

3 WINDOWS XP

Windows eXPerience (Windows XP) is the name for the next version of Windows 2000 (formerly known as “Whistler”). Technically, Windows XP isn’t the huge jump that Win2K was from Windows NT 4.0, but Windows XP does realize Microsoft’s long-term plan of one code base. Starting with Windows XP, there will be no more Windows Millennium Edition (Windows Me) or Windows 9x.

This merging of the code bases brings the stability and security from Windows NT/2000 and the ease of use and hardware support from Windows 9x/Me.

The next-generation Windows family currently comprises the following products:

- Windows XP Home Edition (the Win9x replacement)
- Windows XP Professional (Win2K Professional)
- Windows .Net Web Server
- Windows .Net Standard Server
- Windows .Net Enterprise Server
- Windows .Net DataCenter

The differences between Windows XP Home Edition and Windows XP Professional are minor. Windows XP Home Edition supports only one processor; Windows XP Pro supports two. In addition, Windows XP Home Edition doesn’t support Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP), but Windows XP Pro does. In fact, with Windows XP Pro, even local sessions use RDP, which means that you can log off your machine, someone else can log on to your machine then log off, and you can log on again with all your programs still running! Windows XP also adds support for the 64-bit processor, Itanium, which will ship in Windows XP Pro and Windows .Net Server.

Microsoft is adding some of the neat Windows Me features to Windows XP, including the Video Editor software. Windows XP also has an updated user interface, although the older style UI is still available for those who prefer it. Windows XP beta 1 (build 2296) shipped October 31, 2000. The final version of Windows XP shipped October 25, 2001 with a build number of 2600.



3.1 What is the difference between Windows XP Professional Edition and Windows XP Home Edition?

With Windows XP, the two Windows OS lines merge, so we'll no longer have Windows 2000/Windows NT and Windows Me/Windows 98—just Windows XP. However, we still have two different types of users: the office user and the basic home user with one machine. Hence the two versions of Windows XP: Windows XP Professional, for those accustomed to Win2K Professional/NT Workstation, and Windows XP Home Edition, for those accustomed to Windows Me/Win98.

Although the XP Pro and Home Editions share the same common core code, they don't have the same features. The right version for you depends on the functionality you need. Think of XP Pro as a superset of XP Home. The following is a short list of supported features:

- **Backup**—XP Pro has the standard Win2K backup program available as default; XP Home has no backup program available by default (but one can be installed from the CD).
- **Dynamic disks**—XP Pro supports dynamic disks; XP Home doesn't.
- **Internet Information Server (IIS)**—XP Pro includes IIS; XP Home doesn't.
- **Encrypted File System (EFS)**—EFS debuted in Win2K, and it enables you to encrypt files on an NTFS partition, a very useful feature for mobile machines. XP Pro includes EFS; XP Home doesn't.
- **Multiple monitors**—XP Pro supports up to ten monitors; XP Home supports only one monitor (Windows Me/Win98 supported multiple monitors).
- **Multiprocessing**—XP Pro supports up to two processors; XP Home supports only one (as did Windows Me/Win98).
- **Remote Assistance**—Both editions support Remote Assistance, which lets someone from a Help desk connect to the client desktop to troubleshoot problems.
- **Remote desktop**—XP Pro adds to Remote Assistance by letting any machine running a Terminal Services client run one Terminal Services session against an XP Pro machine.
- **Domain membership**—XP Pro systems can be domain members; XP Home systems can't, but they can access domain resources.
- **Group Policy**—XP Pro supports Group Policies; XP Home doesn't.
- **IntelliMirror**—XP Pro supports IntelliMirror, which includes Microsoft Remote Installation Services (RIS), software deployment, and user setting management; XP Home doesn't support IntelliMirror.
- **Upgrade from Windows Me/Win98**—Both XP Pro and XP Home support this upgrade.

- **Upgrade from Win2K/NT**—Only XP Pro supports this upgrade.
- **64-bit support**—Only XP Pro has a 64-bit version that supports the Itanium systems.
- **Network support**—XP Pro includes support for Network Monitor, Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), IP Security (IPSec), and Client Services for NetWare (CSNW); XP Home doesn't.

