

The Handbook of

# **RegSupreme Pro 1.8**

This digital book can be distributed freely and without permission from the author either in digital form or in paper print. However, if this book is sold in printed form, the price cannot be more than the direct production costs of the paper print. Selling this book in a digital form is strictly prohibited without written permission from the author.

Please visit [www.macecraft.com](http://www.macecraft.com) for any possible updates to this book.  
Come and join the discussion at [www.macecraft.com/forum/](http://www.macecraft.com/forum/) if you have any questions or concerns whatsoever.

The product version used for writing this book is a pre-release version, therefore the user interface and the names of the features might be slightly different from the version of RegSupreme Pro you are using.

Microsoft, Microsoft Windows, Windows NT, Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows XP and Windows Vista are trademarks or registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks and product names are the property of their respected owners.

Copyright 2005-2008 Jouni Flemming. All rights reserved.

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Minimum system requirements.....	4
Recommended system .....	4
User friendliness.....	4
General usage.....	5
Introduction to the registry.....	6
Structure of the registry.....	6
Accessing the registry.....	6
The Software Manager.....	7
Custom Uninstall Software.....	8
The Startup Manager.....	10
The Registry Manager.....	11
Features .....	11
The Registry Cleaner.....	13
The Scan Report.....	15
The Results Window.....	17
Fixing the found errors.....	17
The Registry Compactor.....	19
The Registry Information.....	20
The History Cleaner.....	21
Frequently Asked Questions.....	22
Questions related to the installation of RegSupreme Pro .....	22
Questions before using the RegSupreme Pro .....	22
Questions related to the Software Manager.....	22
Questions related to the Registry Manager.....	23
Questions related to the Registry Cleaner.....	23
Questions about licensing.....	23
Other questions.....	24
Appendixes.....	25
Supported command line parameters.....	25

## **Introduction**

RegSupreme Pro is a Windows system utility suite which allows you to clean, optimize and repair your system with ease.

### **Minimum system requirements**

- Any computer running Windows 98, 98 SE, ME, NT, 2000, XP or Vista
- Mouse or keyboard

### **Recommended system**

- Any computer running Windows NT, 2000, XP or Vista
- Mouse and keyboard
- Internet connection (to download updates etc)

(Support for Windows 98, 98 SE and ME is slightly limited and not all features are present if the product is used under any of these operating systems.)

### **User friendliness**

RegSupreme Pro is an example of a very user-friendly computer application. It allows you to use the program in your own language, and not just in English. You can control the product with only your mouse and/or your keyboard, it's up to you. It also contains full, printable documentation.

The user friendliness isn't something that only affects the user interface. The product doesn't integrate itself with your system without your permission. It doesn't connect to the Internet without asking for your permission. It doesn't modify your system's configuration or fill up C:\Windows\System32 directory with its files.

## General usage

In the right hands, RegSupreme Pro is a very safe and powerful tool. Yet, even the most novice users can take benefit from its power if they just remember a few general rules.

The most important thing to bear in mind is that you are the one who always makes the final decision, that's why it's very important that you don't do anything with things you are not familiar with. For example, if there are some items in the Registry Manager or in the Registry Cleaner that you don't know or can't identify, it's always the safest and best option to leave those items alone.

RegSupreme Pro only makes suggestions based on its analysis. You always make the final decision, so you will always have to know what you are doing.

If you are using a Windows NT based operating system, such as Windows 2000, XP or Vista, you must be logged in as the computer's administrator when using RegSupreme Pro. The product will not operate well without full system rights. Without them the Registry Cleaner, for example, cannot analyze all parts of the registry.

Similarly, the *Open in RegEdit* feature will not work if the product doesn't have full user rights to the following registry key:

HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Applets\Regedit

Note: the *Open in RegEdit* feature doesn't work in any Windows 9x systems, including Windows ME.

## Introduction to the registry

This chapter gives you some basic information about the Windows' registry. If you are already familiar with the subject you may skip this chapter.

Every Windows-based system has a feature called registry. It's a place where the Windows operating system and third-party software applications can store information. Many software applications, including the operating system itself, store their settings to the registry which makes the registry a very vital part of your system. Basically, the registry is a database containing any data the programs you use want to store there.

### Structure of the registry

The registry is organized in a hierarchical tree structure (see image 1), and is comprised of subtrees and their keys, hives, and value entries. Here's an example of what a single registry key looks like: HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion

The first part of it ("HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE") is the root key, also known as a (root) hive. It's just like the drive letter in file system. Then comes the registry key "Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion", it's like the directory path in a file system. Then there's also registry entries which contain all the actual data. These are a like files in file system, each registry entry having a name (known as the "entry" or "value name") and contents ("value" or "data").

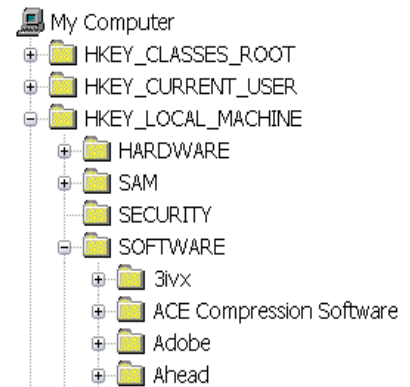
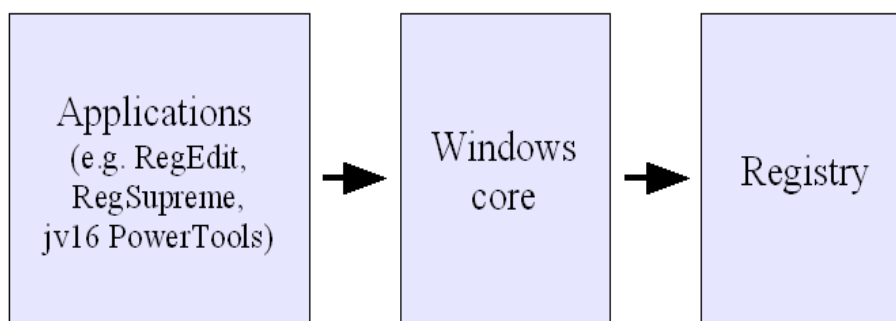


Image 1. The structure of the registry

### Accessing the registry

The Windows registry cannot be accessed directly but only through two application layers. First, you will need an application which is designed to access the registry, for example RegSupreme Pro or Windows RegEdit. They can't access the registry directly either, but they use Windows core functions to access the registry. In a way, they are saying to the Windows "Could you pass me that information, please" and then system replies if it can be passed or not.



**Warning:** The registry is a very vital part of your system, always let the RegSupreme Pro to back up the items before you remove or modify them.

