A QUICK GUIDE TO REGISTRY MECHANIC VERSION 4

By Marc Liron – Microsoft MVP
Author of the Windows XP Registry Guide
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Download Registry Mechanic

http://www.updatexp.com/registry-mechanic-4-trial

This mini guide is in two sections:

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SECTION ONE: REGISTRY MECHANIC INSIGHT…

 # What is the Windows Registry?

The Windows Registry is a database used to store important settings and options for Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000 and XP. The Registry contains information and settings for all the hardware, software, users, and preferences of your computer and operating system. For example, whenever a user makes changes to Control Panel settings, file associations, system policies, or installed software, the changes are reflected and stored in the Registry. In fact, just running an application on your computer can make several changes to your Registry and Windows operating systems cannot operate without it!

 # Is Registry Mechanic targeted at novice or advanced users?

Registry Mechanic is designed to be as simple to use as possible. This guide should help you find out about installing and running Registry Mechanic. However, Registry Mechanic does have more advanced features which we will take a look at later in this guide.

Do I really need to fix registry problems?

Absolutely! If you don't fix registry problems when they arise or try and prevent them from even happening at all, then you may soon find yourself faced with sudden crashes, system stalls, or a severe degradation in operating speed. Working to fix registry issues and prevent system crashes should be a top priority whether you use your computer for business or pleasure, and you'll find a greatly enhanced computing experience by doing so.

It is important to understand that trying to fix registry problems after they occur is always more difficult than preventing them in the first place, so prevention is always preferred over working to fix your registry after the fact. Regardless of how long you've owned your system or how it's used, there are many reasons why a Windows registry can become corrupted or littered with errors.

Some reasons why you may find that you need to fix registry issues include:

- you frequently install or uninstall programs
- you delete software that was never really fully "uninstalled"
- you have embedded Spyware or third party programs that revive themselves with each boot
- you have gone through a hardware install/uninstall
- you have unused but undeleted drivers on your system

You probably won't notice a need to fix any registry problems if your system is new, but over time, your system's registry will become larger and larger, especially as software, drivers, and hardware components are added and removed from your computer. With so many additions and deletions, your Windows registry can become corrupted or filled with errors and empty destinations, and the need for you to fix registry problems would be paramount before they start to get worse.

For example, when you uninstall software, it is highly probably that remnants are still lurking in your hard drive or registry and without a good program to fix these registry issues, you'll be left with more seeds for imminent trouble. For some additional insight into the Windows registry, tweaks to fix registry issues, and more, please refer to the following helpful links.

Is my PC clean of registry problems?

Keeping a PC clean isn't easy with all of the different types of hardware, software and drivers available, so it's hard to say if your PC is clean without first analyzing your system's registry. Many find this an arduous and confusing task which is why more than 100,000 people each week turn to Registry Mechanic to keep their PC clean of registry problems or potential issues.

Keeping the registry of a PC clean of errors is critically important if you hope to prevent operating problems and boost system performance. Otherwise, you may find programs working slower than they should be, hardware performing at less than their potential, or your entire system crashing without warning.

If your PC is clean of registry errors then you will absolutely notice an end to slow, frozen, or unpredictable operation. In fact, if your system is already crashing or seizing for no apparent reason, then keeping your PC clean by fixing the registry and monitoring its activity may be the best solution.

With **Registry Mechanic** for Windows you can safely clean your PC and fix registry problems with just a few simple mouse clicks. To keep your PC clean, **Registry Mechanic** uses a high-performance detection algorithm to quickly identify missing and invalid references in your Windows registry.

Can I schedule Registry Mechanic to run at a certain time?

You can use the following commands in conjunction with a 3rd party scheduler to schedule a Registry Mechanic scan. The command line options are:

"[Path where Registry Mechanic has been installed on your system]\RegMech.exe" [Command line switch]

The command line switch can be either "/QS" for Quick Scan mode or "/S" for Full Scan.

For example, "C:\Program Files\Registry Mechanic\RegMech.exe" /QS (will run Registry Mechanic in Quick Scan mode).

Keeping your registry clean - some basic tips

Keeping a registry clean can be a somewhat difficult task which is why even experienced computer users opt to keep their registry clean through the use of software specifically designed for this purpose. But why? Does it really matter? Is a clean registry really that important? And if so, what can one do to keep his or her Windows registry clean of bugs, errors and harmful problems?

Before you can make your registry clean of errors or problems, it's important to first understand what a Windows registry is and what it does. Essentially, the Windows registry is a database that stores your system information and settings for the hardware, software, and general preferences used on your Windows machine. Ideally, keeping a registry clean isn't an issue because Windows' built-in registry tools tend to work in the background so that your system's integrity is protected. However, because the registry is so huge and complicated, and because it gets more convoluted every time changes are made, it can develop problems that cause strange behaviors or even bring down your entire system.

If you keep your registry clean of problems, conflicts and errors, then your system's performance will be greatly enhanced. However, if your registry becomes bogged down because of uninstalled software programs, orphaned startup tasks, corrupted drivers, or more, then you'll begin to notice a significant slowdown in speed. In addition, if you fail to keep your registry clean then you will almost certainly see a flurry of sudden crashes as your PC becomes more and more unstable.

Why do I need Registry Mechanic?

The Windows Registry is a database used to store important settings and options for Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000 and XP. The Registry contains information and settings for all the hardware, software, users, and preferences of your computer and operating system. For example, whenever a user makes changes to Control Panel settings, file associations, system policies, or installed software, the changes are reflected and stored in the Registry. In fact, running an application on your computer can make several changes to your Registry and Windows operating systems cannot operate without it!

Over time, invalid entries or orphaned references can accumulate within the Windows Registry. These references may accumulate for several reasons, such as the un-installation or incorrect removal of software resulting in invalid file or folder references as well as orphaned startup programs, having missing or corrupt hardware or software drivers and by the deletion of files referenced by shortcuts.

An accumulation of invalid entries can slow down your system, cause it to generate error messages, prevent programs from functioning properly or result in your system becoming unstable and crashing.

With Registry Mechanic, you can safely clean and repair invalid entries from your Windows Registry all within a few simple mouse clicks, thereby improving your system's performance and stability!

Product Features

Some of the important features of **Registry Mechanic** include:

- A simple, user-friendly interface with which you can **safely repair** invalid entries in your Windows Registry.

- **Improving** system performance and stability by removing orphaned references in your Windows Registry.

- Scanning your hard drive for invalid program shortcuts.

- The automatic creation of Windows Registry backups, with the option to restore them.

- The ability to set Registry Mechanic to scan **automatically** at startup, for continued system optimization.

- Unlimited free upgrades and e-mail technical support for **one year**, with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

- Certified to work under Windows XP, 2000, NT 4.0, Me, 98 and 95 operating systems.

What's new in this release?

Registry Mechanic Version 4.0 incorporates several enhancements over Version 3.0:

- A new and improved Graphical User Interface (GUI), making Registry Mechanic more intuitive, easier to use and consistent with all new releases of PC Tools products.
- *Faster scanning* algorithms resulting in faster scans of your Windows Registry.
- Improved scanning algorithms that are capable of *detecting more errors* in your Windows Registry.
- A resizable results screen dialog for improved ease of viewing.
- Enhanced results screen functionality, and the ability to selectively repair some or all problems detected in a scan.
- The option to create *System Restore points*, which can be restored through the Windows System Restore Wizard. (This function is available on Windows XP only.)
- A Live Update facility, allowing Registry Mechanic to easily *obtain upgrades* and improvements.
- A customizable Ignore List, allowing you to designate items you do not want to be cleaned.
- Addition of checkboxes on the results screen, making it easier to repair or keep problems found after a scan.
- Creation of user-friendly logs, listing details of items found and memory resources.
- Registry Mechanic can now automatically scan and repair problems at *startup*.
- The evaluation version of Registry Mechanic shows problem details for all sections scanned.
- The addition of an expanded and user-friendly online help.

SECTION TWO: REGISTRY MECHANIC IN ACTION…

Registry Mechanic Trial version limitations…

Once you download the Registry Mechanic installation file from the above link and install it onto your computer, you will be able to evaluate **Registry Mechanic** indefinitely as a Trial version.

This Trial version is limited to repairing specific section categories only. On the scan results screen (see Fig 1.1), unavailable sections and all problems within these sections are indicated by **padlock symbols** and the Live Update button on the main screen is **disabled**. In order to repair all sections of your computer and utilize the Live Update button, you will need to purchase and register your copy of Registry Mechanic.

