

Windows 2000 Registry

OBJECTIVES

1. Use RegEdit to change a string.
2. Export the Registry and view its size.



Troubleshooting

RESOURCES

1. Marcraft 8000 Trainer with Windows 2000 installed

DISCUSSION

Windows 2000 stores its configuration information in a database called the Registry. The Registry contains information for users, system hardware, software, and other settings. For example, to run a program at startup you could add the string "programname.exe" to the key "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run." Windows constantly references the Registry during its operation. Incorrectly editing the Registry may severely damage your system. If you do damage your system, you may be able to repair the Registry or restore it to the same version you were using when you last successfully started your computer. You may resort to reinstalling Windows if it is damaged beyond repair, but you may lose any changes that have been made. The Registry is organized hierarchically as a tree made up of keys, subkeys, hives, and value entries. There are three types of values: String, Binary, and DWORD. There are two Registry editors included with Windows 2000: REGEDT32 and REGEDIT. In RegEdit the keys have icons similar to the folder icons in windows. With Regedt32 you can set the security for Registry keys. Also in Regedt32 you can view or edit the value data types REG_EXPAND_SZ and REG_MULTI_SZ. With both RegEdit and RegEdt32 you can edit the Registry of other computers on the network if you have administrative rights and the Remote Registry Service is running on the other computer. In this lab we will be using RegEdit to change some basic colors on the computer. We will be editing the string "My Computer\HKEY_USERS\45 CHARACTER\Control Panel\Colors\Menu", where 45 CHARACTER is a unique identification number assigned to the user. There should be only one registered user on the computer, the Administrator. The Menu string is 212 208 200 (Gray) by default. For this Registry string there are three numbers that range from 0 to 255. They represent a value in their respective color: red, green, or blue. four basic colors are listed in Figure 26-1 as an example.

Figure 26-1: Basic Colors

RED	GREEN	BLUE	RESULTS
0	0	255	All blue in color
0	255	0	All green in color
255	0	0	All red in color
212	208	200	The default Windows gray



Troubleshooting

PROCEDURE

1. Edit a string

- ___ a. Boot to the Windows 2000 desktop.
- ___ b. Start Microsoft Registry Editor by clicking Start/Run. Type **regedit** and click OK.
- ___ c. You will see a window similar to Figure 26-2. Expand HKEY_USERS by clicking the plus (+) sign next to its icon.