## The Software Manager

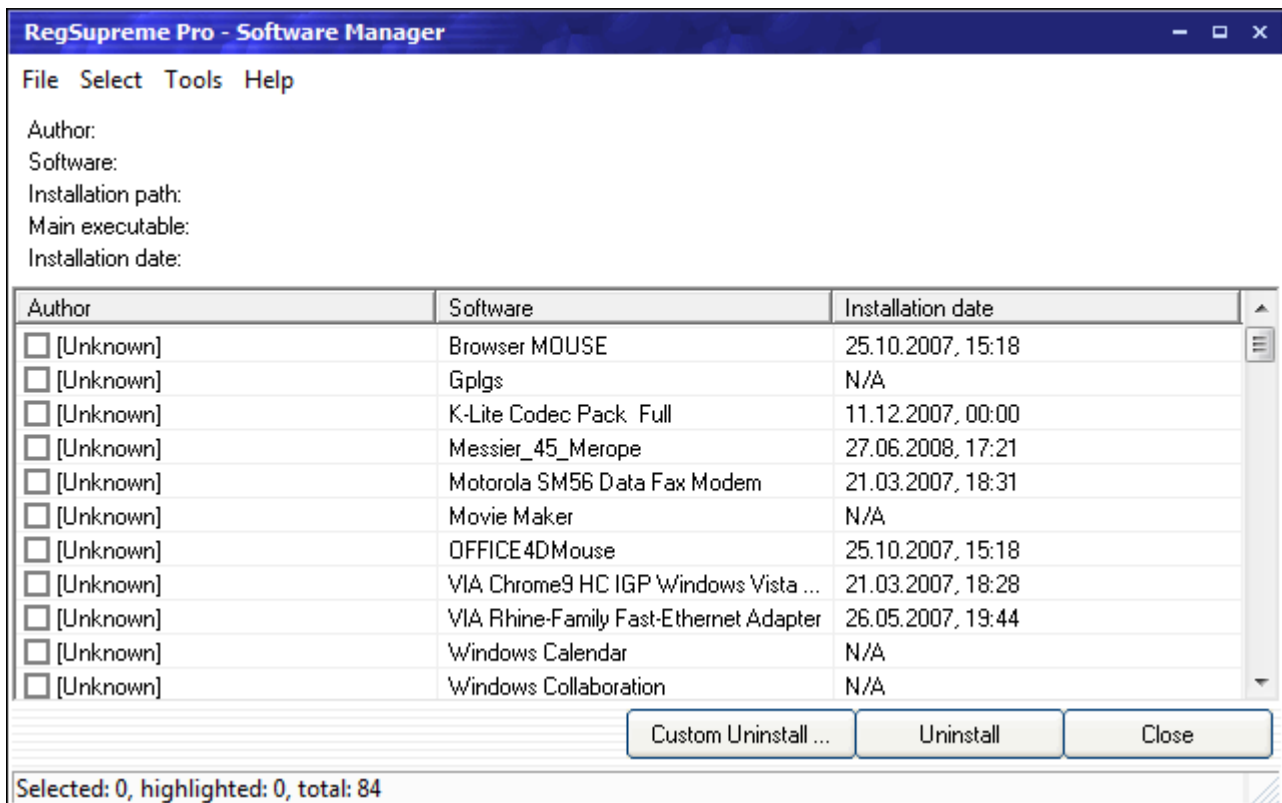


Image 3. The Software Manager allows you to remove hidden traces of installed software

The Software Manager is a highly improved version of Windows' Add/Remove Software feature.

Windows' Add/Remove Software feature works by an internal software list to which software can register itself to upon installation. Of course, this registration is not required and not all software therefore do it at all. This is why Windows' Add/Remove Software list doesn't contain all the software installed on the computer.

The Software Manager uses three approaches at the same time:

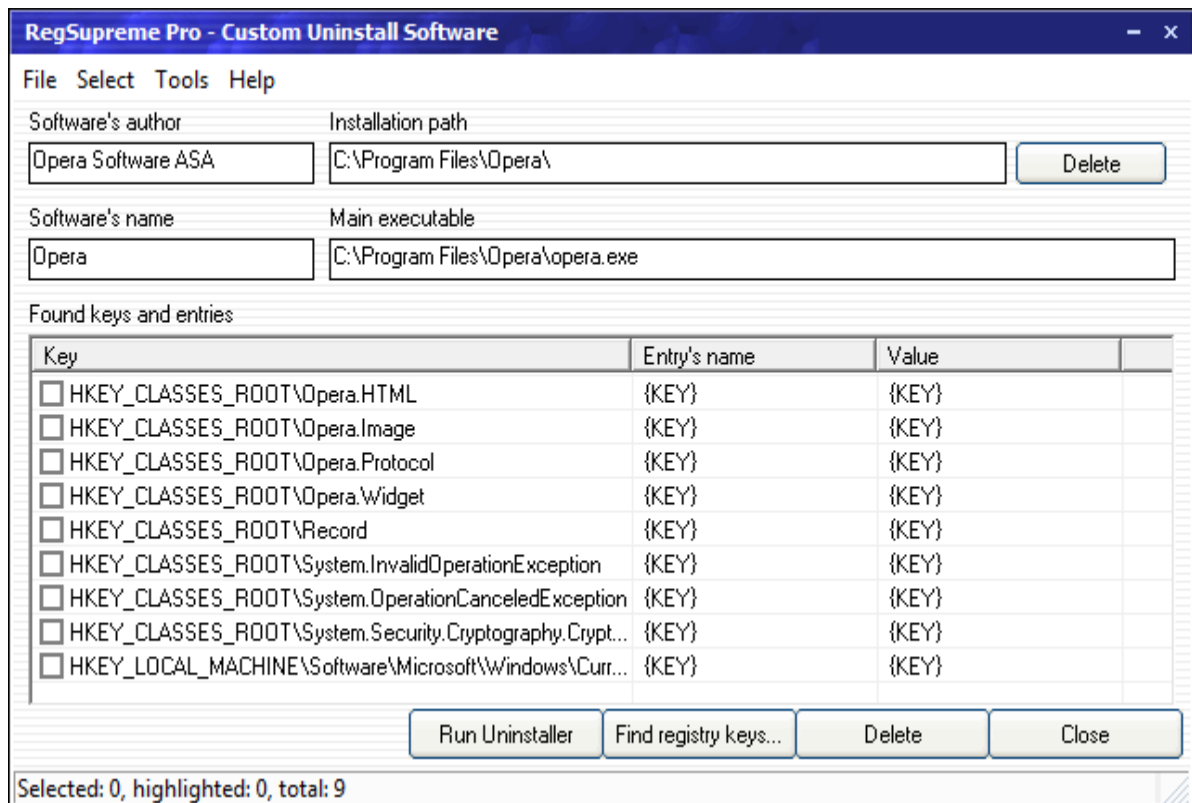
1. It reads the same internal software list used by the Add/Remove Software feature.
2. It analyzes the registry for common software data.
3. It quickly analyzes all hard drives to detect other installed software.

This is why the Software Manager can detect much more items compared to Windows' Add/Remove Software, or some other similar third-party applications.