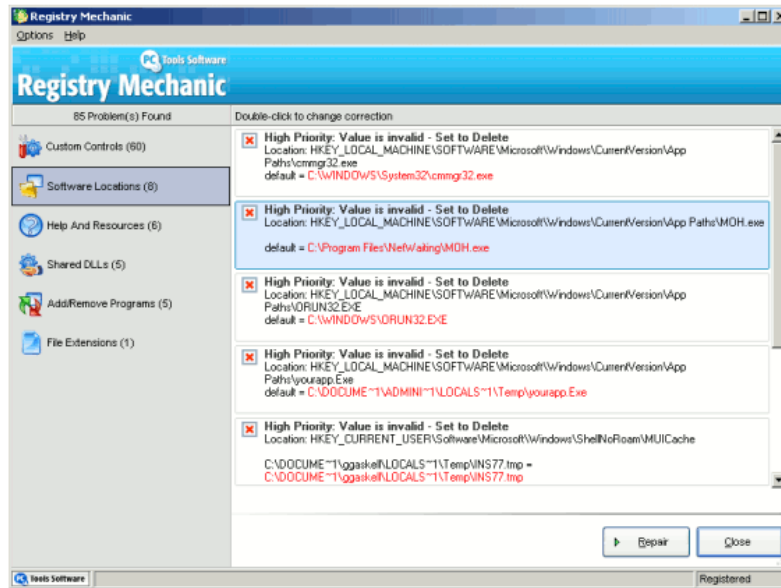See the next but one question on how to purchase and register **Registry Mechanic**…

Fig 1.1 - Registry Mechanic Results Screen

How to download and install Registry Mechanic…

The following link will redirect you to the free Trial software:

http://www.updatexp.com/registry-mechanic-4-trial

If you are using Windows XP SP2 then you will get the following warning box. On this occasion it is safe to go ahead with the download!
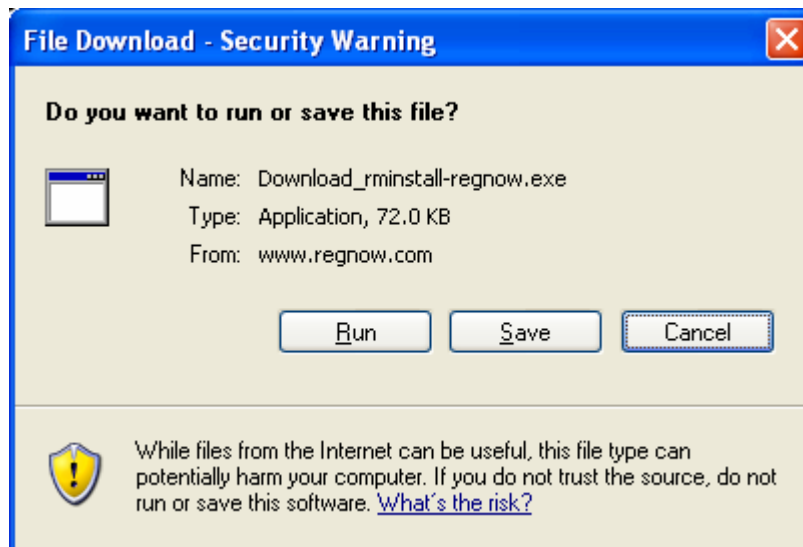

Fig 1.2 – File Download Warning Box

How to Purchase and Register Registry Mechanic…

Purchasing:-

You can purchase Registry Mechanic from the main screen of the application:

1. Open Registry Mechanic and click "Register Now" on Registry Mechanic's main screen.
2. **Registration Screen** - From this screen, you can purchase Registry Mechanic from the Registry Mechanic purchase web page by clicking on the "Purchase Online" button. Clicking on the "Continue" button will allow you to continue evaluating Registry Mechanic. (see Fig 1.3)

Registration:-

To register Registry Mechanic, complete the following steps:

1. Open the registration screen by clicking **"Register Now"** on the main screen. (Top Right.)
2. Enter the License Name and License Key details (as received in your Registration email after purchasing Registry Mechanic). It is important that the information entered into these fields is copied exactly as shown in your email message. To reduce the possibility of making mistakes, it is recommended that you **'copy and paste'** your License Name and License Key registration details from your Registration email onto the Registration screen.
3. To **'copy and paste'** your registration details, open and view your registration email message. Highlight your License Name next to "Name:". Note that you should only highlight from the first letter through to the last letter of the required information. Do not highlight any characters or spaces beyond these letters. Next, while holding down the 'Ctrl' key, press the 'C' key to copy your name details.
4. Return to **the Registry Mechanic** registration screen and click in the License Name text-field. While holding down the 'Ctrl' key, press the 'V' key to paste your name details into this field. Repeat this copy and paste procedure from step 3 for the License Key information.
5. Finally, click on the **"Register"** button on the Registration screen (See Fig 1.3). If your registration details are valid and have been entered correctly, a message confirming a successful registration will be displayed. Click on this message's "OK" button and Registry Mechanic becomes fully functional.
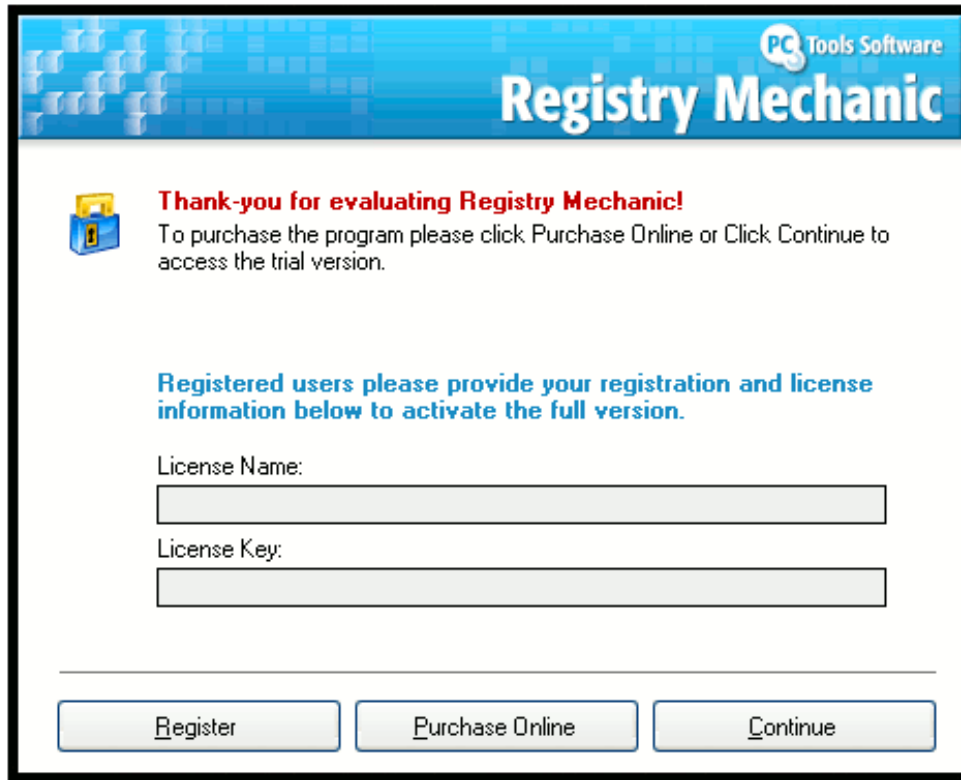6. On the main screen, "Register Now" **changes to** "Live Update".

Fig 1.3 – Registry Mechanic Registration Screen

Launching Registry Mechanic

To start Registry Mechanic, double-click its icon on your desktop or single-click its icon in your Quick Launch bar. **Note:** these icons will not appear if they were not selected during the installation.
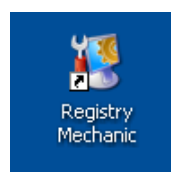

Fig 1.4 – Registry Mechanic Desktop Icon

If you do not have these icons available, you can open Registry Mechanic from the Start menu by clicking on Start -> All Programs / Programs -> Registry Mechanic (folder) -> Registry Mechanic.

Fig 1.5 – Registry Mechanic Menu Icon

When Registry Mechanic is launched, the main screen will be displayed. (see Fig 1.6)

