



INI Editor module

The INI Editor lets you edit the contents of the .INI files that are used to configure Windows and Windows applications. Two of these files - WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI - are responsible for configuring your Windows setup, and are thus very sensitive to changes. SYSTEM.INI in particular is extremely important to the proper functioning of Windows, and errors in it may cause Windows to fail at run time. WindowShine backed up these files to WIN.WSH and SYSTEM.WSH in your WindowShine directory - we recommend that you make your own manual backups too. As a general rule its a good idea to back up all your INI files (and indeed all your files) at regular intervals - you'll usually find them in your Windows directory, although some programs store them in their own directories.

Now read on:

[How INI Editor Works](#)

See also:

[Windows basics](#)

[System basics](#)

[Program launcher](#)

[System optimiser](#)



WIN.INI

WIN.INI - the Windows Initialisation file - is responsible for holding general information about your Windows setup. This includes desktop settings for specifying what your windows look like, which wallpaper you use, which screen saver is active and so on; font information; information about printers; and a great deal more. Many applications also insert their own sections into WIN.INI, although well-behaved apps use their own INI files which are generally stored in the Windows directory.

The WIN.INI tab allows you to change WIN.INI settings and automatically update the system to recognise the changes. To do this, make the required changes and press the Freshen button. Some changes may have no noticeable effect immediately and require that you restart Windows to take effect. For example, changing the associations settings in the [Extensions] section, which updates the Registration Database, won't have any effect until Windows is restarted. Other changes, such as switching wallpaper, will be immediately effective when you press the Freshen button.

There isn't enough room here to cover the individual settings in WIN.INI. Nonetheless, knowing your way around it is invaluable and it's worth reading up on the subject, especially to discover some of the lesser-known settings which allow you fine control over the way Windows looks and behaves. See your Windows documentation for more information; better still, get hold of the Windows 3.1 Resource Kit from the Microsoft Upgrade Centre on 081- 614 8000, which contains exhaustive information on the internal workings of Windows and has an excellent section on INI file settings, including those for SYSTEM.INI. There are separate kits for Windows for Workgroups and Windows NT.

See also:

[How INI Editor works](#)

[SYSTEM.INI](#)

[Other INI files](#)



SYSTEM.INI

SYSTEM.INI - the System Initialisation file - is responsible for configuring your hardware to run Windows properly. It's loaded when Windows is run and determines exactly which bits of software need to be loaded to make your hardware work with the system software. For example, the display driver you're currently using and the fonts it requires are specified in SYSTEM.INI.

If SYSTEM.INI is damaged in any way, or if entries are accidentally deleted, you may be unable to run Windows at all. For this reason it's especially important that you make a backup before making changes to this file. WindowShine automatically backed up SYSTEM.INI to a file called SYSTEM.WSH in your WindowShine directory the first time you ran it - if you need to restore the original, simply copy SYSTEM.WSH to SYSTEM.INI in your \WINDOWS directory.

- INI Editor will not allow you to edit or delete lines beginning DEVICE=. These entries load the Windows drivers needed to operate your system, and changes to them can prevent Windows running at all. If you must make changes to these entries, use a plain text editor such as Notepad and be very careful!
- If you do make changes to SYSTEM.INI, remember that you must restart Windows for them to take effect.

See also:

[WIN.INI](#)

[Other INI files](#)



Other INI files


You'll almost certainly find dozens of INI files in your Windows directory, put there by the programs that come with Windows itself or by any programs you've installed. The contents of these vary enormously according to the program in question, and the effect of making changes to these files also varies considerably. Some programs won't run if the INI file is absent or damaged - others will happily recreate a new one. Unfortunately there's no way of telling what the results of making to changes to private INI files will be, so you should exercise the same care when editing them as you would when editing your main system files.

That said, there are a couple of INI files which are worth investigating, if only to understand a bit more about how Windows works. Have a look at these files in your Windows directory:

WINFILE.INI

CONTROL.INI

PROGMAN.INI

To open an INI file for editing, either type the name of the file into the File: box or press the  button to browse for the file you want. INI Editor keeps a list of available INI files in the current directory, which you can choose from by pressing



See also:

[WIN.INI](#)

[SYSTEM.INI](#)

about



WindowShine

Another great program from

windows
user

Written by Mark Stephens
Designed by Mark Stephens and Sean Geer
Help files by Sean Geer

Thanks to Andrew Pickering, Neil Stiles and the rest of the Windows User team
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How INI Editor Works

INI files vary in their contents according to the application to which they belong, but they're structured in similar ways and have certain common characteristics. Each INI file is divided into **sections**, surrounded by square brackets like this:

[Windows]

Within each heading is one or more **entries**, each of which has the form KeyName=Value. A keyname is simply the name for a specific item referenced by an application; this might be something simple like Wallpaper, or something more complex like FileSysChange. The value associated with each keyname can be a number or a word such as On, Off, True or False. A typical section with an entry looks like this:

[Modules]

ModuleCount=5

When INI Editor reads a file, it locates the sections it contains and lists them in the box marked Sections. When you highlight a section, the keynames it contains are listed in the Entries box below. The value for a highlighted keyname is listed next to the bold text at the bottom of the Entries box. You can add new sections to an INI file or delete existing ones by using the Add and Delete buttons. You can't modify section headings (although you can delete them), as applications expect to find specific names and might fail if they've been changed. You can modify section **entries**, however, as well as add new ones or remove existing ones, by using the supplied buttons. To edit an entry, use the Edit... button or double-click on the entry in the list.

CAUTION!

[Read on for more info on INI files:](#)

[WIN.INI](#)

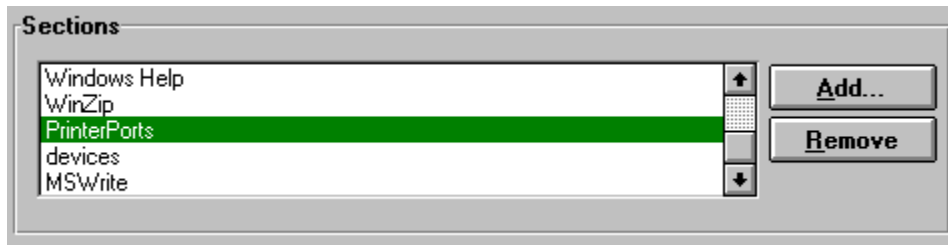
[SYSTEM.INI](#)

[Other INI files](#)

CAUTION!

Modifying INI files is a potentially hazardous operation. Changing the structure of an INI file can cause an application to misbehave or not work at all. Be very careful when editing your INI files and **always make backups before you start**. The first release of INI Editor has no automatic backup facility, so use File Manager to copy the files to a safe place.

sections



entry

Entries

HP LaserJet III	↑	Add...
HP LaserJets(Level 5) and compatibles		Remove
	↓	Edit...

HP LaserJet III=HPPCL5MS,LPT1:.,15,45

freshen