Please note that Software Manager works much based on approximations. This means the list can contain a number of errors: for example, the software's Main Executable information or the Installation Date might not show the correct data on all software. This is normal. Also, it's not always possible for Software Manager to detect all information for the software, in such case "N/A" is shown.

Because of this, the *Uninstall* button doesn't use the extracted information (such as the Installation Path) without asking permission from you. If you wish to remove all traces of the software you must use the *Custom Uninstall* feature.

## Custom Uninstall Software



The Custom Uninstall Software function of the Software Manager helps you to find and remove hidden traces of installed software. To access it, select one application in the Software Manager's list of installed software, then right-click the selected application to display the pop-up menu, or use the *Custom Uninstall* button. Custom Uninstall can only be used when one and only one application is selected.

Follow these steps to fully uninstall software using the Custom Uninstall Software feature:

1. Verify that all the information on the top (e.g., name of the software, installation path, etc.) is correct. If there are errors, fix them if you know how to. If you are unsure, you can leave the boxes empty.
2. Click *Run Uninstaller*. It attempts to locate and launch the product's own uninstaller application. If one is found, follow the instructions from the screen and uninstall the software. If not, skip this step and move on.
3. Click Find registry keys. After the search is done you should always examine the list of registry keys through before doing anything. If all the found registry entries are relating to the software in question, select all and click the *Remove* button from the bottom of the window. If you are unsure whether some entries are relating to the software in question don't select those items. It's always better to be safe than sorry!
4. Click the Delete button which is located to the right of the Installation path text box. The button is only enabled if the text box contains a valid path.
5. Click *Close* and you're done!

Warnings: Always remember to validate the given information about the software: the author of the software, the name of the software, its installation path and the location of its main executable. If any of this information is wrong the tool might list entries not related to the software in question, and removing these entries could be dangerous. If you are unsure about any piece of information, just leave the box empty. Also, using this tool to detect entries of software with a very generic name (e.g., "System", "Browser", "Icon" etc) can be very dangerous.

## The Startup Manager

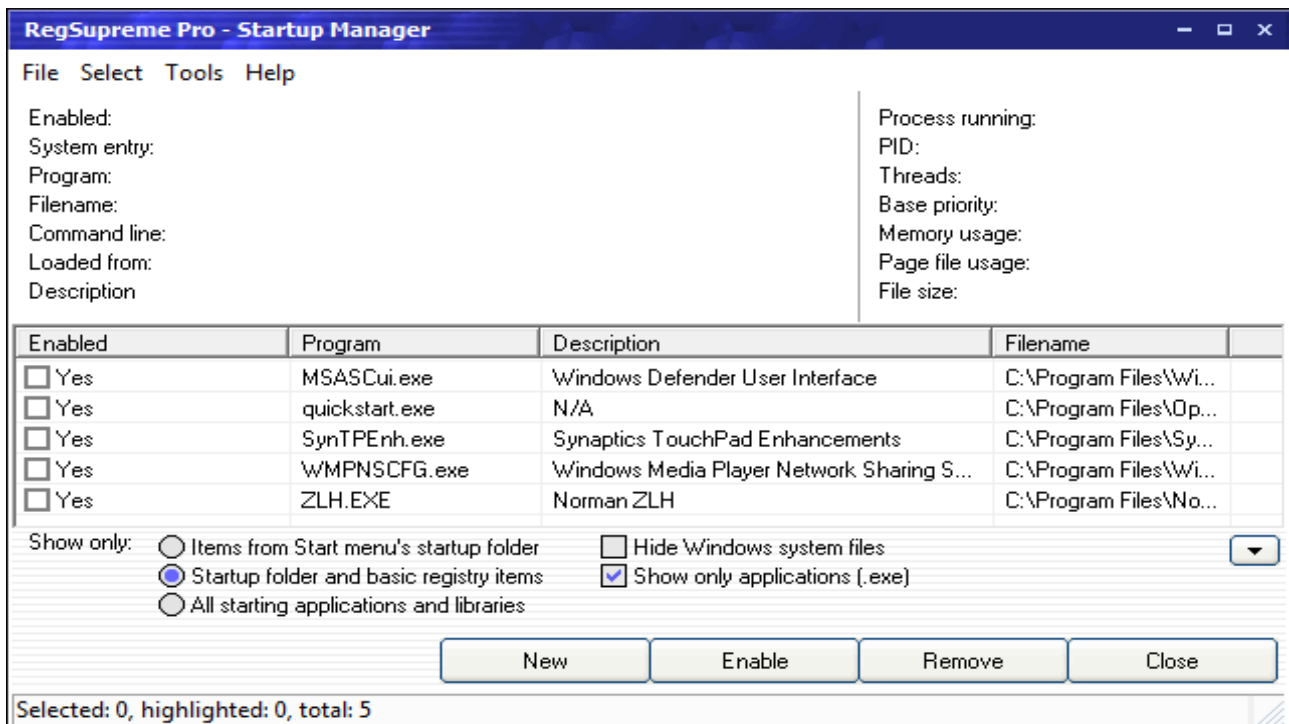


Image 5. The Startup Manager allows you to control which applications start with your computer

The Startup Manager shows you the list of all applications that are set to automatically start with your computer. The tool analyzes the registry and the Windows Start Menu to locate the applications. Other startup definition locations are not analyzed (such as Win.ini), since they are no longer used.

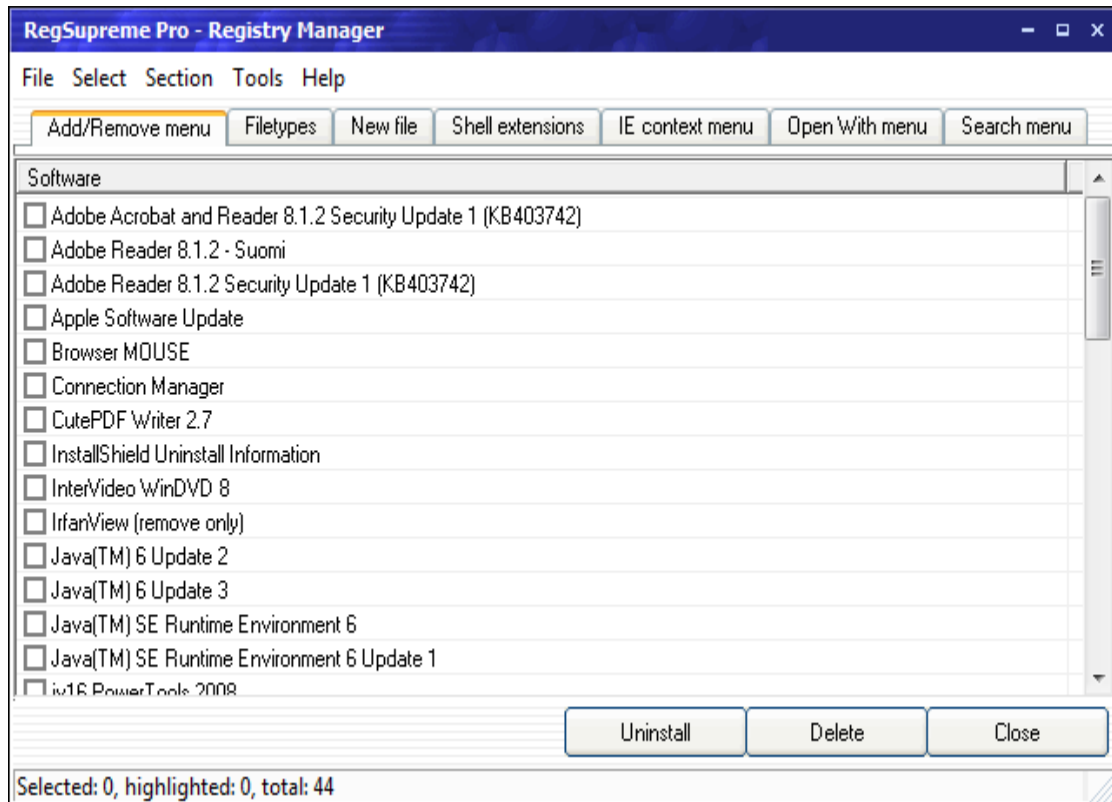
Clicking an item shows you more information about the software, such as whether it is currently running, its path and from where it was loaded. If you have enabled the network usage, the tool downloads more information about the software from Macecraft's server, which is shown on the Description field. If network access is not enabled, the Description field will show the description data extracted from the executable file.