NB – Please note that the following screen shots of Registry Mechanic 4 are of the "FULLY REGISTERED" product and not the Trial Version.
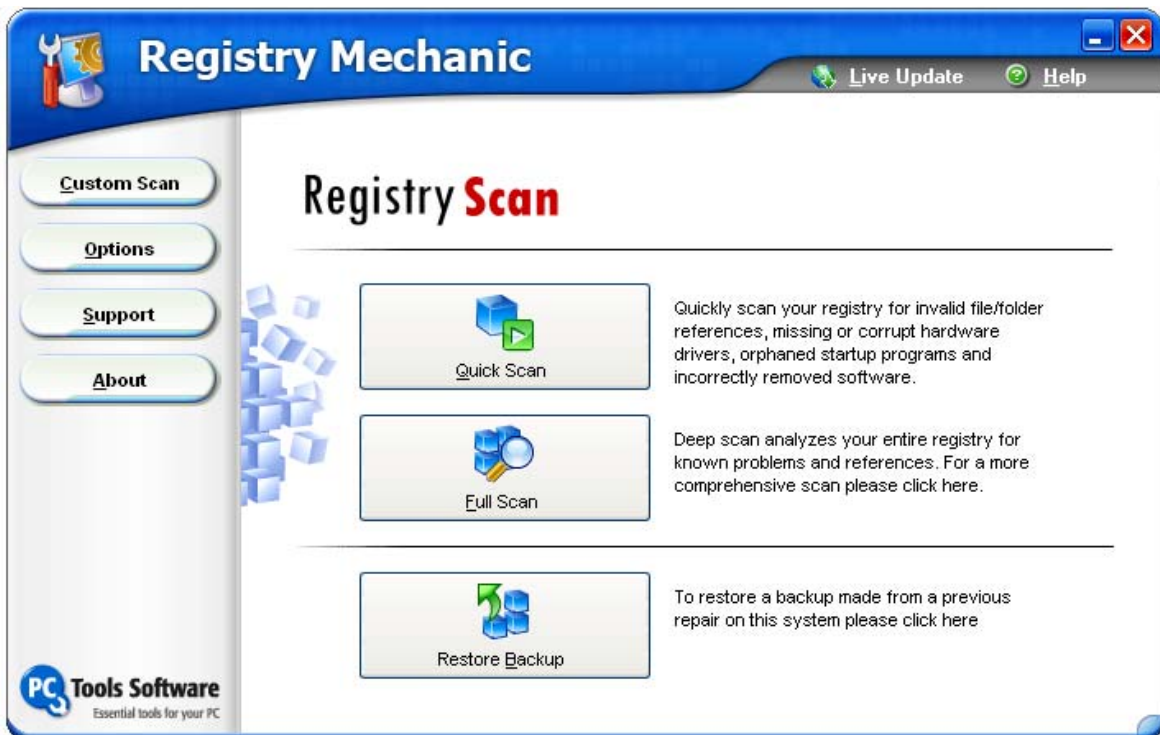
 # Registry Mechanic's main screen

Fig 1.6 – Registry Mechanic Main Screen

Registry Mechanic's main screen is divided into the following functional areas:

The **four buttons on the left** are used for altering Registry Mechanic's functionality and accessing additional resources. These are:

- **Custom Scan** - allows you to specify the sections of the Windows Registry that Registry Mechanic will scan using the Quick Scan function.
- **Options** - allows you to tweak finer aspects of Registry Mechanic's functionality and scanning behavior.
- **Support** - allows you to obtain further information and resources on Registry Mechanic and other PC Tools products.
- **About -** allows you to view information about this version of Registry Mechanic.

The **three large buttons in the center** allow you to scan for problems in your Windows Registry, in addition to repairing and restoring these items. These are:

- **Quick Scan** - conducts a scan on specific sections of the Windows Registry.
- **Full Scan** - scans all sections of the Windows Registry.
- **Restore Backup** - restores backups of the Windows Registry made by Registry Mechanic. These backups are automatically created prior to executing the Repair function.

The **two top-right links** are:

- **Register Now** (in Trial version) - allows you to register Registry Mechanic. When you register Registry Mechanic, this becomes **Live Update**, which invokes Registry Mechanic's Live Update feature.
- **Help** - reveals a pop-up menu with 4 options.

Scanning your Windows Registry

Registry Mechanic has two scanning functions, which can be executed by clicking on the appropriate button on the main screen:

Quick Scan

This function only scans the selected sections within the Custom Scan (Quick Scan) list. A Quick Scan is faster than a Full Scan. You can also execute this function by clicking on the Custom Scan -> Quick Scan button from the main screen. **Note:** If the Custom Controls section is selected for a Quick Scan, only a **subset** of the HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT branch of the Windows Registry is scanned. See the end of this section for more info on Custom Scans.

Quickly scan your registry for invalid file/folder references, missing or corrupt hardware drivers, orphaned startup programs and incorrectly removed software.

Fig 1.7 - Quick Scan Button

Full Scan

This function scans the greatest range of the Windows Registry.

The difference between Full Scan, and Quick Scan with all sections selected, is in the Custom Controls section. Full Scan scans the **entire** HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT branch of the Windows Registry, whereas Quick Scan scans only a subset of this branch.

Deep scan analyzes your entire registry for known problems and references. For a more comprehensive scan please click here.

Fig 1.8 - Full Scan Button

Scanning Your System

When you click on either the **Quick Scan** or the **Full Scan** buttons, **Registry Mechanic** begins scanning through each of the selected sections of the Windows Registry. As Registry Mechanic scans your system, a colored bar moves from left to right, providing you with an indication of how far Registry Mechanic has progressed through its scan. The time taken to progress through a scan depends on a number of factors, including:

- The number of sections you have requested Registry Mechanic to scan.
- The speed of your system.
- The amount of problems found in your Registry.
- Any third party applications running in the background, such as virus protection software.

You can stop the scanning process at any time by clicking on the **Stop** button. If you do so, **Registry Mechanic** will confirm if you wish to cancel the current scan or continue with it.

If you click on the **Yes** button, Registry Mechanic will cancel its current scan and go back to the main screen. Clicking on **No** causes Registry Mechanic to continue its current scan.

Once Registry Mechanic has finished scanning your system, the **results screen** appears. Here, you can view the individual problems detected by the scan and modify their properties before repairing them with the **Repair function**.

Custom Scan (Quick Scan)

When you click on the **Quick Scan** button on the main screen (see Fig 1.9), Registry Mechanic will scan all of the sections that have been selected in the Custom Scan (Quick Scan) screen list (see Fig 2.0). This list is accessible by clicking on the Custom Scan button on Registry Mechanic's main screen.
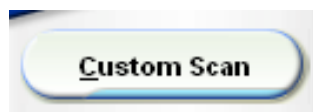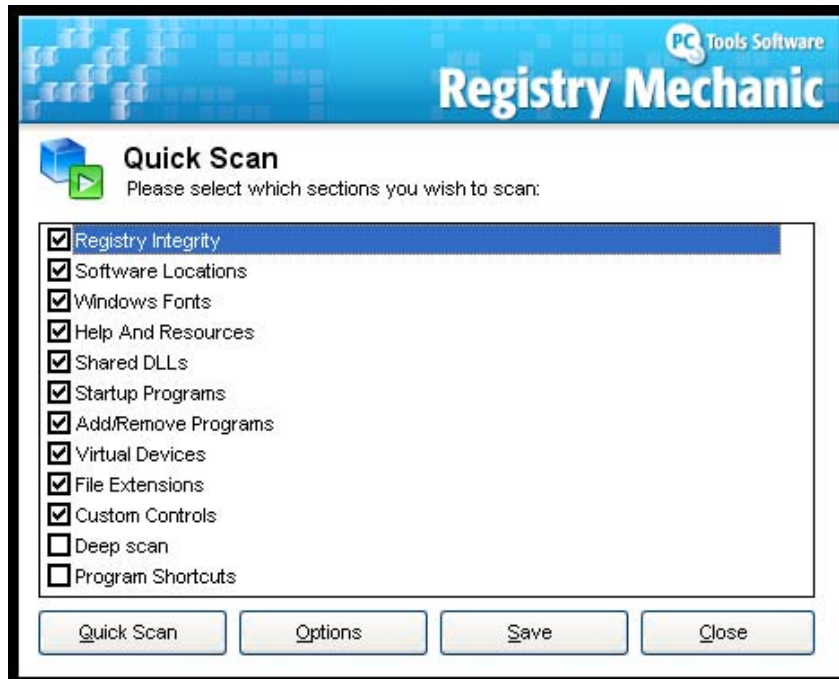

Fig 1.9 – Custom Scan Button

Fig 2.0 – Custom Scan List

By default, the first 10 sections of the Custom Scan (Quick Scan) screen list are selected. You can select any combination of sections to be scanned by selecting or clearing the appropriate check boxes on this screen.

The following list gives more details on each of these sections:

- Registry Integrity

  This section checks that the critical Windows shell folder entries exist in the locations specified in the Windows Registry. These include folders such as My Documents, Favorites, Profiles, etc.

- Software Locations

  When applications are installed, they register their location in the Registry. This section detects Registry entries where software applications are no longer present at their specified locations.

- Windows Fonts

  This section checks that the fonts referenced in the Registry are still located in the fonts folder of the Windows operating system.

  Fonts folder locations are:

  Windows 95 / 98 / Me / XP - C:\Windows\Fonts

  Windows NT 4.0 / 2000 - C:\WINNT\Fonts

- Help and Resources

The Windows standard states that programs should register their help files in the Registry. Registry Mechanic checks through these Registry entries and find those where help files no longer exist in their specified locations.

- Shared DLLs

Looks for registered shared control file entries in the Registry that point to non-existent files on the hard drive.

- Startup Programs

Checks that items set to run at start up actually exist.

To view the items that are set to start up when Windows 98 / Me / XP starts up, click on Start -> Run -> type "msconfig" -> OK. When the System Configuration Utility displays, select the Startup tab. Registry Mechanic checks that the items in this Startup tab's list exist on the hard drive, in the locations specified in the Registry.

- Add/Remove Programs

Removes the listing for programs which still remain in the Add/Remove Programs list but are unable to be removed because the original program has already been deleted.