For the best list of supported features, see the Feature Guide document (FEATGUID.DOC) on the root of the XP CD-ROM.

FAQ

3.2 With Windows XP, the system doesn't display the Security dialog box when I press Ctrl+Alt+Del. Where did the dialog box go?

You can get the Security dialog box back by disabling the welcome screen. Select Control Panel > User accounts > Change the way users log on or off, and then clear the Use the Welcome screen checkbox.

If you want only the Lock Computer option on the Task Manager Shut Down menu, you can disable fast user switching. Select Control Panel > User accounts > Change the way users log on or off, and then clear the Fast User Switching checkbox.

If the welcome screen and fast user switching are both enabled, Switch User (Winkey+L) returns you to the welcome screen (essentially locking the computer). Someone else can log on to his or her session, but your session remains safely locked.

FAQ

3.3 How do I control the welcome screen display and also whether fast user switching is allowed?

Under Control Panel > User Accounts > Change the way users log on or off is a simple dialog box that gives you two options (if you're in a domain, the Change the way users log on or off option is not available):

- **Use the welcome screen**—With this option enabled, when you first boot the machine, log off, or switch users, the system displays a screen that lists the local accounts and displays user pictures (if you configured the picture option). Also new to the welcome screen is the ability to have a user password hint.
- **Use fast user switching**—Fast user switching (see Figure 3-1), which works similarly to Terminal Services sessions, lets you log on as another user without having to log off the current session first.

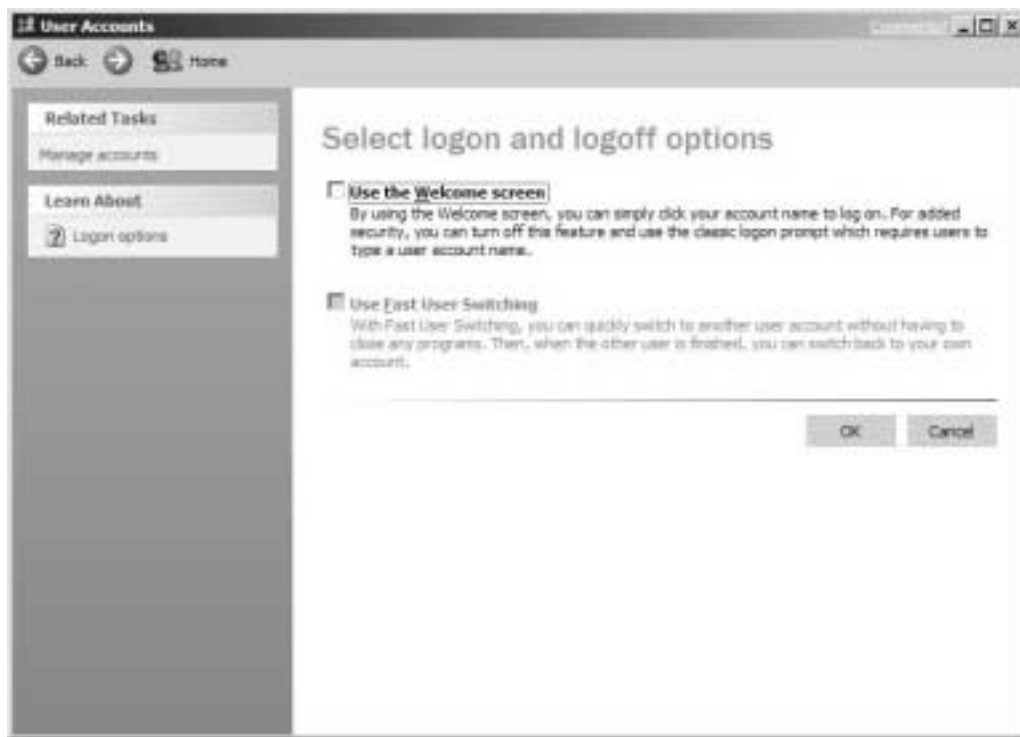


Figure 3-1 Option to use the new Windows XP login screen

You can also set these two options from the Registry under the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon key:

- LogonType—Set to 0 to display the Security dialog box; set to 1 to display the new welcome screen.
- AllowMultipleTSSessions—Set to 0 to prohibit fast user switching; set to 1 to allow switching.

