

Geek Security Tip

Wipe your Swapfile at System Shut-down

Windows NT, ME, XP has a built-in feature which can wipe the swapfile when the system shuts down. Every page that is not in use at the time of shutdown is overwritten with zeroes.

This feature is enabled by changing a key in the registry.

Registry path:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System

\CurrentControlSet

\Control

\Session Manager

\Memory Management

Note: Do not change the size of the paging file by editing the Registry. To create a new paging file or to change the size of a paging file, double-click the System option in Control Panel, click the Performance tab, then click the Change button in the Virtual Memory box.

ClearPageFileAtShutdown

REG_DWORD

Range:

0 or 1

Default:

0

Specifies whether inactive pages in the paging file are filled with zeros when the system stops. If this value is set to 1, as the system stops, Windows NT fills all inactive pages in the paging file with zeros so that they cannot be read by another process. It cannot fill all pages with zeros because some are being used by the system or other remaining active processes. This is a Windows NT security feature.