Programs can be cleanly removed through the Add/Remove Programs applet, which can be accessed from the Windows Control Panel.

If uninstallations were not done via the standard Windows Add/Remove programs facilities (for example, if a program is removed from the system by deleting the folder directly using Windows Explorer), the link to the uninstallation file will remain in the Add/Remove Programs list.

When this option is selected, Registry Mechanic will remove the orphaned entry in the Add/Remove Programs list.

- Virtual Devices

Registry Mechanic scans for virtual drivers which are no longer at the location specified in the Registry.

- File Extensions

This section scans your Registry for file extensions which are no longer associated with programs installed on your system. This can happen when the uninstaller of a program removes the program files from your system, but does not remove the associated file extensions from the Registry.

- Custom Controls

When applications are installed, they register their custom control file locations as new entries in the Registry. This section scans through the

registered custom controls in the Registry and detects invalid registry entries which point to files that are no longer present on the hard drive.

- Deep Scan

    This section utilizes an advanced 'drill-down' algorithm to identify problems nested deep in the registry. Deep Scan also provides extensive filtering and security to ensure registry integrity and optimization.

- Program Shortcuts

    Scans all selected locations and removes orphaned shortcuts from the hard drive.

    When selected, Registry Mechanic scans the hard drive for broken shortcuts (i.e. shortcuts where the file it points to no longer exists in that location).

Scan results and modifying problems

The results screen (see Fig 2.2) is displayed when Registry Mechanic has finished scanning your system (see Fig 2.1). All problems that Registry Mechanic found in a scan can be accessed from this screen.

At this stage, Registry Mechanic has not made any changes to your Windows Registry. Changes are implemented when you execute the Repair function. (By default, all problems are selected to be repaired, as indicated by the red 'X' in each problem's checkbox.)

From this screen, you can modify the properties of each problem before implementing the repairs to the Windows Registry with the Repair function.
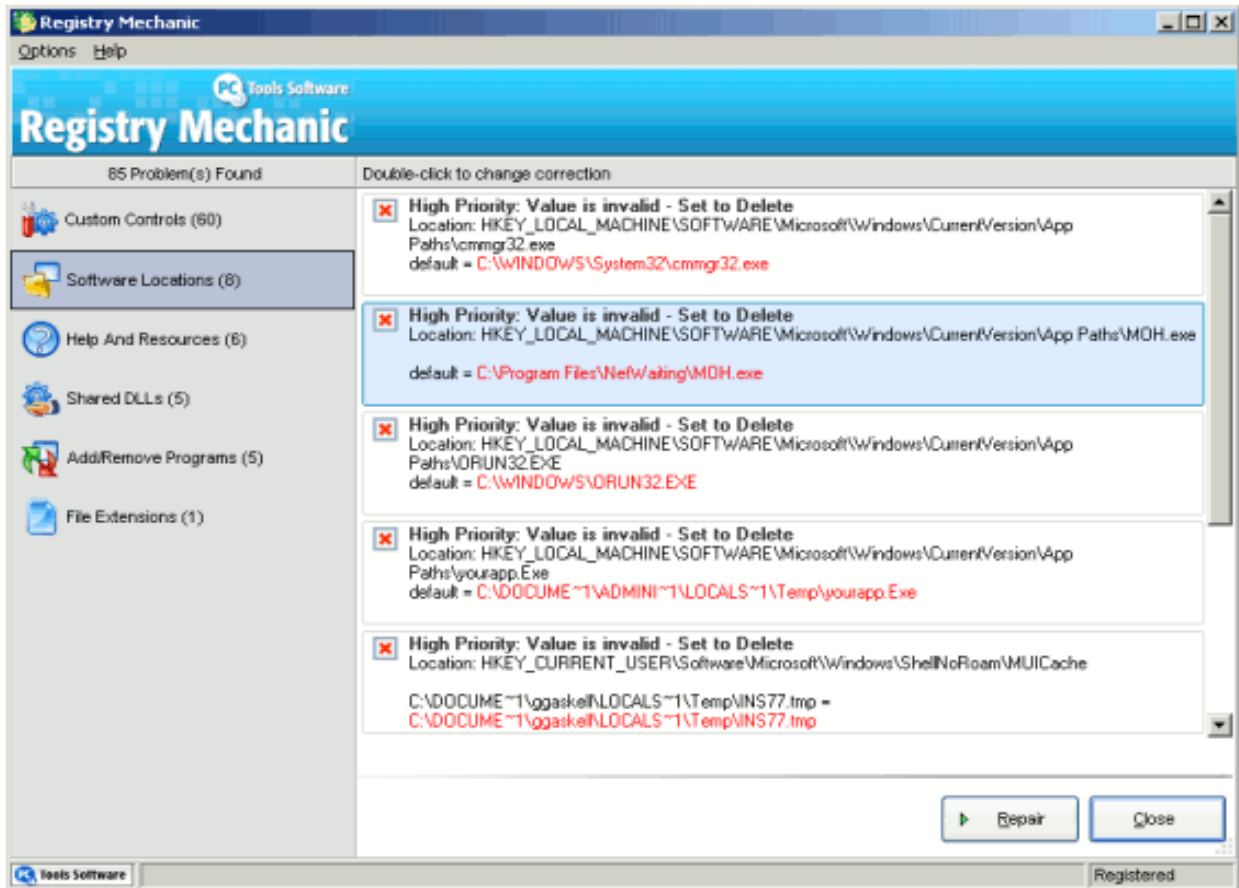

Fig 2.1 – Scanning

Fig 2.2 – Results

On the left of this screen is a list of sections where Registry Mechanic found problems. The number of problems found in each section are displayed in brackets, following the section name. If you click on one of the section names, details of individual problems belonging to that section are displayed on the right of the screen.

In the above example, the **"Software Locations"** section has been selected and its individual problems are displayed in detail on the *right*.

The total number of problems found in a scan is indicated on the left at the top of the section list. In the above example, Registry Mechanic found a total of 85 problems.

Details of individual problems, displayed on the right of the screen, include:

- In **bold-black** text - the priority level of the problem (high, medium or low, depending on the section to which the problem belongs), and brief descriptions of the problem and of what will happen to it when the Repair function is executed.
- In regular text - the location in the Registry where the problem was found.
- In **colored** text - the name of the problematic value and the data it contains. The color of this text may change depending on how the problem has been modified (see below).

The selected problem is highlighted in **blue**.

Modifying problems

You can modify problems on **Registry Mechanic's** results screen by right-clicking or double-clicking on the specific problem on the right of this screen (away from its check box). This both selects the problem and brings up the following pop-up menu:
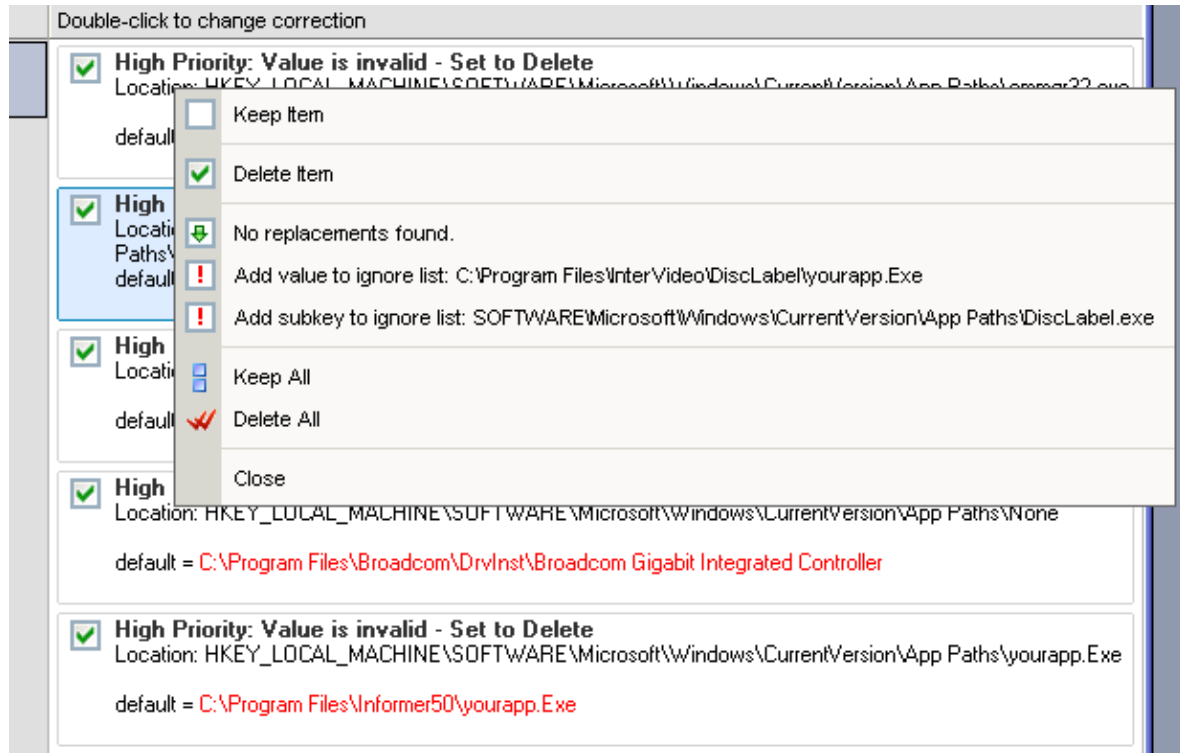

Fig 2.3 – Results Pop Up Menu

Note: To close the above pop-up menu, click on the results screen, away from any problems.