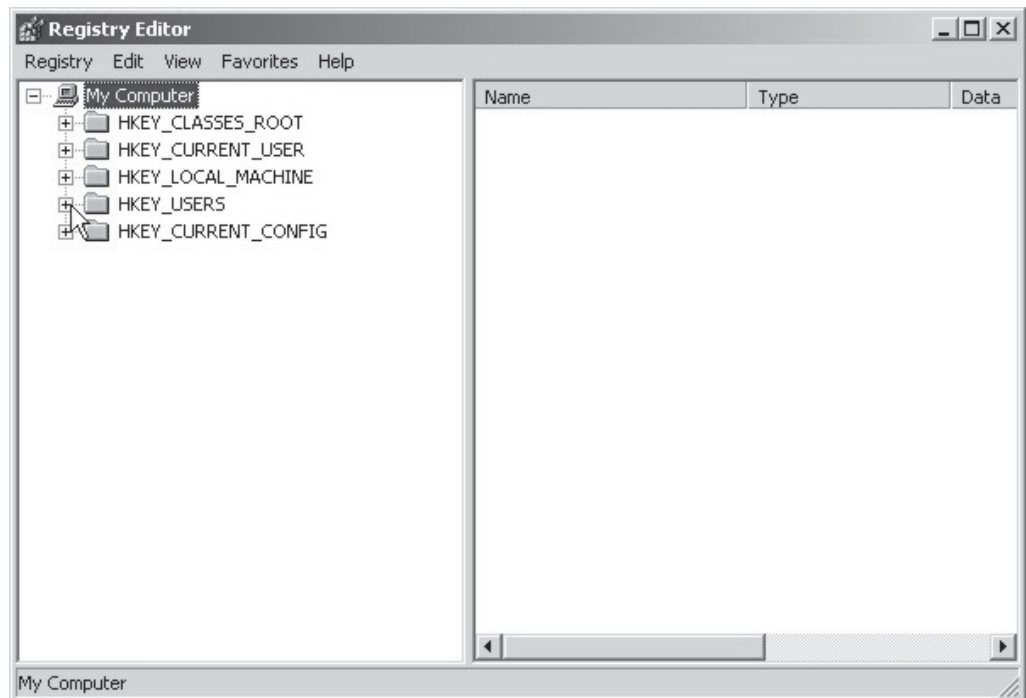


Figure 26-2:
RegEdit.exe

- ___ d. Expand the 45 CHARACTER key. It could be s-1-5-127520070-1808537768-1060284298-500 for example.
- ___ e. Expand the CONTROL PANEL key.
- ___ f. Click the COLORS key.
- ___ g. In the right-hand window pane look for the string value *Menu* and record its “type” in Table 26-1.
- ___ h. Double-click the *Menu* string. Your screen should look similar to Figure 26-3.
- ___ i. Record the "Value data:" in Table 26-2.
- ___ j. Enter **0 255 0** for the Value data, and click OK.
- ___ k. Close the Registry Editor and restart the computer.

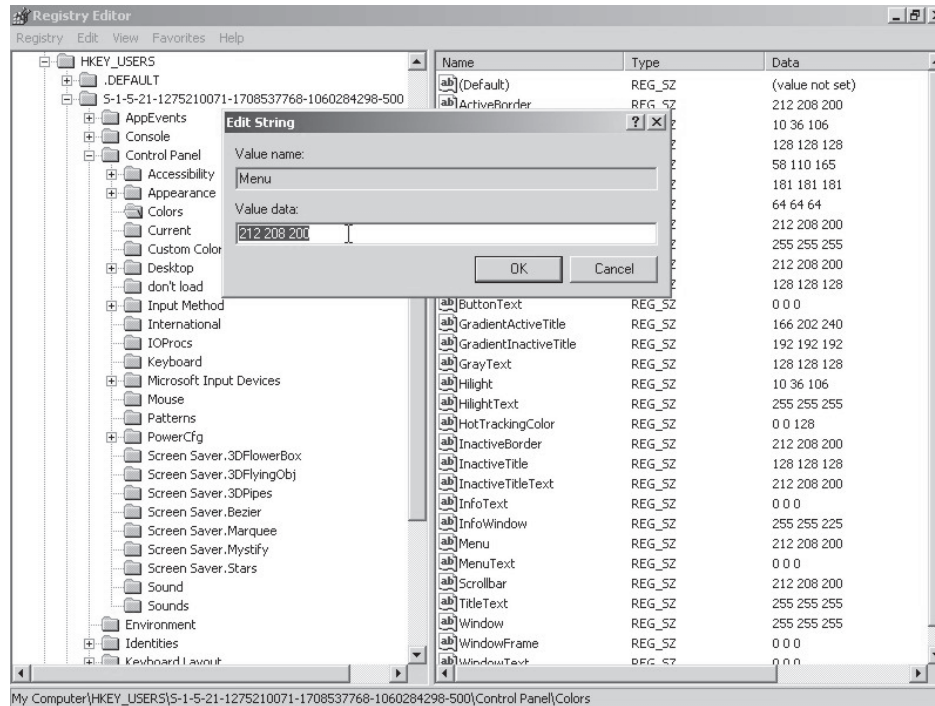


Figure 26-3: Editing a String

2. View the results

- a. Once the computer has restarted to Windows, click the Start menu.
- b. Record your observations in Table 26-3.
- c. Right-click the desktop and select Properties.
- d. Click the Appearance tab.
- e. Under the "Item:" drop-down menu select "Menu".
- f. To the right of the drop-down menu is a field called "Color." Click it and then click Other.
- g. You will see a window similar to Figure 26-4. Record the Red, Green, and Blue values in Table 26-4.
- h. Enter **212** for the Red value.
- i. Enter **208** for the Green value.
- j. Enter **200** for the Blue value.
- k. Click OK to close the Color Properties
- l. Click OK to close the *Display Properties* window.
- m. Restart the computer.

