -- Find User - Add to List** from your **ICQ menu**.

Adding users without authorization

Select the appropriate options on Tools Tab, go to ICQ and add the user. Make sure you are adding them from the mode that is tweaked by ISOaQ (e.g. from Search mode)

ISoaQ PT Contact list

ICQs for some unclear reasons conceals from it's user some important information. This information, although always persists in your PC is nearly never revealed by the original client and is used to make your computer connect to other computers without your knowing that, which is, undoubtedly doesn't comply very well with the Privacy principles.

ISoaQ while ICQ runs maintains it's own Contact list where some of the concealed data is displayed.

UIN

The UIN of the person this row refers to

IP

The IP address of the person which would be displayed if it weren't for ICQ2000 and "Do not show IP" flags.

RealIP

The real IP of the contact. Sometimes differs from the previous field, e.g. when the user is behind a firewall. Not too accurate (since ICQ doesn't store them always, and doesn't store them correctly).

Port

Contact's local ICQ port for TCP communications.

Protocol

Contact client's protocol version

Client Ver

Client version, as judged by ISoaQ. Judgement is based on Protocol field.

Privacy principles

According to contemporary internet privacy principles, in order to preserve privacy software should not send out any privacy-sensitive information without user's permission.

ICQ protocol is made in a bit different way. Instead of asking user directly, if it is allowed to send IPs and other details to a particular machine, ICQ server sends this information to anyone who requests it. It's ICQ client (your ICQ program) who decides whether to show IPs or not. In other words, your IP is always sent over ICQ network if someone requests it, unless you're offline/invisible. Your ICQ always has the IPs even though it may write 'N/A' to you. So the situation looks like your PC does have the information and does use it to connect to other PCs, but you, the owner of the PC, do not know exactly where your computer connects to, neither where your ICQ sends packets to. This behaviour doesn't look more legal than the one of a client/server trojan, which connects to some unknown point in the outer world and the user doesn't know that such connection exists. Here some particular violations are listed:

User has the right for total control over the information his computer sends out to outer world.

ICQ doesn't comply with this principle: It doesn't have an option *not to send out* IPs (it has only the option of *not showing* them at the computers which received this data). It is a double violation: on one hand your personal info is sent out to other PCs and there's no way to prevent it in software's preferences. On the other - the user who received the info and who has it on their computer is not offered a way to know what data their PC contains and where connects to (if "do not show IP" flag is set or if ICQ2000 is used). This doesn't comply with the principle that **user has the right for total control over the information his computer contains and over the operations it performs with it**. Would you be happy to find out one day that for several years while you were chatting over the internet your communication software had been modelating some nuclear explosion or calculating spreading rates of an epidemic produced by new biological weapon for a military institute using world's network potential and sending it to somewhere and you didn't have a hint of that ?

Since these principles by no means are juridical, but the rules under which good software is written, ICQ cannot be accused of anything other than implementing an unsecure and unprivate communication ideology. Anyway, that is all what you agreed to when accepted ICQ's license.

In order to recover the balance between Unix and Windows users and to justify the situation in general ISoaQ maintains it's own ISoaQ PT Contact list and IP Tools where some of the mentioned data is displayed.

QuickSearch

Searches for data in the current column of ISoaQ PT Contact list as you type. If it finds something, it makes it current cell.