Alternatively, you can modify a problem by selecting it and then selecting the appropriate action from the **"Options"** menu at the top left of this screen. (see Fig 2.4).
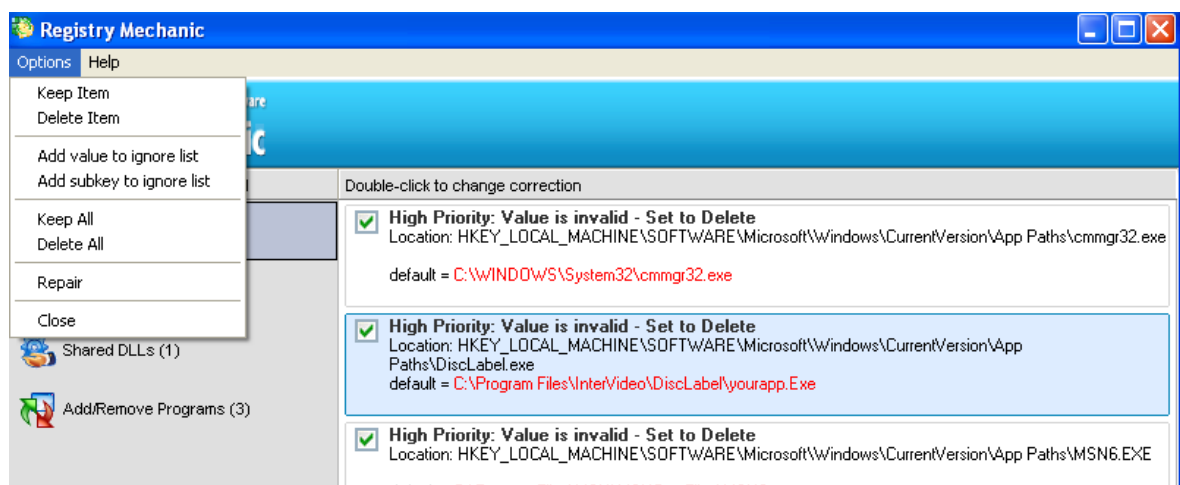

Fig 2.4 - Options Menu

Once you have made all your required modifications to the problems on the results screen, you are ready to execute the **Repair function**, which will implement the changes to the Windows Registry.

Before we look at that function the next few paragraphs explain what each of the problem modifications are:

Preventing Registry Mechanic from repairing specific problems (Keep Item)

By default, all problems that Registry Mechanic found are automatically selected for repair on the results screen, as indicated by the red 'X' in each problem's check box.

If you do not wish a problem to be repaired (that is, you decide to keep this entry unchanged), clear its check box on the results screen. You can update as many problems in this manner as you wish. When you execute the Repair function, all unchecked problems will remain unaltered. If you do not wish these items to be detected in future, add them to your ignore list.

You can also prevent Registry Mechanic from repairing specific problems by selecting the problem and then choosing "Keep Item" from this pop-up menu or from the "Options" menu at the top left of this screen. When this has been done, the problem's associated check box on the results screen is cleared and the problem will not be repaired when the Repair function is executed.

Repairing specific problems (Delete Item)

By default, all problems that Registry Mechanic found are automatically selected for repair on the results screen as indicated by the red 'X' in each problem's checkbox.

If you have marked a problem to be kept but then decide that you want Registry Mechanic to repair it instead, clear its check box prior to executing the Repair function. You can update as many problems in this manner as you wish. When you execute the Repair function, all checked problems are repaired.

You can also repair specific problems by selecting the problem and then choosing "Delete Item" from this pop-up menu or from the "Options" menu at the top left of this screen. When this has been done, the problem's check box on the results screen is checked and the problem will be repaired when the Repair function is executed.

Replacing values with suggested corrections (Replace with...)

When you conduct a scan, Registry Mechanic allows you to scan for suggested corrections to erroneous Registry values, which point to invalid or missing files on your system. When the results screen displays, you can select alternative values for problems that Registry Mechanic found. These changes will be made to the Windows Registry when the Repair function is executed.

Note: To use this function, you must have the "Scan files for suggested correction" option selected on the General Options screen, which can be accessed by clicking on the Options button on the main screen.

To replace a problem's value with a suggested correction, first check to see if Registry Mechanic found any suggested corrections for it by selecting the problem and choosing "Replace with..." from this pop-up menu or from the "Options" menu at the top left of this screen. If suggested corrections were found, a list of these will be displayed on the resulting suggested corrections screen. Select an appropriate correction in this list. Then, take one of the following actions:

To accept a suggested correction for a value, click on the Replace button. On the results screen, the problem's check box will become a downward-pointing green arrow and its value will be modified to your selection.

To revert a problem back to its original state after having selected a suggested correction with the Replace button, click on the Undo button. On the results screen, the problem's value reverts back to its original state.

If you decide not to replace a value with one of the suggested corrections, click on the Close button and no change will be made to the problem's value on the results screen.

If no suggested corrections were found, a message indicating "No replacements found" will be displayed. Click on the OK button to continue.

Note: If the "Scan files for suggested correction" option is cleared on the General Options screen prior to scanning, "Replace With..." in this pop-up menu is substituted with "No replacements found".

Adding values or subkeys to your ignore lists (Add value/subkey to ignore list:)

Registry Mechanic allows you to add values and subkeys found during a scan of your Windows Registry to personalized ignore lists. When the results screen displays, you can instruct Registry Mechanic to add a value or subkey to your ignore lists. When the Repair function is executed, values or subkeys that have been added to your lists will not be repaired and in subsequent scans, any items appearing in your ignore list are ignored and will not appear on the results screen.

To add a value or subkey to your ignore lists, select the problem and choose "Add value to ignore list:..." or "Add subkey to ignore list:...", from this pop-up menu or from the "Options" menu at the top left of this screen. A confirmation message is displayed. Click Yes to confirm that you want to add the value / subkey to your ignore lists. If you do not wish to add it, click No.

If you confirm that you want to add the value / subkey to the ignore lists, the problem's check box on the results screen changes to a '!'.

Keeping all problems within a selected section (Keep All)

In addition to keeping specific problems, Registry Mechanic also provides you with the option to keep all problems within a selected section of the results screen.

To do this, select "Keep All" from this pop-up menu or from the "Options" menu at the top left of this screen. When this has been done. The check boxes of all

problems belonging to the selected section on this screen are then cleared, and these problems will not be repaired when the Repair function is executed.

This function is very useful if you wish to select only a small number of specific problems from a section to be repaired. After performing this action within a selected section, you can then flag specific problems to be repaired.

Repairing all problems within a selected section (Delete All)

In addition to repairing specific problems, Registry Mechanic also provides you with the option to repair all problems within a selected section of the results screen.

To do this, select "Delete All" from this pop-up menu or from the "Options" menu at the top left of this screen. The check boxes of the problems belonging to the selected section become checked, and these problems will be repaired when the Repair function is executed.

This function is useful if you have flagged many problems from a section to be kept but then decide to keep only a small number of them. After performing this action within a selected section, you can then flag specific problems to be kept.

Close

Closes this pop-up menu. Note that if you select close from the "Options" menu at the top left of this screen, this closes the Results screen.

Once you have made all your required modifications to the problems on the results screen, you are ready to execute the **Repair function** that will implement the changes to the Windows Registry.

Repairing problems

To repair problems in your Windows Registry:

1. Conduct a scan and make any required modifications to problems on the scan results screen. (Previous section.)
2. Execute the **Repair function** by clicking on the Repair button of the results screen. (see Fig 2.5)
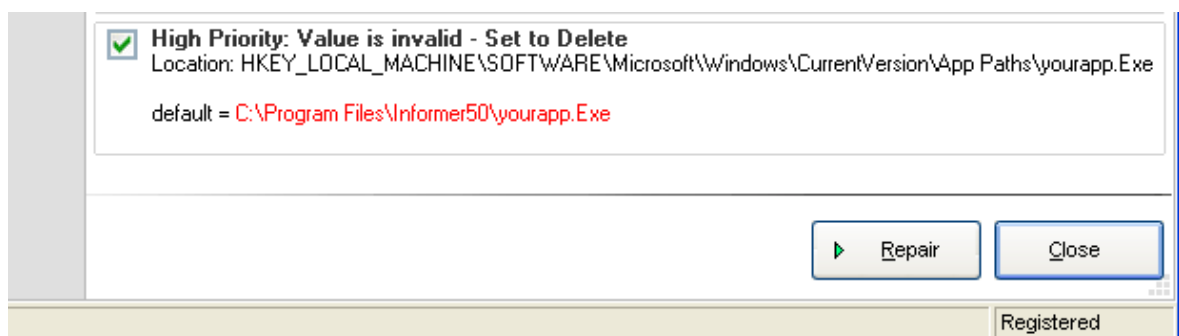

Fig 2.5 – Repair Button

Note: - You can also execute the Repair function by selecting **"Repair"** from the **"Options"** menu at the top-left of this screen.

