

Backups / Restore of a Corrupted Windows Registry Using Tweaking.com's Registry Backup

First off my number one rule is backups, actually it's my number 2 and number 3 rule as well. Funny thing about backups, you never need them if you have them. Since we will be discussing mostly backups for Windows, I have a few rules here for every system I touch. Just like a doctor, "Do no harm." When I look at a system for the first time I usually try and make a backup of the registry/personal data first thing. Yes it takes a few extra minutes, but if something should go wrong at least I can give it back to the client no worst than when I received it.

The two tools I always carry with me on my flash drive are [Tweaking.com's](http://www.tweaking.com) portable registry backup utility and [Fab's AutoBack4Tech](http://www.fpn.net) data/profile portable backup utility. If possible I also try to employ a disaster recovery backup of which there are many on the market. I prefer Acronis.

Tweaking.com's registry backup program has an install version as well that I usually install on all PC's I touch and has a scheduler as well for automated daily backups should the registry fail.

Below is the procedure I will use if my system's registry became corrupted and I was unable to boot my PC or Windows just became unusable/unstable.

http://www.tweaking.com/content/page/registry_backup.html
<http://www.fpn.net>

Please Note here that I would backup the user's data at this point depending on how sensitive the client was to losing it. Some people seem to not care and others care greatly. Use your own judgement.

Restore Windows XP Registry

- 1 Boot into the Windows XP Install CD and select the recovery Console (R)
- 2 Select your Windows installation to boot into. (If you have more than 1 OS Installed)
Usually press 1 and Enter.

Please Note:

Windows XP Recovery Console locks you out of the Registry backup folder by default!!!

Example: Try this

```
c:
dir
cd RegBackup
Access Denied
```

To bypass this, Tweaking.com's registry backup program made an entry in the registry that will allow these following commands to override this short coming of Win XP's Recovery Console. This entry allowed this following command to work for us.

- 3 set allowallpaths = true

Now you have access to the RegBackup folder

So type the following:

- ```
5 cd RegBackup
6 dir
7 cd {name of pc}
8 Select the backup folder of the point in time to restore to.
 cd 8.30.2012_11.04.48-PM
9 dir
 Notice the "dos_restore.cmd" among the files listing
10 In the Recover Console for XP we can't just execute it, we have to CALL it.
11 batch dos_restore.cmd
12 You'll see files being copied and a Command not recognized error (ignore those)
```

Please note that for XP only Windows is hard coded as belonging to C: Drive.

If it is installed on any other drive letter this batch command will not work!

In this case you would need a LiveCD option to modify the registry.

- 13 Reboot

### **Restore Windows 7 Registry**

- 1 Go to boot repair option of Windows 7
- 2 Login as the user account you wish to restore if asked
- 3 Select Open Command Prompt
- 4 Now we need to find out what drive letter Windows assign in this environment  
try c: first with a dir. Looking for Windows dir on the drive  
If not you will get messages saying "File Not Found"  
Keep trying c, d, e etc, until you find where Windows is located.
- 5 Let's say we found it on d:
- 6 cd RegBackup
- 7 cd {pc user name}
- 8 dir
- 9 cd to the folder having the date and time you want to restore
- 10 dos\_restore.cmd
- 11 done!
- 12 Reboot

### **Restore Windows Registry Using a LiveCD**

- 1 Boot into the LiveCD - Ubuntu is easy and free!
- 2 Go to Ubuntu's File Mgr
- 3 Windows is not locked down so just navigate to the RegBackup dir of where Windows is stored. This will be listed under devices usually. You just need to recognize that your system's drive where Windows is stored. You will recognize it when you see the RegBackup folder in the root of the drive/device.
- 4 Use your mouse to go into the RegBackup folder
- 5 Then go into the folder of the point in time you wish to restore
- 6 Now inside this folder you will see files and another folder labeled "C"
- 7 Navigate once more into the "C" Folder
- 8 There you will see two more folders labeled Users and Windows
- 9 Use your mouse to highlight both folders and select copy
- 10 Now go back to the root drive of where your Windows is stored and paste these files.
- 11 Select Merge and Replace for all files when prompted.
- 12 Done!
- 13 Reboot