

“There are two kinds of people, those who finish what they start and so on.”

– Robert Byrne

This Issue's Focus:

- Windows XP



• The Start Menu:

- Pinning Items to the Start Menu
- Customizing Frequently Used Programs
- Using the Classic Start Menu

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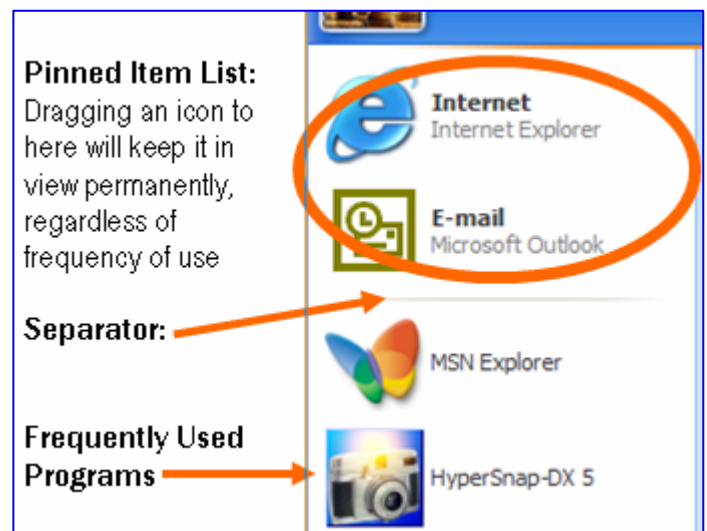
Windows XP

Remember all the hoopla surrounding Windows XP's release? The Rolling Stones showing up at the Microsoft Headquarters to sing "Start Me Up"? Now that the dust has settled, the users of Windows XP are left not with Mick Jagger and friends but the somewhat unfamiliar (and some would argue counter-intuitive) "Start Menu". Like a lot of things about XP, though, the Windows XP Start Menu can be personalized to suit the individual user's tastes and work habits. This issue of MouseHints will help you customize the Start Menu, so while you "Can't Always Get What You Want," at least Windows XP doesn't have to be your "Beast of Burden." Next Month's theme is Mac OS X Panther.

Pinning Items to the Start Menu

It can drive you nuts. You're just getting used to a particular program appearing at a particular part of the XP Start Menu and it's suddenly moved – to either a different part of the Start Menu or off the Start Menu altogether. There must be some ways to make a program's icon *stay in one place* on the Start Menu, right? There is. It's called the **pinned item list**, and you can easily place a program there. Placing a program's icon in the **pinned item list** is as easy as clicking and dragging or right-clicking. To summarize, the left column of the Start Menu is broken into three areas: Top – **Pinned Item List**; Middle – **Frequently Used Programs**; Bottom – **All Programs**. This side of the **Start Menu** can be customized as follows:

1. Pinned Item List: Click **Start > All Programs** and drag the program's icon to this area (if the **Start Menu** isn't in view, drag the icon to the **Start** button first to open it.) A copy will be created. Right-Click to rename or remove. **Note:** You can also navigate to the program and right-click it. Choose **Pin to Start Menu** from the pop-up window.



More MouseHints:

- *Change, hide or show E-mail and Browser icons on the Start Menu. Right-click on a blank area of the Taskbar, click Properties, then Start Menu. Click Customize and uncheck the Internet or E-mail box to hide, or change the program used to access from the drop-down menu.*
- *Change the size of icons shown on the Start Menu by going to the Customize window as above and selecting the radio button next to the desired size in the "Select an icon size for programs" area.*



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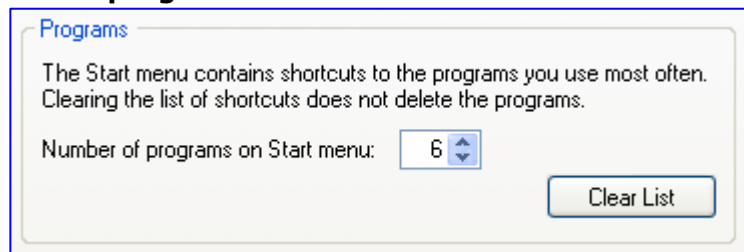
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Frequently Used Programs

The **Frequently Used Programs** area contains exactly what you'd expect: your most frequently used programs. It can seem, however to have a mind of it's own: program icons can suddenly be re-ordered or removed. Alas, it can also be a rude eye-opener for you (I play solitaire THAT much????) or someone else (he plays solitaire THAT much?!?!). However, even the **frequently used programs** area can be customized.

- **Remove an icon** from the frequently used program list by right-clicking the icon and choosing **Remove from This List** from the pop-up window.
- **Pin icon to the Start Menu** by clicking and dragging the icon up to the **Pinned Item List**.
- **Show fewer or more icons** in the frequently used program list by right-clicking on a blank area of the Taskbar. From the pop-up menu choose **Properties** and click the **Start Menu** tab in the **Taskbar and Start Menu Properties** window. Click **Customize**. In the **Programs** area change the **Number of programs on Start menu** to the desired number. Click **Clear**

List to remove all icons from the **Frequently Used Programs** area.



Using the Classic Start Menu

Some users who were very familiar with older versions of the Windows operating system may have a hurdle in Windows XP to clear that new users don't: "unlearning" what you already know about the **Start Menu**. For users who are finding the "new" start menu in Windows XP too confusing, there is an option. The **Classic Start Menu** can offer the new-to-XP-but-not-to-Windows user a welcome and familiar look (and easier, familiar navigation.) To utilize the Classic Start Menu:

1. Right-click on a blank area of the Taskbar.
2. From the pop-up menu, click **Properties**.
3. Click the **Start Menu** tab from the window.
4. Near the bottom of the window, click the radio button next to **Classic Start menu** (the **Start menu** radio button is selected by default.)
5. Click **Apply** to apply the **Classic Start menu** style.

- The **Classic Start Menu** can be customized in the familiar way: Right-click on a blank area of the Taskbar, click **Properties**, click the **Start Menu** tab and then click **Customize** next to the **Classic Start menu** option (the Classic Start menu button must be chosen first.)