Registry Mechanic automatically creates a Registry backup prior to implementing changes to the Windows Registry. These backups allow you to restore any changes made to your Registry as a consequence of executing the Repair function, and can be accessed by clicking on the **Restore Backup** button on Registry Mechanic's main screen.

Note that this is not the same as creating a Restore Point (see below).

3. When the Repair function has finished making changes to your Windows Registry, all functions on the results screen, with the exception of the Close button, are deactivated.
4. Click on the Close button to close the results screen and you return back to the main screen.

If you have selected the "**Create a Restore Point before repair**" option on the General Options screen (see Fig 2.6), accessed by clicking on the Options button on the main screen, Windows XP creates a **Restore Point** before implementing any changes to the Registry. **I HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU DO THIS IF YOU ARE USING WINDOWS XP!**
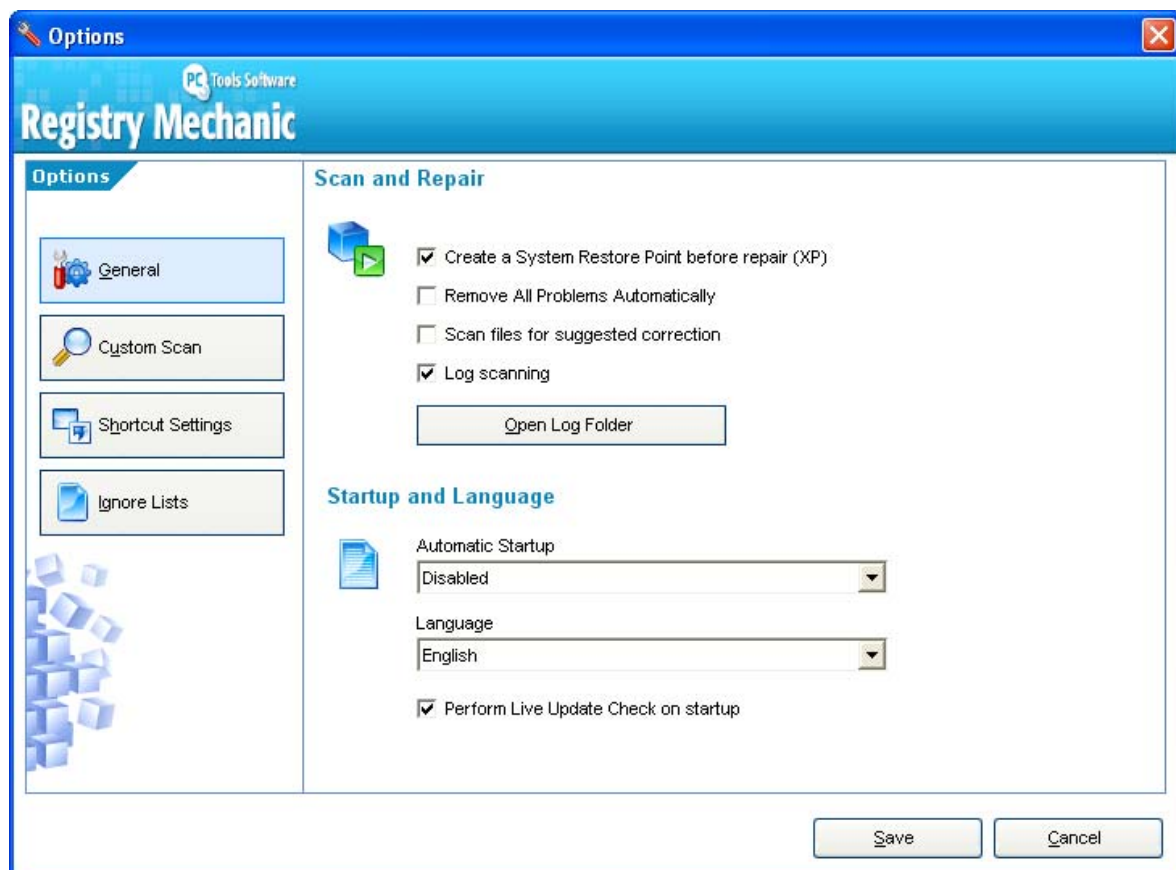

Fig 2.6 – General Options

Restore Backup

To access Registry Mechanic's Restore Backup function

Click on the **Restore Backup** button on Registry Mechanic's main screen (see Fig 2.7). Registry Mechanic's main screen is replaced with the Restore Registry backup screen (see Fig 2.8).
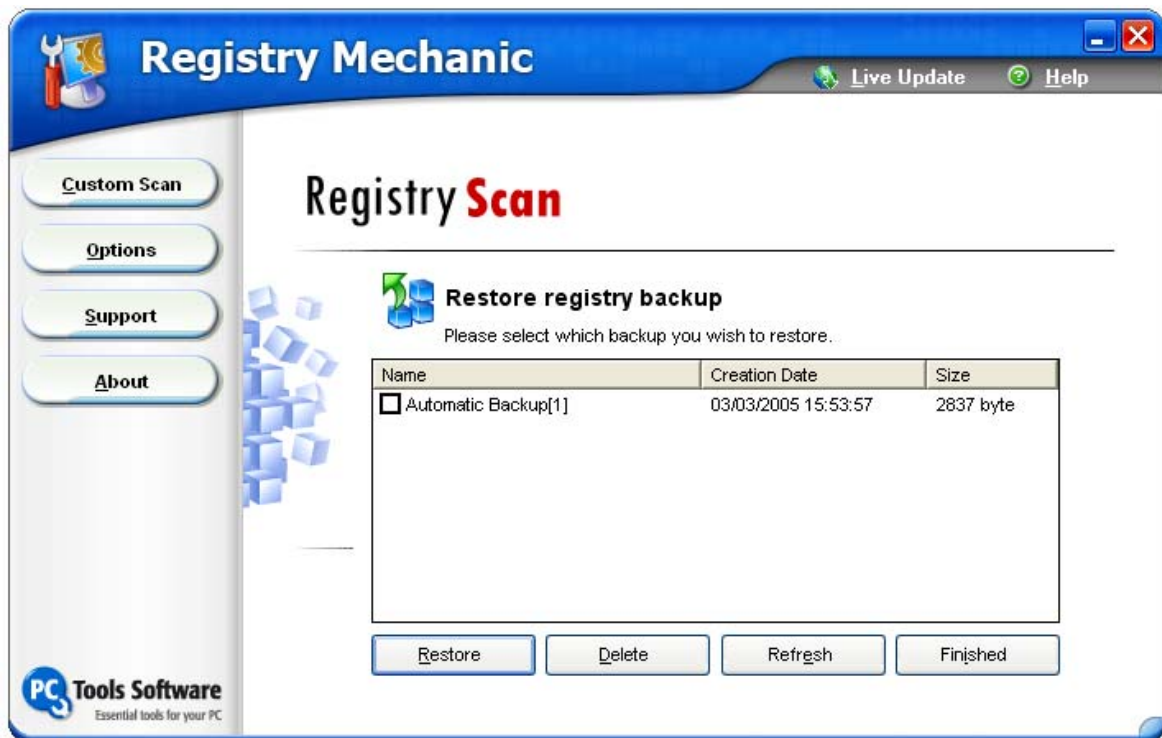

Fig 2.7 – Restore Button On Main Screen

Fig 2.8 – Restore Registry Backup

To restore a Registry backup created by Registry Mechanic, complete the following steps:

1. On the Restore Registry backup screen, select the appropriate Registry backup from the list by selecting its check box.
2. Click on the **Restore** button and the changes made to your Windows Registry in the selected backup are restored. You will be taken back to the main screen.

To delete a Registry backup, complete the following steps:

1. Select the appropriate backup by selecting its check box.

2. Click on the **Delete** button. The selected Registry backup will be deleted.

If you **do not** wish to restore or delete a Registry backup, click on the **Finish** button. This will close the Restore Registry backup screen and return you to the main screen.

Notes:

- If there are no Registry backups in this list, the **Restore** and **Delete** buttons will not appear.
- Restoring a Registry backup is not the same as restoring a Windows System Restore Point. Windows System Restore Points can be restored via the standard Windows procedure. See this page for more information: http://www.updatexp.com/use-system-restore.html

Live Update

Live Update is a convenient way to keep **Registry Mechanic** updated from within the application.

When you click on **"Live Update"** on the **TOP RIGHT** main screen, one of two actions will occur:

- If a more recent release of Registry Mechanic is available for download, a message appears, allowing you to download the updated installation file onto your computer.