If you're in a domain, changing either of these two Registry keys has no effect.

FAQ

3.4 How do I use the new Windows XP welcome screen?

The new XP welcome screen is actually as simple as it looks. When you first boot the machine, log off, or use fast user switching, the system displays a screen with the computer's local accounts. To log on as one of these accounts, click the appropriate

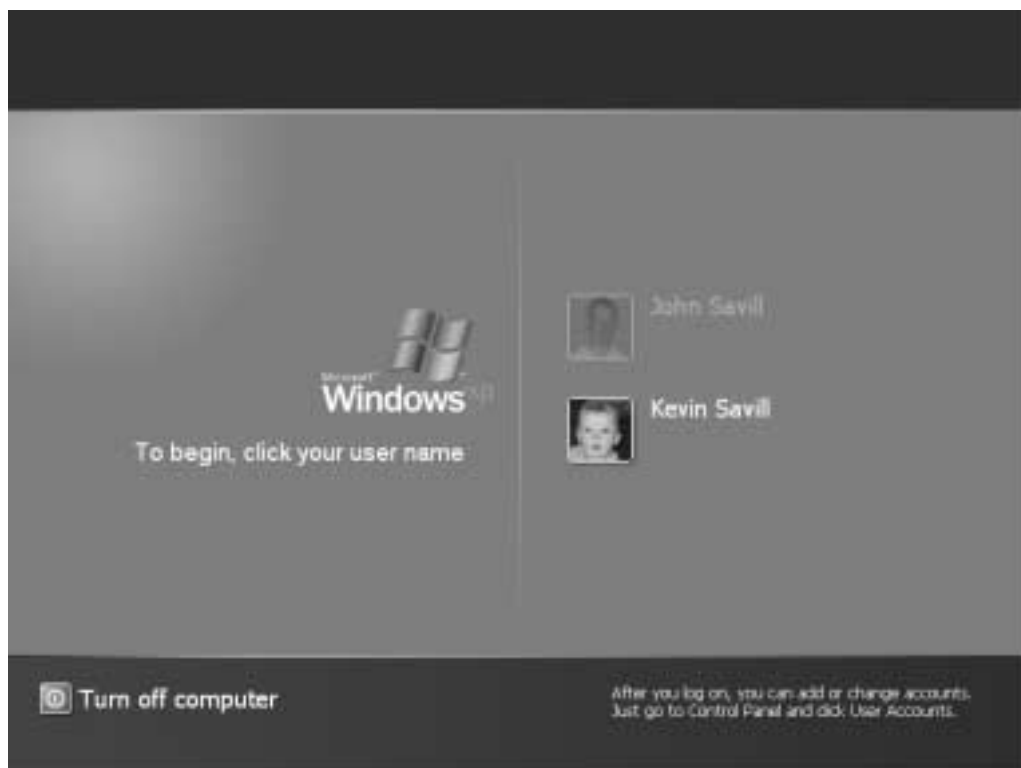


Figure 3-2 The new Windows XP “friendly” workgroup logon screen

user name or picture. If you have a password, the system will display an area for your password (if you don’t need a password, you’ll be logged on). See Figure 3-2.

Type your password and click the right arrow or press Enter. If you forget your password and you have configured a password hint, you can click the question mark (?) next to the right arrow to display your hint. Note that these password hints **aren’t** secure; anyone can see them by clicking the question mark, so don’t make them too obvious.