Automatically starting programs can easily slow down even the fastest computer; therefore, it's highly recommended to keep the list as short as possible. You can use the *Disable* button to disable software, in other words, to deny it from starting automatically again. You can later on enable it again, if you wish. The *Remove* button does the same, but also removes the software from the list.

You can use the *New...* button to add your own software to the list.

## The Registry Manager

The Registry Manager contains all the necessary tools for manual registry repair and maintenance. You can uninstall software, remove leftover registry entries from software you thought you had removed ages ago, edit or remove shell extensions and so on. The Registry Manager is your easy-to-use interface to the Windows registry, and you really don't have to have an extensive knowledge of the registry to be able to use the Registry Manager.



## Features

- The *Add/Remove menu* feature shows the items from Add/Remove programs in Windows' Control Panel. The feature also lists the hidden items not normally visible in Add/Remove programs. Notice that the *Delete* button only removes the software from this list and doesn't uninstall it, while the *Uninstall* button actually does uninstall it. For your own safety, you can uninstall only one piece of software at the time.
- *FileTypes* shows you all the registered file types. For example that .txt files are text files and so on. It's very common that programs you remove from your computer leave their file type registrations behind.
- *New File* feature shows you a list of file types you can create using the right-click > New menu (you can see this menu by right clicking the Windows desktop, for example). Note that if you still use the program whose shell extension you wish to remove from the right-click menu the, program will most likely automatically recreate entry the next time you use the program.
- *Shell Extensions* list contains all the registered shell extensions. Shell extensions are operations

you can perform on certain types of files. For example, you can view a text file (.txt) with Notepad by double clicking it but you can also print its contents by right clicking it and selecting print from the right-click menu. You can remove all the shell extensions you think you won't need.

- *IE Context Menu* list contains all the context menu tools of Internet Explorer. Context menu extensions are those additional tools which are shown in the right-click menu when you right-click anything on a web page. Some programs, such as FlashGet, create these kinds of new entries.
- The *Open With Menu* feature shows you the list of programs Windows can show in the list it shows when you try to execute a file of unknown file type. This feature is only for NT-based operating systems, such as Windows NT, 2000 and XP.
- The *Search menu* feature shows you the list of items in Start Button > Search. You can remove all the items you don't need. This feature is only for NT-based operating systems such as Windows 2000 and XP.

## The Registry Cleaner

While the Registry Manager represents a semi-automatic registry cleansing tool, the Registry Cleaner is fully automatic. It analyzes the entire system registry in a snap and shows you the items that are erroneous.

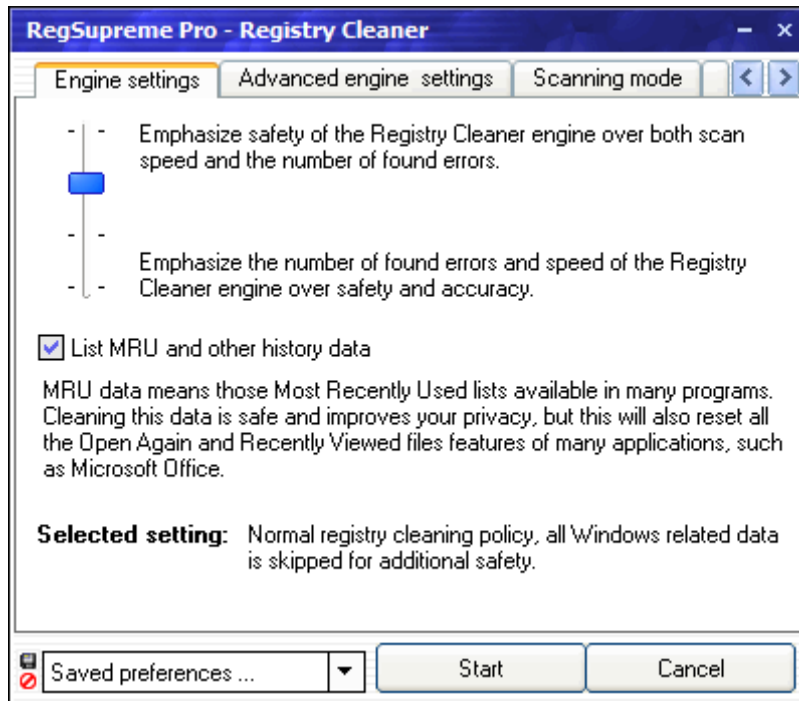


Image 7. The initial options dialog of the Registry Cleaner

When you start the Registry Cleaner it asks you whether you wish to highlight safety or whether you wish to run the cleaner in aggressive mode. If you don't know what you are doing, always use the safest scanning mode.

The List MRU and other history data defines whether the Registry Cleaner should list MRU(Most Recently Used) and other similar data as errors. This kind of data is not erroneous nor obsolete, but it can safely be deleted. Since history data contains information of for example which video clips you have played last or which documents you have edited last, this information can also be a risk to your privacy

Advanced users can also modify other settings of the tool but for normal users this is all that needs to be done before clicking the Start button.

*The Advanced Engine Settings* tab allows you to define exactly which scanning modules are run. There should be no reason to manually modify this setting.

*The Scanning Mode* defines whether the Registry Cleaner should scan all data, or just the data that most likely contains errors. There should be no reason to manually modify this setting.