  If you accept this update, the file downloads onto your computer, which you should then install. If you install it to the same location as your previous version, it installs over your earlier version and retains your existing registration and configuration settings. It is recommended that you run Live Update again to ensure that you have Registry Mechanic's most recent internal Ignore List.

- If you already have the most recent release of Registry Mechanic installed on your computer, Live Update updates Registry Mechanic's internal Ignore List.
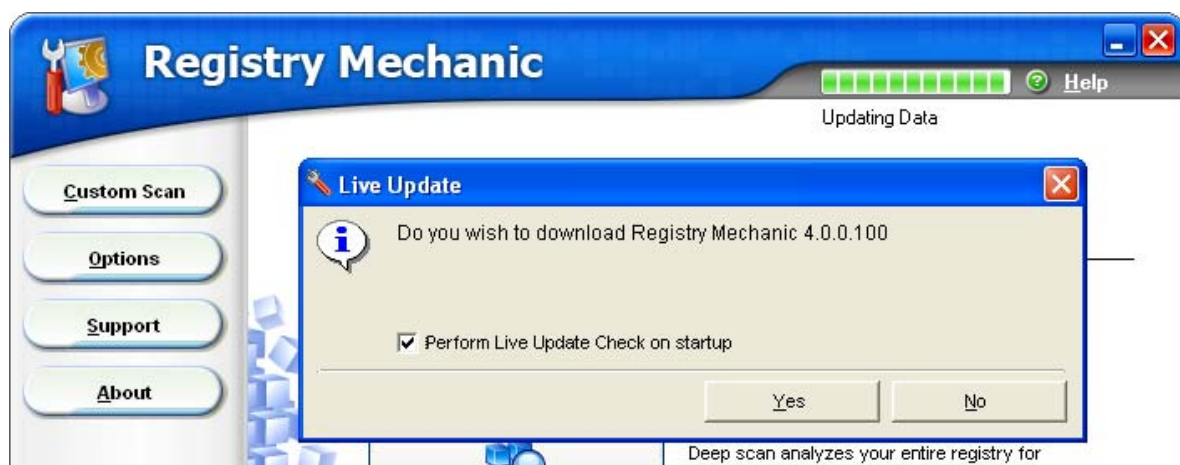

Fig 2.9 – Live Update

Ignore Lists

The **Ignore List** screen lists the values or subkeys that you have added to your Ignore Lists from the results screen. Any values that you have added can be viewed and accessed by clicking on the "Values" tab. Likewise, any subkeys that you have added can be accessed by clicking on the "Keys" tab.

The Ignore List manager screen (see Fig 3.0) has three buttons below the lists, which can be used for modifying value or subkey items (whichever tab has been selected) within your Ignore Lists. Note: These functions will only affect items within the selected list:

- **Add** - allows you to create a new value or subkey from scratch and add it to your list.
- **Edit** - allows you to edit an existing value or subkey. To edit an item, highlight it and click on the Edit button.
- **Remove** - allows you to remove specific items from your Ignore Lists. To remove items from this list, select their check boxes and click on the Remove button. You can remove single items by highlighting them and clicking on the Remove button.
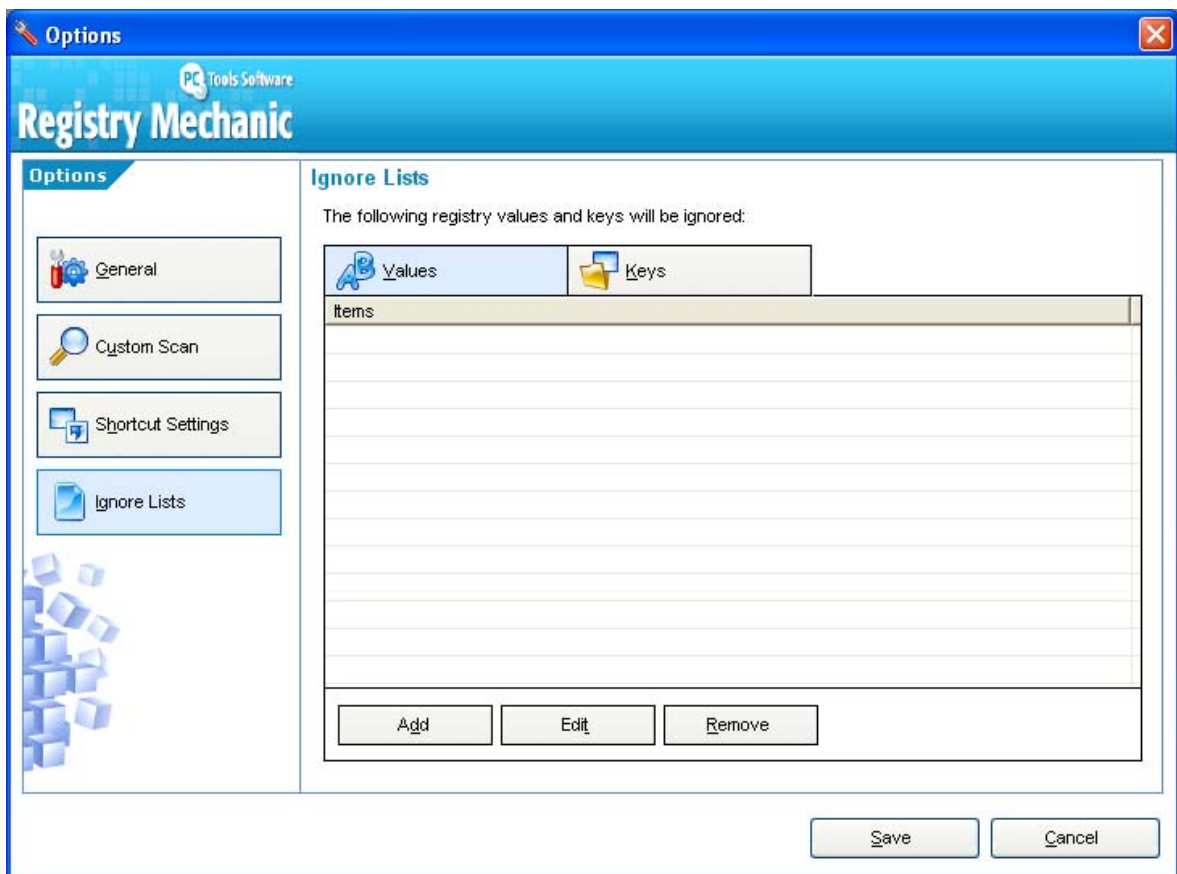

Fig 3.0 – Ignore Lists

Note: Registry Mechanic also contains an internal Ignore List that is separate from this Ignore List and is updated periodically via Live Update.

Shortcut Settings

The Shortcut Settings screen (see Fig 3.1) allows you to set which directories or hard drives on your system will be scanned for orphaned shortcuts when the Program Shortcuts section of Registry Mechanic is scanned. Note: The settings on this screen will not affect your scan if the Program Shortcuts section of Registry Mechanic has not been selected for a Quick Scan.

When you install Registry Mechanic, the following paths are listed in the "Which locations do you wish to include while scanning for shortcuts?" list box:

- The root directories of all hard drives available on your system, for example, 'C:\'.
- The Start Menu paths for both logged on and All Users.
- The My Documents and Desktop paths for logged on users.

To ensure that a path is scanned for program shortcuts, its check box must be selected. By default, only the Start Menu paths for both logged on and All Users are checked.

To add a path to the list, click on the Add button, browse to the appropriate path in the "Browse for Folder" window and click on the OK button.