FAQ

3.5 How do I change my picture for the welcome screen?

If you don’t enjoy appearing as a cat, an astronaut, or a fish (the default picture choices for the welcome screen), you can configure your own picture by performing the following steps:

1. Start the User Accounts Control Panel applet (Start > Control Panel > User Accounts).
2. Select the account of the picture you want to change.
3. Click Change my picture (see Figure 3-3).
4. The system will display a list of default pictures. Click Browse for More Pictures.
5. By default, the system will open your My Pictures folder. Browse to your picture. (It should be 48 pixels x 48 pixels—if it's a different size, the system will force it into a 48x48 format—and it can be a BMP, JPG, or GIF file.) Select the picture you want and click Open.
6. The system will display all the pictures again, highlighting the one you added. Click Change Picture (see Figure 3-4).

This picture selection is actually stored in the Registry under the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Hints\[username]\

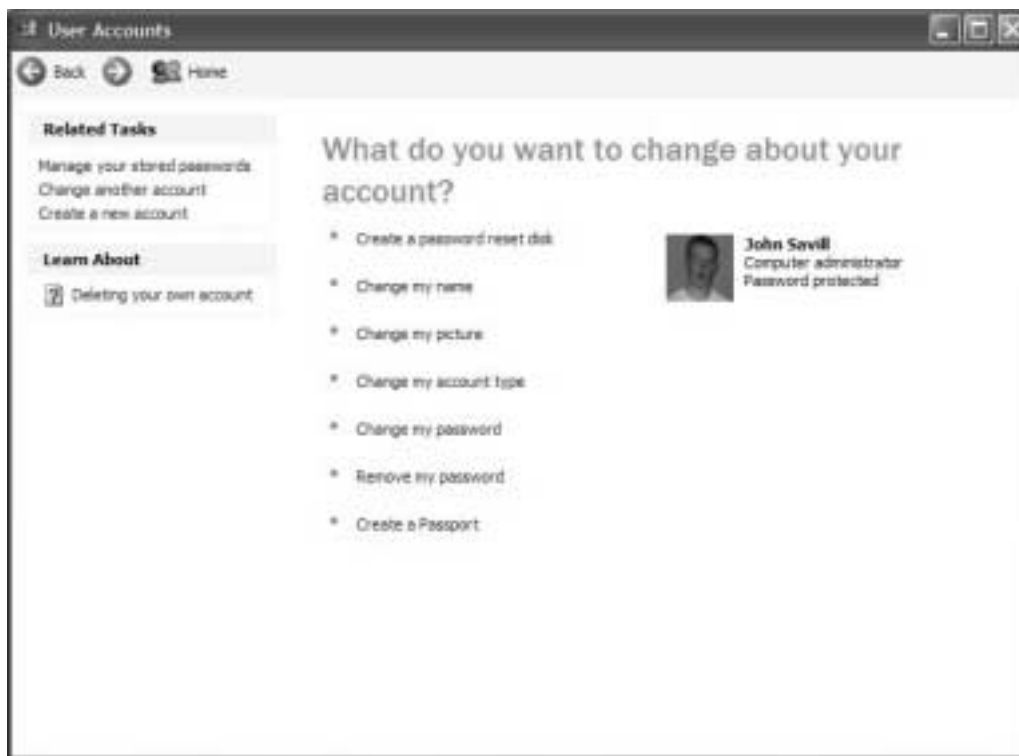


Figure 3-3 Modifying user accounts

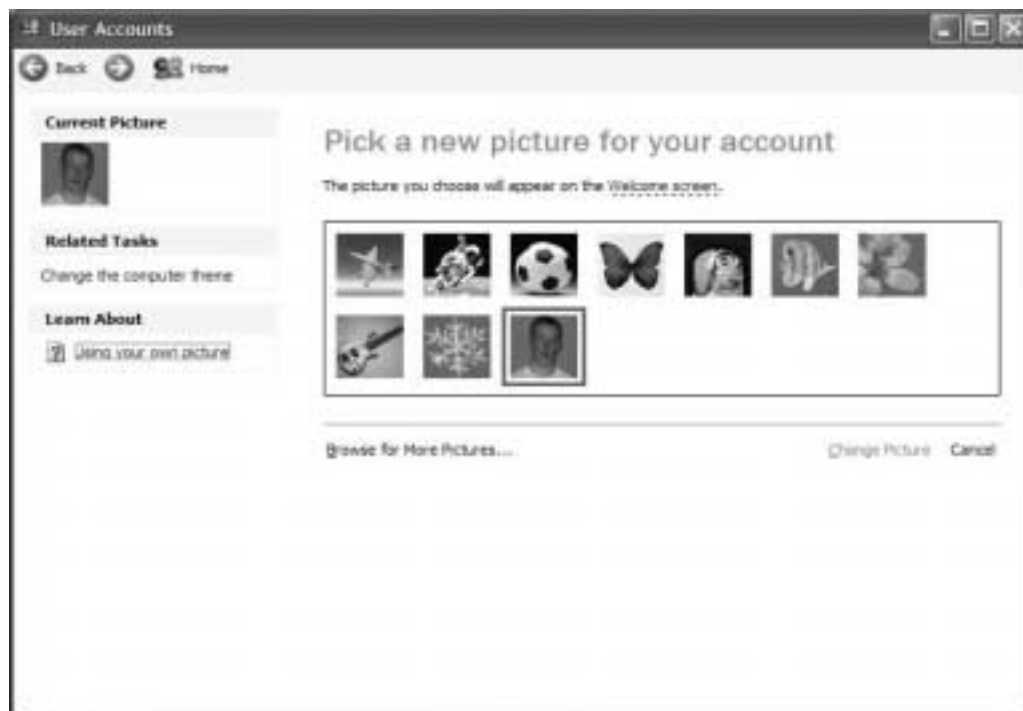


Figure 3-4 Selecting a new picture to be displayed for the welcome screen

PictureSource key, and you can change it there. By default, the pictures are stored in %systemdrive%\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Microsoft\User Account Pictures\Default Pictures.

FAQ

3.6 With Windows XP, how do I set a password hint?

XP introduced the option to have a password hint, which is useful in a workgroup (this option isn't available in a domain). To set a password hint, perform the following steps:

1. Start the User Accounts Control Panel applet (Start > Control Panel > User Accounts).
2. Select the account for which you want to add a password hint.
3. Click Change the password.
4. Enter your password in the two locations; in the bottom area, type your password hint (see Figure 3-5).
5. Click Change Password.



Figure 3-5 Modifying a user's password and setting a password hint

These hints are stored in the Registry under the `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Hints\[username]\(Default)` key, and you can change them there as well.

FAQ

3.7 In Windows XP, how do I use the password reset disk?

With XP, if you're in a workgroup, you have the option under your profile to create a password reset disk using a wizard. Click `Start > Control Panel > User Accounts > [account name] > Create a Password Reset Disk > Create Disk`.

1. When the wizard starts, click Next.
2. Select the drive that contains the media you want to create the information on (you can use a diskette or a Zip disk) and click Next.

3. Type your current password and click Next (see Figure 3-6).
4. Click Finish.

The password reset disk contains only one file, USERKEY.PSW, which is an encrypted version of your password. If you change your password, the password reset disk is useless; you must repeat this procedure.

To use the password reset disk, at the logon screen, leave the password field blank and press Enter or click the right arrow. The system will display a dialog box that offers the option to use your password reset disk as shown in Figure 3-7.

When you select this option, a wizard starts:

1. Click Next.
2. Select the drive to read the password reset disk from and click Next.
3. Enter a new password twice and click Next.
4. Click Finish.