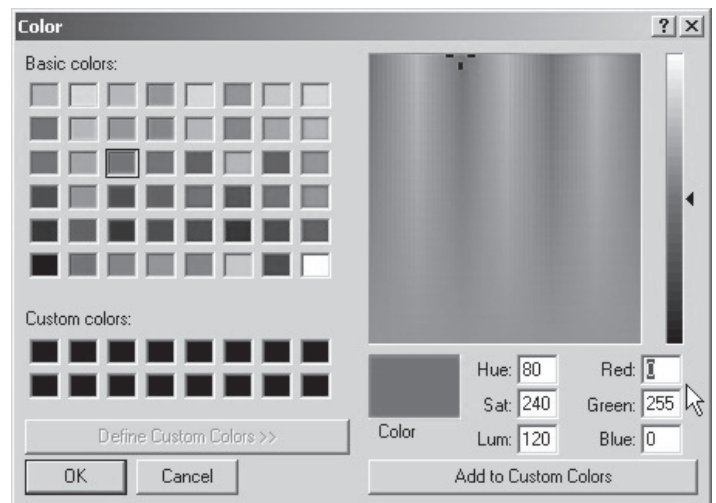


Figure 26-4: Menu Color Properties

3. View Registry string value

- a. Once the computer has restarted, start the Registry Editor and browse to the *Menu* string as in Steps 1a-f.
- b. Double-click the *Menu* string as before.
- c. Record your observations about the value of the string in Table 26-5.
- d. Close the *Edit String* window.

4. Export Registry

- a. In the menu bar, click the Registry menu and then select Export Registry. You will see a window similar to Figure 26-5.

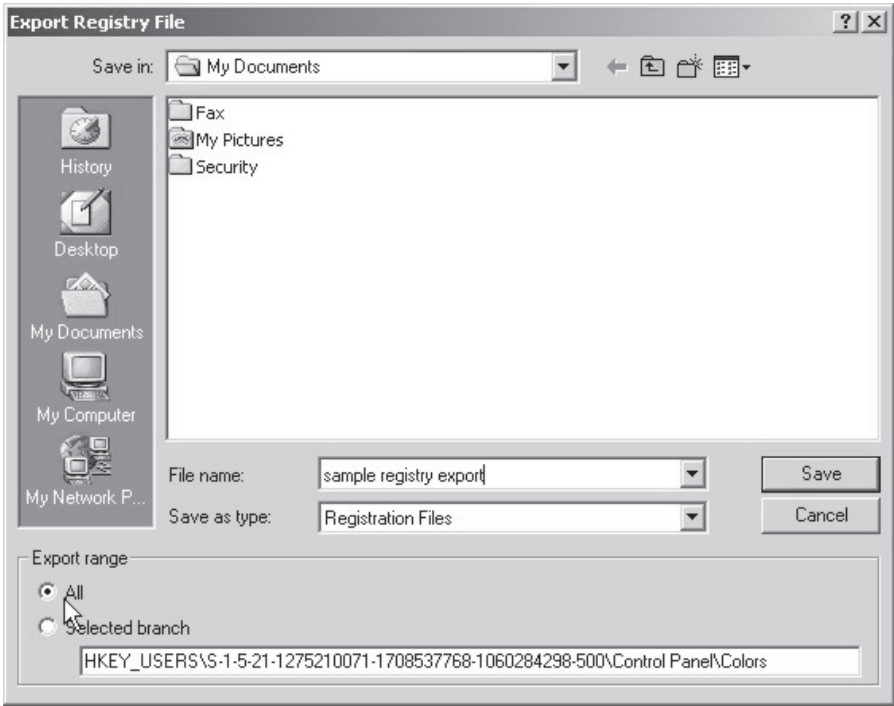


Figure 26-5:
Export Registry File

- b. Under Export range click the "All" radio button.
- c. In the “Save in:” box confirm that the default location is MY DOCUMENTS. If it is not, change the default location to MY DOCUMENTS.
- d. In the File name: box enter **sample registry export** for the filename and click Save.
- e. After a few moments the Registry files will be exported to MY DOCUMENTS. Close the Registry Editor.
- f. From the Windows desktop, double-click the My Documents icon.
- g. Right-click the "sample registry export" and click Properties.
- h. Enter its size in Table 26-6.
- i. Close all windows.

TABLES

Table 26-1

“Menu” Key Type String:	
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Table 26-2

Menu “Value Data”:	
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Table 26-3

Reboot Observation with New Value Data:	
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Table 26-4

Color Palette Values		
Red	Green	Blue

Table 26-5

Reboot Observation with Restored Value Data:	
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Table 26-6

File Size of Sample Registry Export:	
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LAB QUESTIONS

1. What are three things that the Registry keeps track of?
2. If you damage the Registry beyond repair what may you have to do?
3. What advantages does RegEdt32 offer?
4. What is the correlation between the Red, Green, and Blue values of the Menu color and the Registry string that you changed?
5. What conclusions can you make about the correlation between Windows' operation and its Registry?



Feedback