*The Results Format* section defines whether the Registry Cleaner should list the found items in a simple list or in a hierarchical tree categorized by data type. While the hierarchical Structured list mode is slower to produce, it gives a better data fixing result by combining relating registry errors

to groups

The Advanced Options section contains the following settings.

- *Automatically delete all found erroneous data (NOT RECOMMENDED)* means that the program automatically deletes all the found items without asking you. Using this method is not recommended.
- *Use as little CPU power as possible* option tells the program that you are currently doing something with your computer and the Registry Cleaner should only use free computer processing time.
- *Don't show items that would be automatically re-created.* There are certain types of registry data that will be always re-created, either upon system startup or when you use certain applications. This option allows you to ignore all the registry entries which would be most likely be re-created either immediately or almost immediately after removal or modification.
- *Don't pop up the window after finished* option is only effective if you minimize the window during the scan. If you minimize it, the window will by default pop back up when the job is done. You can disable that behavior with this option.

The *Search Words* tab allows you to enter search word or words to be used with the scan. If entered, the Registry Cleaner will only list registry errors matching one or more of these search words. This feature is very handy if you want to list only registry errors relating to a specific software or a set of software.

The *Ignore Words* section allows you to define so called ignore words. Simply put, if the program finds an item which matches any words on the ignore words list, the item will be automatically ignored. For example, if you have a Canon digital camera and you want to make sure that nothing during the Registry Cleaner scan even touches its registry entries, you can add the word "Canon" (without the quotes) to the ignore words list.

## The Scan Report

You will see a detailed Scan Report after the Registry Cleaner's scan is finished. The Scan Report shows you some statistics about the scan, such as how long it took, how many items were analyzed and so on.

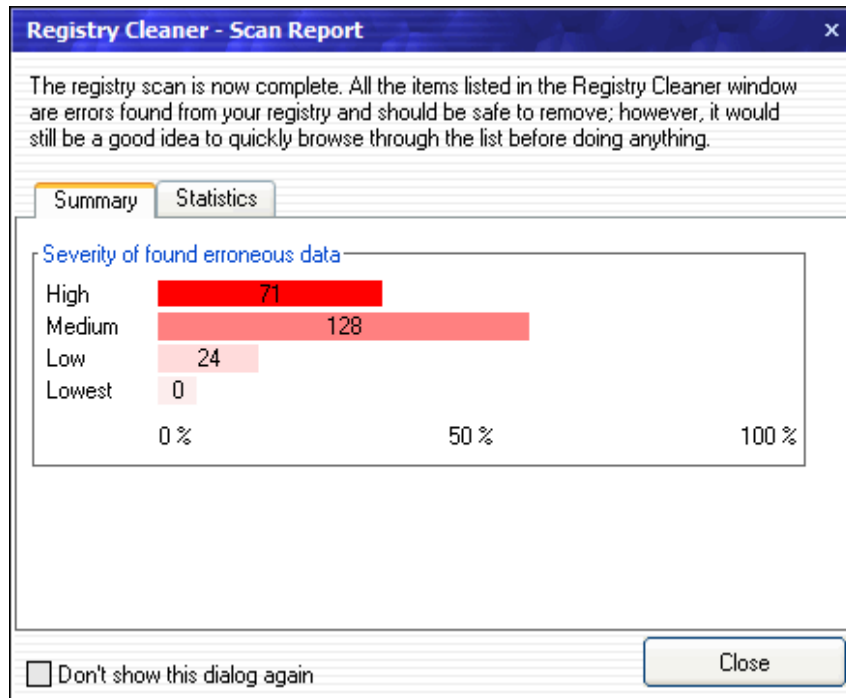


Image 8. The Registry Cleaner's Scan Report

The beauty of the Scan Report is the Severity of the found errors feature. That feature shows four bars representing how many errors of different severity levels were found. For example, in the image above there were 71 errors of high severity, 128 of medium severity, 24 of low severity and 0 of the lowest severity.

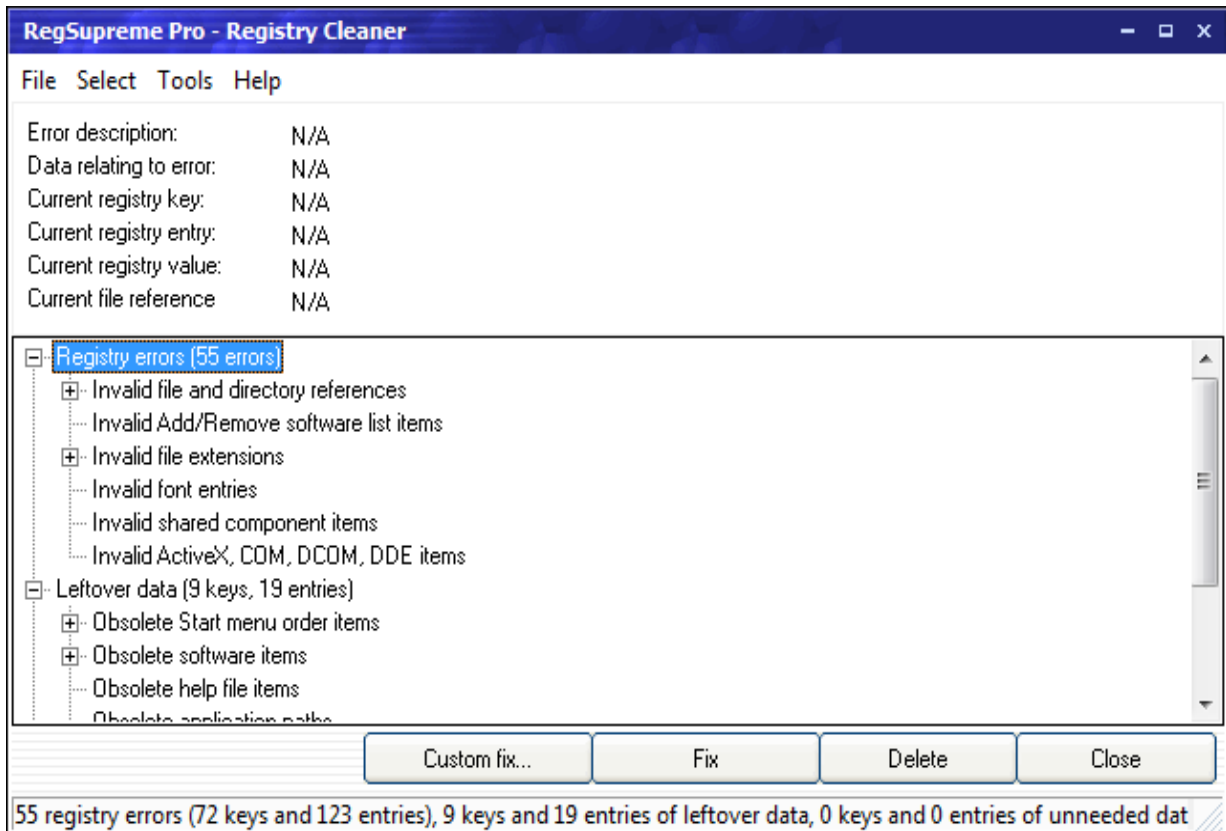
The severity indicates how likely the error is to cause problems in your system. The error severities should be interpreted as follows.