Figure 3-6 The Forgotten Password Wizard

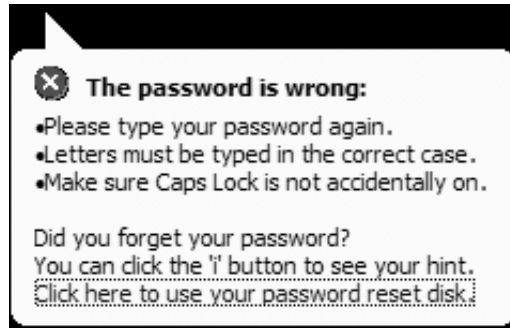


Figure 3-7 Windows XP incorrect password dialog with password reset disk options

5. Type your new password to log on. Note that the password reset disk is now useless, and you must create a new one.

FAQ

3.8 What is Bootcfg?

Bootcfg is a new addition to the Windows XP Recovery Console. You use this command to modify the BOOT.INI file, which contains the choices at system startup. (In a multiboot environment, BOOT.INI contains the list of all the OSs and lets you choose one.)

The Bootcfg command recognizes Windows XP, Windows 2000, and Windows NT. It doesn't recognize Windows 9x. Bootcfg has the following options:

- /default—Sets the default OS (modifies the default= line in BOOT.INI).
- /add—Scans the computer for OSs and lets you add located installations. You can also specify optional boot switches.
- /rebuild—Same as /add except /rebuild automatically recreates BOOT.INI with all found installations if the user confirms.
- /scan—Identifies current installations but doesn't modify BOOT.INI.
- /list—Scans the BOOT.INI files and displays each entry.
- /redirect—Enables redirection of the boot loaded to a specific port and baud rate (this option is useful for the Headless Administration options).
- /disabledirect—Disables the redirection configured with /redirect.

Bootcfg is simply an extra tool. You can still modify BOOT.INI directly with Notepad (after removing read-only, system, and hidden attributes—entering **attrib**

`c:\boot.ini -r -s -h` at the command line). Or you can use the System Control Panel applet or Msconfig.

FAQ

3.9 Under Windows XP in a workgroup, why don't I see the Security tab for a file/folder?

To view the Security tab for a file or folder in XP, hold down the Ctrl key while right-clicking the file or folder, and select Properties. If you are in a domain instead of a workgroup, this approach is unnecessary.

FAQ

3.10 What is Windows 2002?

Windows 2002 is the brand name for the Windows 2000 follow-on server and desktop line of OSs. The beta name for the server line was Whistler; however, the final name scheme is Windows .Net server, and for the desktop, Windows XP.

Within Windows XP, you will still see the Windows 2002 name used if you keep your eyes peeled!

FAQ

3.11 How do I enable Windows 2000-like file sharing and security in Windows XP workgroups?

In FAQ 3.9, we saw that to bring up the Security dialog box for files/folders/shares, you had to hold down the Ctrl key. To eliminate this requirement, perform the following steps:

1. Start the Microsoft Management Console (MMC) Local Security Policy snap-in (Start > Settings > Control Panel > Administrative Tools > Local Security Policy).
2. Expand the Local Policies branch.
3. Select Security Options.
4. Double-click Network access: Sharing and security model for local accounts.
5. Select Classic and click OK (see Figure 3-8).
6. Close the snap-in.
7. Reboot the system for the change to take effect.

Another method to do this is via Windows Explorer: Tools > Folder Options > View and then uncheck Use simple file sharing (Recommended).