To delete a path from the list, select the appropriate path (until it is highlighted) and click on the Delete button.
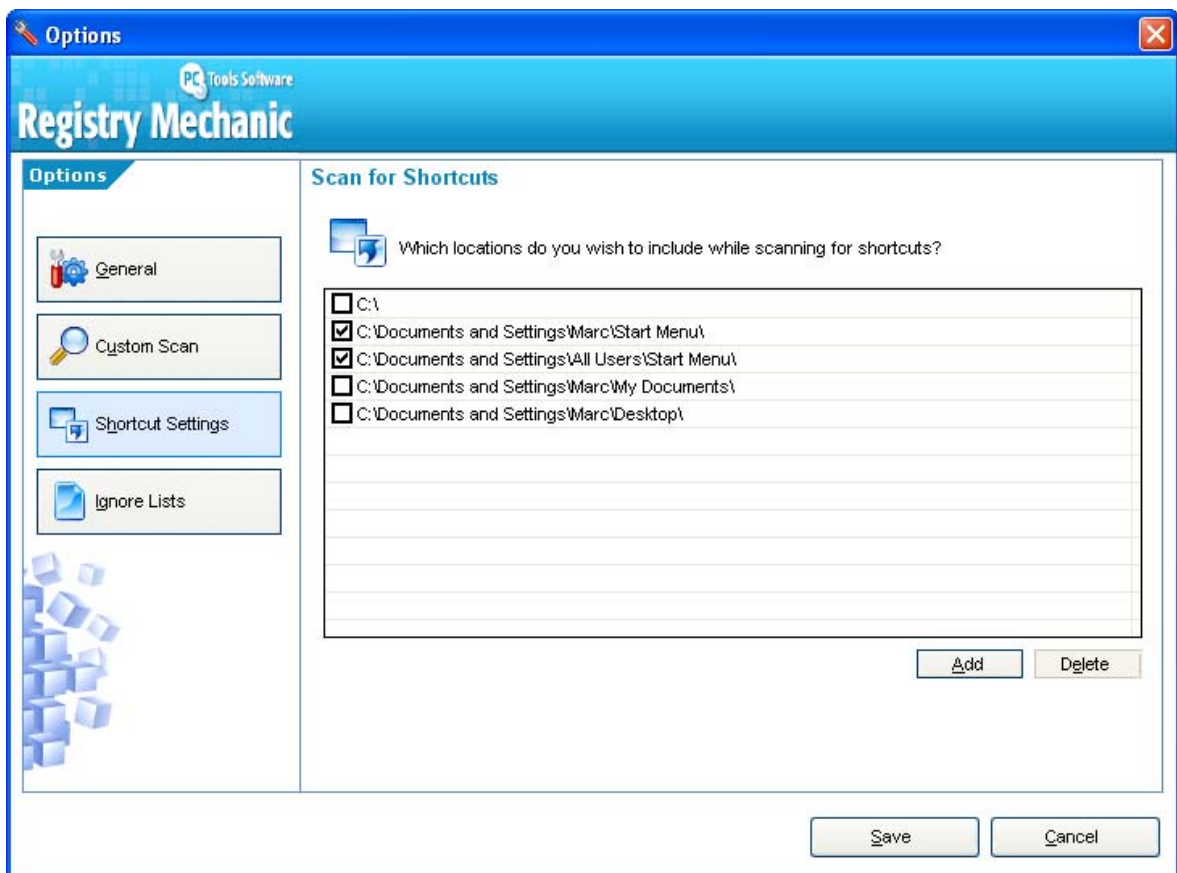

Fig 3.1 – Shortcut Settings

About screen

The About Screen shows your registration details and product version
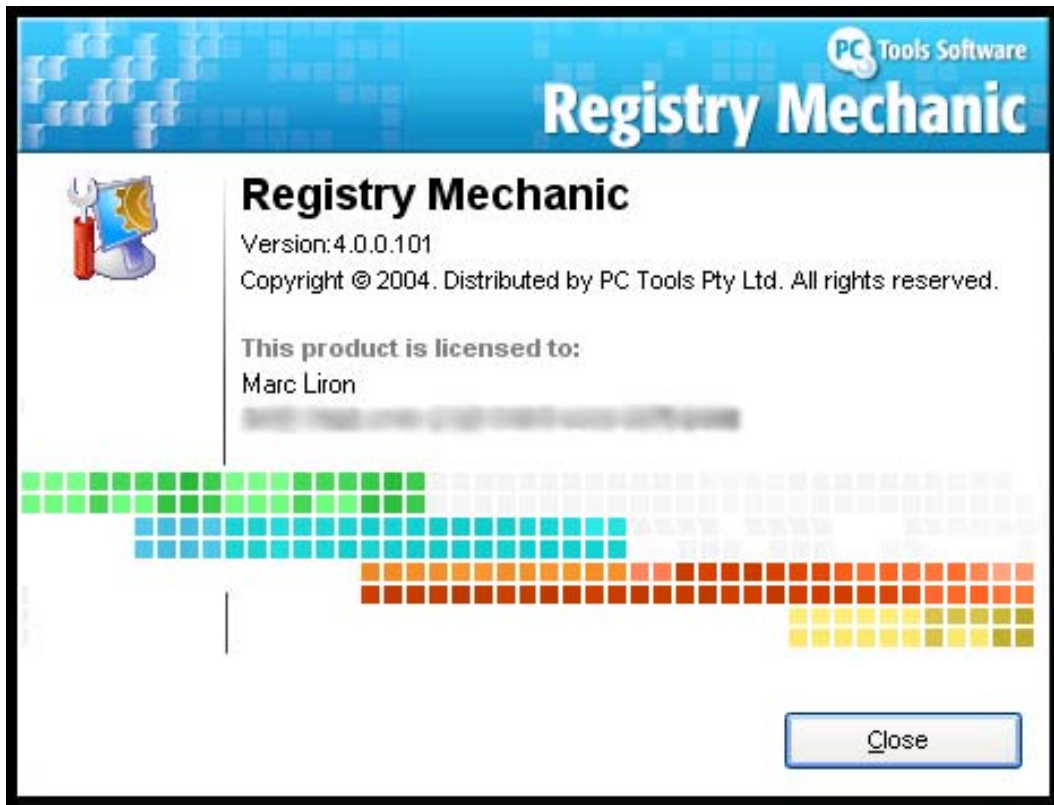

Fig 3.2 – About Screen

Well, that's the end of this "Mini Guide" to Registry Mechanic 4. I appreciate any feedback you have and this can be made via the following webform:

http://www.updatexp.com/contact.html

…and don't forget to get your copy of the **FREE Windows XP Newsletter** I issue monthly! (also available as a PDF document and RSS Feed, details in your first newsletter…)
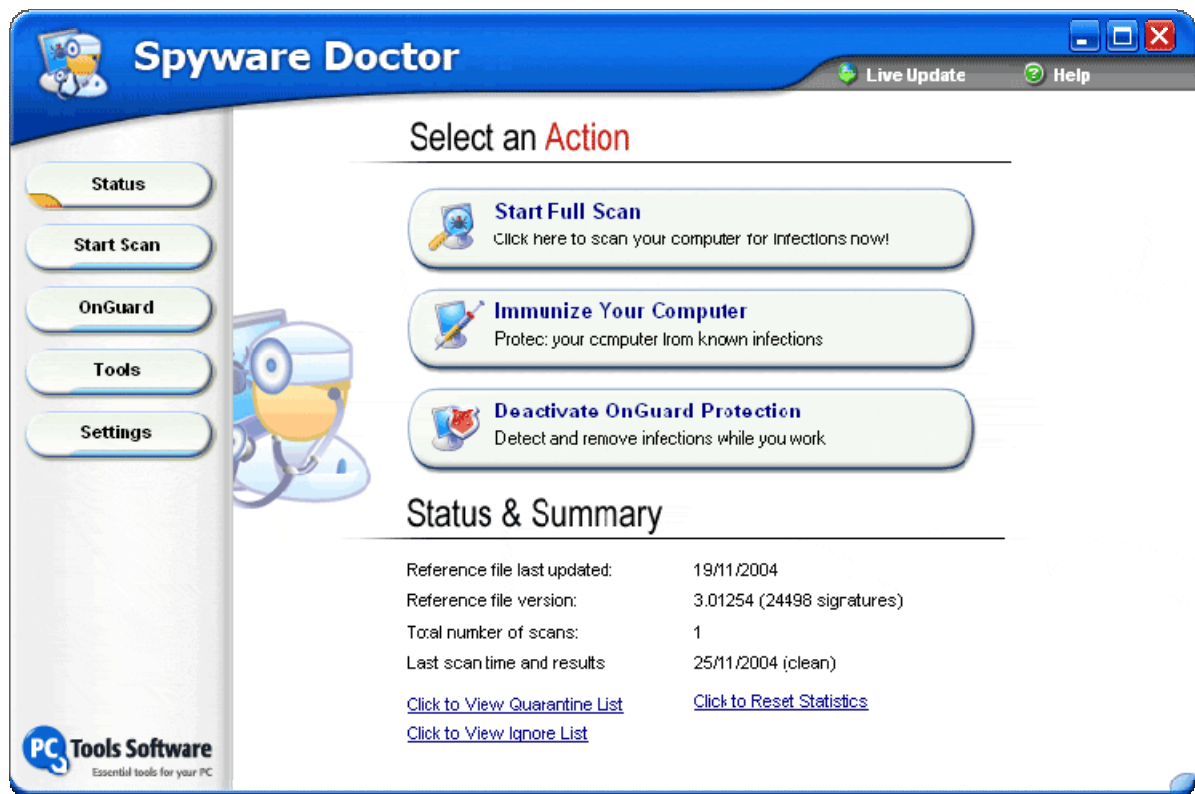
http://www.updatexp.com/newsletter.html

Also from the makers of Registry Mechanic comes: **Spyware Doctor**

You can grab a free trial to evaluate the software here:

http://www.updatexp.com/spyware-doctor-trial

Spyware Doctor is not only one of the most popular spyware removers on the market (with 500,000+ downloads per week) but also one of the most highly awarded!

Marc Liron is a **Microsoft MVP in Windows Digital Media** and a **Certified SiteBuildt! Webmaster.**

In his working day he maintains a growing selection of Websites as a resource to the online community – of which www.updatexp.com is his most popular with over 500,000 monthly visitors…

He is also author of **The XP Registry Guide**.