Severity	Meaning
High	These errors are quite likely to cause some system or user-level problems. Typical such system-level problems are error messages upon system startup or system crashes. User-level problems include applications that stop working or start to show error messages of missing files or components when used.
Medium	These errors could cause some problems but that is not very likely.
Low	In theory, these errors could cause some minor user-level problems but it's quite unlikely.
Lowest	These errors are very unlikely to cause any problems whatsoever.

You can close the Scan Report window by clicking the *Close* button. If you don't wish to see the Scan Report again, check the *Never show this dialog again* box.

## The Results Window

The results of the Registry Cleaner are listed in the Registry Cleaner window after the scan is completed. All the items listed are erroneous and should be safe to remove.



## Fixing the found errors

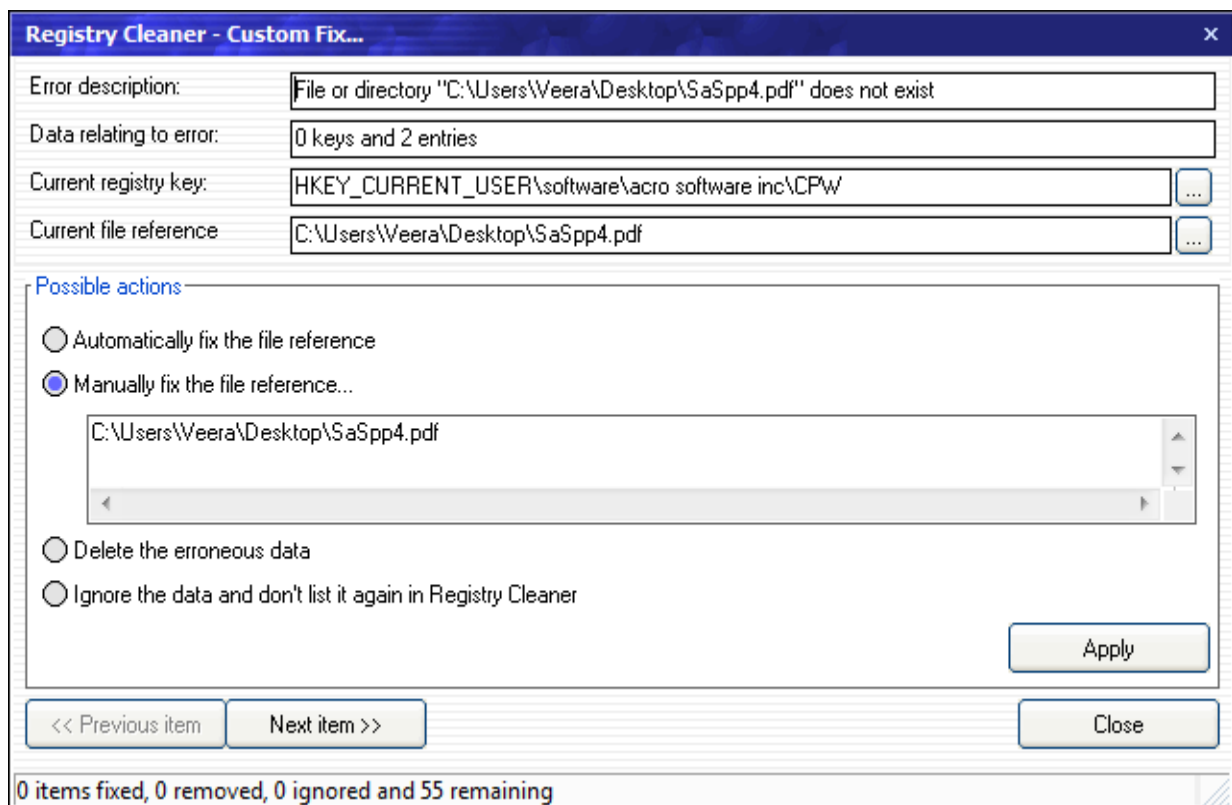
After the Registry Cleaner is done you have three options what to do next:

1. Delete the found errors.
2. Fix the found errors.
3. Use the Custom Fix feature to fix the found errors.

If you are not an expert, always repair the found errors with the *Fix* button! It automatically attempts to fix the found errors, then if no fix is found the feature removes the erroneous registry data.

If you want to specify how each error should be fixed you can use the Custom Fix feature.

To do so, simply select all items with *Select > All* (or by pressing Ctrl+A), and click the *Custom Fix* button on the bottom of the window. After a few seconds, a fixing tool opens. It allows you to select how would you like to fix the problem.