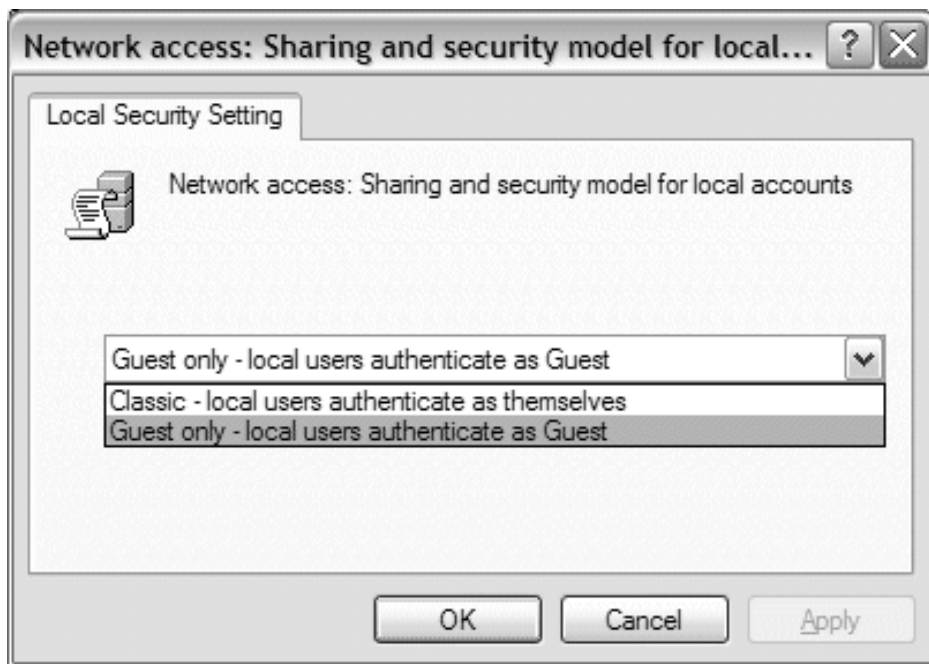


Figure 3-8 Guest-only local access

Now you have share permissions and file security on NTFS volumes. On FAT volumes, the Security menu will remain unavailable.



3.12 How do I activate Windows XP from the command line?

Windows XP will typically remind you to activate the product (most users will have 30 days to activate XP after installation). To activate XP manually, you can use the Start menu shortcut in the System Tools Accessories folder. At the command prompt, type

```
oobe/msoobe /a
```

In case you're wondering, "msoobe" stands for "Microsoft Out of Box Experience."

3.13 What is the Windows XP task switcher?

Microsoft is releasing XP with a host of new PowerToys (extra utilities that are great add-ons, although Microsoft doesn't support them). One PowerToy is an improved task switcher (i.e., the screen that's displayed when you press Alt+Tab to cycle through open programs).

The new task switcher shows an image of the application window so that you can see what each application is doing before you switch to a different application (see Figure 3-9).

To install the task switcher, you will need to download TASKINSTALL.EXE from Microsoft's Web site. Run the downloaded TASKINSTALL.EXE. After you complete the installation, you must log off and log on again for the change to take effect.

Be warned: *When using this utility, I have seen severe performance degradation on certain types of machines. If you encounter problems, simply uninstall task switcher using the Add/Remove Programs Control Panel applet.*



Figure 3-9 The enhanced Alt+Tab PowerToy



3.14 Why can't I upgrade to the final version of Windows XP from an interim build?

Although you can technically upgrade from an interim build of XP to the final version, Microsoft has restricted the upgrade path for certain builds. However, I know of two methods for circumventing these restrictions.

Method 1

This method is the more complicated of the two. It involves modifying a file in your boot partition before you reboot.

1. Run Setup from the final XP image. If you receive a message stating that you can't upgrade this version of Windows, you need to perform a fresh install by selecting Fresh Install.
2. Continue with the installation and choose the same Windows directory for the installation that you want to upgrade.
3. When Setup prompts you to reboot, press Escape to manually reboot later, and Setup will return you to the Windows shell.
4. The directory \$win_nt\$.bt in the root of your boot partition (which is typically C) should contain a file named WINNT.SIF. Open this file in Notepad.
5. Look for the line that reads winntupgrade=no and change the winntupgrade value to yes.
6. Save the file and reboot your system.

Method 2

XP contains a Program Compatibility Wizard that you typically use to set up a virtual environment that mimics another version of Windows for programs that won't run under XP. Using this wizard, you can fool the final installation into thinking that you're running Windows 2000.

1. Start the Program Compatibility Wizard (go to Start > Programs > Accessories and click Program Compatibility Wizard).
2. Select I want to use the program in the CD-ROM drive and click Next.
3. Select Microsoft Windows 2000 and click Next.
4. Continue to click Next as appropriate to complete the wizard.

FAQ

3.15 How can I determine which product key I used to activate Windows XP?

You can't because XP converts the product key to the system's product ID. Exposing this product ID opens security concerns around the product ID generation process and the security of the product key. Therefore, make sure you keep track of all product keys you use.

FAQ

3.16 When must I activate the final version of Windows XP?

The final version of XP requires that you activate the product within 30 days of installation. Because the product activation doesn't grant an extra 30 days for users who previously installed the evaluation version, those users must activate the OS immediately after they complete the upgrade.

FAQ

3.17 What ports does Windows XP use during product activation?

XP uses the standard Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) port (port 80) and HTTP over Secure Socket Layer (HTTPS) port (port 443) for product activation. To confirm that these ports are available, try connecting to both ports by entering the following addresses in your Web browser:

- <http://www.microsoft.com:80>
- <https://www.microsoft.com:443>

If you receive an error, check with your administrator to determine whether your organization has blocked either port and whether you need to change your firewall client configuration.

FAQ

3.18 How do I correct a Windows XP installation that has become deactivated?

XP contains a new feature, System Restore, that restores the system to a previous configuration point. Should you restore your system to a point before you activated XP on

your computer, the OS will forget that you activated it, and you'll need to reactivate XP. If the system restore point is past the 30-day grace period that Microsoft allows for activation, you'll have to activate XP immediately.

The only work around to reactivating your system is to perform the following steps:

1. Start your Windows installation in Minimal Safe mode.
2. Move to the `%systemroot%\system32` folder.
3. Rename `WPA.DBL` to `WPA.NOACT`.
4. Rename `WPA.BAK` to `WPA.DBL`.
5. Reboot your system as normal.

The preceding procedure will work only if you've made no significant hardware changes.

FAQ

3.19 Does Windows XP contain any Easter eggs?

To supply certain government agencies with software, Microsoft can't include undocumented features, including Easter eggs, in its software. As a result, no Easter eggs exist in XP.

FAQ

3.20 Where can I get Microsoft's extra Windows XP screensaver?

To highlight XP's and DirectX 8.0's features, Microsoft developed an extra screensaver for XP that consists of a 3D flag. You can download the screensaver for free from Microsoft's Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/xpscreensaver.asp>.

FAQ

3.21 Where can I find Microsoft PowerToys for Windows XP?

As with previous versions of Windows, Microsoft has released a set of great utilities to enhance the Windows experience. You can download Microsoft PowerToys for XP from Microsoft's Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp>.

PowerToys for XP consists of the following:

- **Open Command Window Here:** Open a command window that points to a particular folder just by right-clicking that folder.
- **TweakUI:** Make many modifications to internal XP settings that aren't accessible in the default UI.
- **Power Calculator:** Graph and evaluate functions as well as perform unit conversions.
- **Image Resizer:** Easily resize multiple images into a target size with a right-click.
- **CD Slide Show Generator:** View images as a slide show.
- **Virtual Desktop Manager:** Have up to four virtual desktops.
- **Taskbar Magnifier:** Magnify part of the screen from the taskbar.
- **HTML Slide Show Wizard:** Create HTML slide shows of your digital pictures, ready to place on a Web site.
- **Webcam Timershot:** Take pictures at specified time intervals from a Webcam connected to your computer and save them to a location that you designate.

FAQ 3.22 What upgrade paths does Windows XP support?

XP Home Edition and XP Professional are available in full and upgrade versions. If you're upgrading from a qualifying OS, you can purchase the less-expensive upgrade version; otherwise, you need to purchase the full version. However, even if you purchase the full version, XP doesn't support all upgrade paths. Review the following table to determine whether XP supports your upgrade path:

Current Version	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Pro
Windows 3.1 or Windows 95	No	No
Any server version of Windows	No	No
Windows 98/98 SE	Yes	Yes
Windows Me	Yes	Yes
Windows NT 3.51	No	No (you need to upgrade to NT 4.0 or Win2K first)

(continued)

Current Version	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Pro
Windows NT 4.0	No	Yes
Windows 2000 Professional	No	Yes
Windows XP Home Edition		Yes
Windows XP Professional	No	