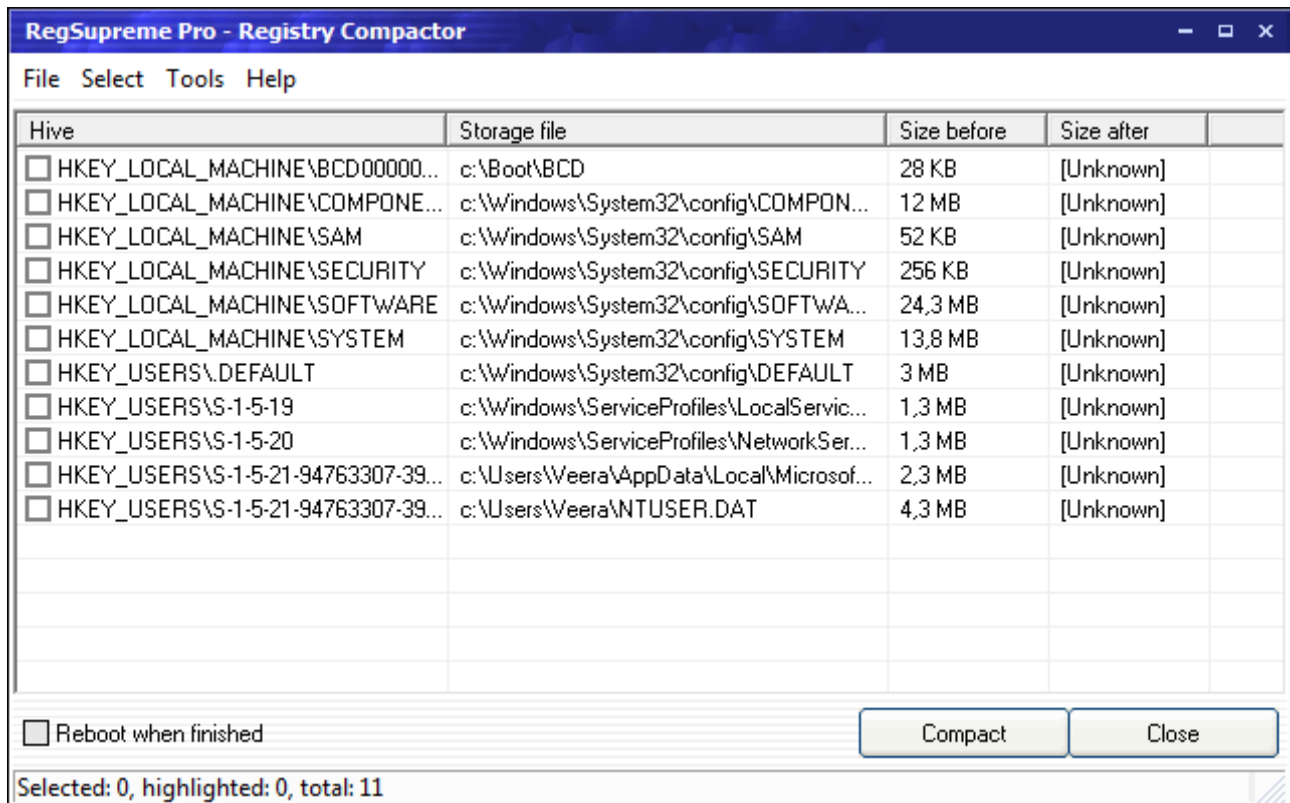


A general and simple rule on how to use the fixing tool (see the image): Select *Automatically fix the file reference* if you can; if you can't, select the *Delete the erroneous data* and click *Apply*. *Automatically fix the file reference* is enabled only when the application can automatically detect a way to fix the error.

The fixing tool also contains other fixing methods for advanced users, such as the *Manually fix the file reference* feature which allows you to modify the erroneous data by hand and then insert it directly to the registry. One should be very careful with this feature.

If you think that the item listed is not erroneous and shouldn't be listed at all, you can select *Ignore the data and don't list it again in Registry Cleaner* and the item won't be shown again.

## The Registry Compactor



The Registry Compactor allows you to easily reduce the size of your registry without removing any data from it. This is done basically by reconstructing the entire registry structure from scratch, this eliminates all empty spaces and other unneeded data from the registry structure.

Compacting the registry reduces the amount of both RAM and hard drive space required to store the registry of the system.

The registry compaction is also sometimes called "**registry compression**" or "**registry defrag**", all of these terms refer to the same process.

## The Registry Information

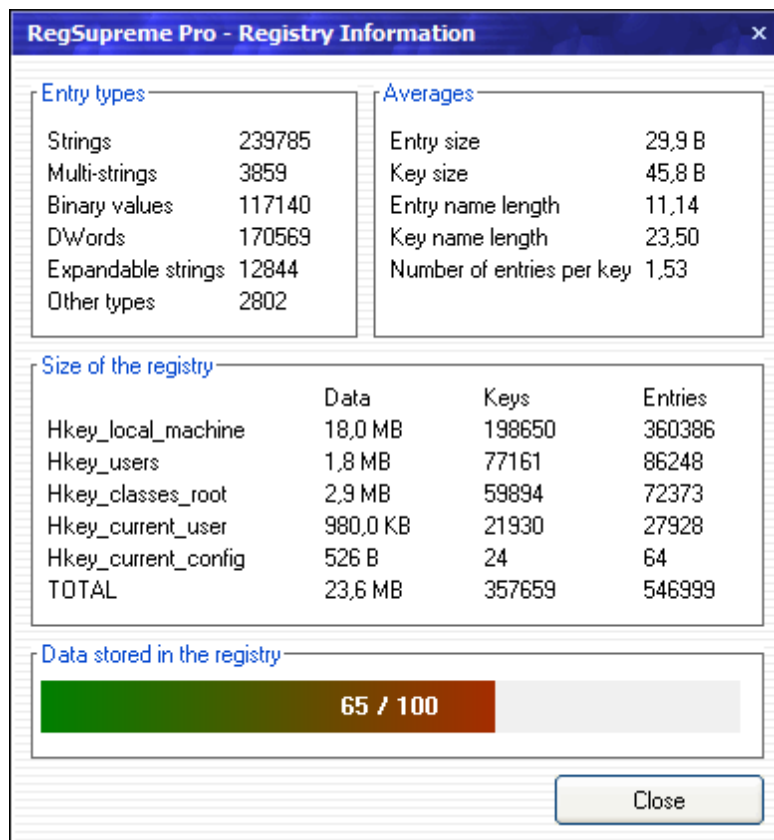


Image 12. The Registry Information Tool shows you statistics of your registry

The Registry Information Tool shows you information about the data your registry contains.

The tool is mainly for advanced users who wish to know exactly what is stored inside the registry and how much space it takes.

Notice that the size of the registry reported by the Registry Information Tool and the Registry Compactor both use another point of view. The Registry Information Tool shows you how much data the registry contains, while the Registry Compactor shows you how much space it takes to store the data.

The *data stored in the registry* indicator tells you roughly how much data your registry contains, the less the better. Notice that cleaning the registry can reduce this number dramatically, the used operating system also plays a major role. For example, even the cleanest installation of Windows Vista usually has more data in the registry than a Windows XP system which has never been cleaned properly.

## The History Cleaner

Many applications remember the last files you opened, the last directories you worked with or what movies you last watched. These features can be useful, but they can also create potential privacy problems.

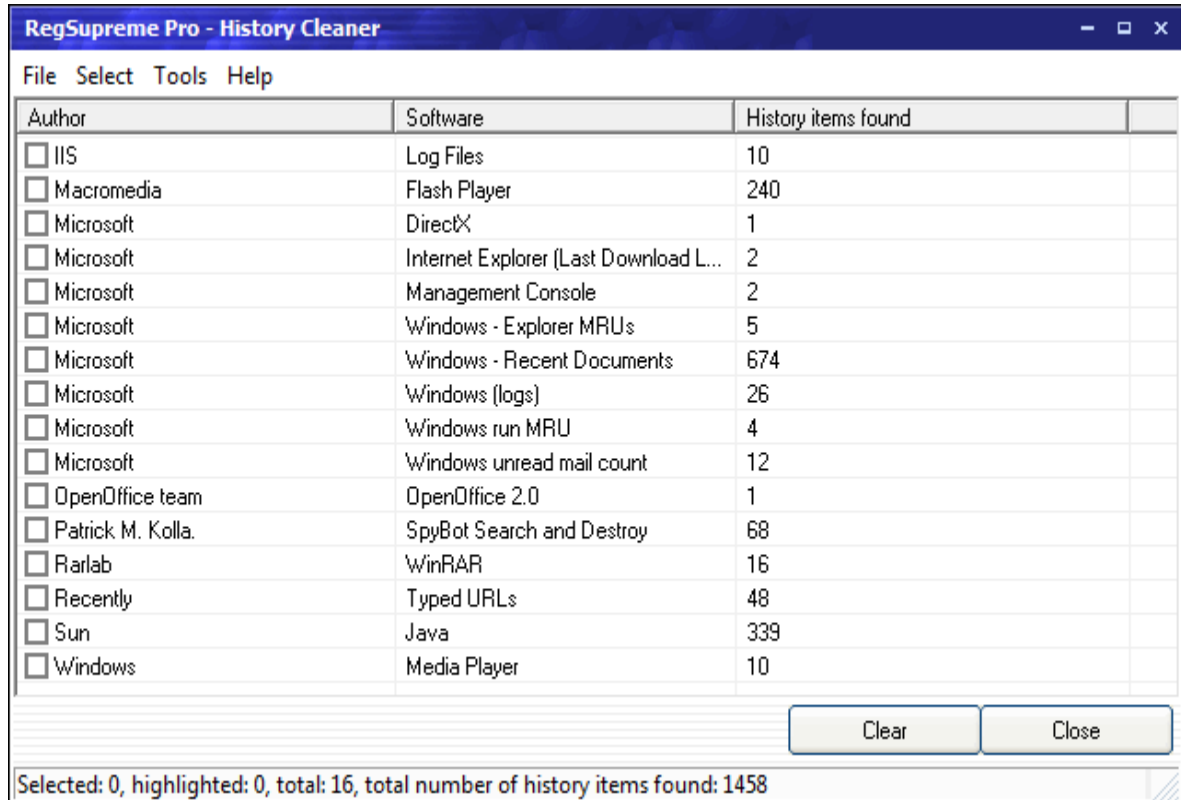


Image 13. Flushing the history and MRU data is fast and easy with the History Cleaner

Clearing the history items and MRU (Most Recently Used) lists of third party applications is very time consuming without a good tool. The History Cleaner makes the task very easy and fast, simply select the applications whose history information you wish to clear and hit Clear.

The History Cleaner can also show you the specific items found in the registry and on the hard drive(s). Simply right-click a software line and select Show data ... to see a list of registry entries and files which are related to the selected software.

## Frequently Asked Questions

This chapter contains many common questions with their answers about RegSupreme Pro. The questions are divided in to categories for easier navigation.

### Questions related to the installation of RegSupreme Pro

**Q:** What kind of registry entries does RegSupreme Pro add to the registry during the installation?

**A:** RegSupreme Pro itself doesn't add or modify any registry entries when installed. However, the product's trial system will place a tiny hidden data file inside your system to prevent the abuse of the 30 day trial opportunity. The size of the hidden data is no more than 1 KB. In other words, if you have a small 2 GB hard disk the space reserved by the trial system is roughly 0,0000005% of your hard drive space. If you don't agree with this policy, do not use RegSupreme Pro.

**Q:** What system files does RegSupreme Pro modify during installation?

**A:** None, but please see the question above.

### Questions before using the RegSupreme Pro

**Q:** Can RegSupreme Pro do any harm to my computer?

**A:** Yes. Basically, it only does what you tell it to do.

The product is like an axe. If you know how to use it you can use it as a powerful tool but if you don't really know how to use it you can someday hit your leg with it.

**Q:** What does the disclaimer in the license agreement really mean?

**A:** It basically means that, what ever you do with RegSupreme Pro, you are on your own. If you destroy something with it, it's not our fault, just as a manufacturer of knives isn't responsible if you cut your finger. For more information, please read the license agreement throughly. If you don't agree with this policy, do not use RegSupreme Pro.

### Questions related to the Software Manager

**Q:** What are those [Unknown] items in the Software Manager?

**A:** They are items that RegSupreme Pro can't recognize. This doesn't mean, however, that they are safe to remove.

**Q:** Are items marked with "N/A" always safe to delete?

**A:** No. There really are no general rules on how to identify items that are safe to delete.

**Q:** I can't recognize any of these items. What can I do?

**A:** Don't do anything. If you don't know what those items are then it's always safest to leave them alone.

**Q:** Why I can just delete items and not modify them?

**A:** Modifying, for example renaming, some items might cause trouble. The software whose entries

you modified might not work properly anymore.

**Q:** How can I know which items to delete?

**A:** You just have to know it. If you don't know what to delete, don't delete anything, that's always the safest option.

### **Questions related to the Registry Manager**

**Q:** Are items marked with "N/A" always safe to delete?

**A:** No. There really are no general rules on how to identify items that are safe to delete.

**Q:** I can't recognize any of these items. What can I do?

**A:** Don't do anything. If you don't know what those items are then it's always safest to leave them alone.

**Q:** Why I can just delete items and not modify them?

**A:** Modifying, for example renaming, some items might cause trouble. The software whose entries you modified might not work properly anymore.

**Q:** How can I know which items to delete?

**A:** You just have to know it. If you don't know what to delete, don't delete anything. That's always the safest option.

### **Questions related to the Registry Cleaner**

**Q:** What is the Registry Cleaner?

**A:** Registry Cleaner is a tool that automatically finds erroneous registry entries and lists them for you.

**Q:** What are threads?

**A:** The thread number represents the number of registry analyzer units that are currently running. The Registry Cleaner is finished when the thread number is zero, which means all threads that perform the cleaning are finished.

**Q:** When I use the Registry Cleaner the threads value decreases while all the other values increase. Is this normal?

**A:** Yes. Threads are the Registry Cleaner components which check some part of your registry. When the component has finished its job it will terminate itself and the threads value will decrease.

### **Questions about licensing**

**Q:** If I buy a license how and how fast I will have the licensed version?

**A:** The license is delivered to you with e-mail usually within a few minutes after the payment has been verified.

**Q:** What payment options do you support?

**A:** At the moment of writing this, we support PayPal, Visa, Visa Electron, MasterCard, Maestro, Discovery and American Express. Please see [www.macecraft.com](http://www.macecraft.com) for the most up-to-date information.

## **Other questions**

**Q:** If something goes wrong, can I restore my backups from DOS?

**A:** Usually, yes. If you can access the backup directory (usually \RegSupreme Pro\Backups) you can restore the backups. You must manually restore all the .reg files by importing them back to the registry.

**Q:** Why do some lists have those little boxes where one must put a tick to and some lists don't ?

**A:** This is used for safety reasons. Every time you tick an item you know that you are about to do some procedure to it, such as deleting it.

**Q:** I could translate RegSupreme Pro to my language; would you be interested in adding it to the official distribution package?

**A:** Yes, of course. See the default language file (\Languages\English.lng) for more information.

**Q:** My question is not answered here, what can I do?

**A:** Please see our discussion forums at: [www.macecraft.com/forum/](http://www.macecraft.com/forum/)

They might already contain the answer to your question, or if not, you can register to the forums (that is free, of course) and ask the question there. Using the discussion forum to ask your question rather than sending us e-mail is highly recommended and in most cases it gives you a much faster response.

# Appendixes

## Supported command line parameters

RegSupreme Pro doesn't support command line parameters or any kind of automation. For these features, please upgrade to jv16 PowerTools.