



DOS commands

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## Command line editing

The registry can be manipulated from the [command line](#) with the reg.exe utility. It is included in [Windows XP](#) and [Windows Vista](#) and can be downloaded separately for previous versions. Alternative locations include the Resource Kit CD's or the original Installation CD of Windows.

```
reg.exe Operation [Parameter List]
Operation
[QUERY | ADD | DELETE | COPY | SAVE | LOAD | UNLOAD | RESTORE | COMPARE | EXPORT | IMPORT]
```

Also, a .reg file (a text-based human-readable file format for storing portions of the registry) can be imported from the command line with the following command:

```
regedit.exe /s file
```

The /s means the file will be *silent merged* to the Registry. If the /s parameter is omitted the user will be asked to confirm the operation. In Windows 98 and Windows 95 the /s switch also caused regedit.exe to ignore the setting in the registry that allows administrators to disable it. When using the /s switch Regedit does not return an appropriate return code if the operation fails, unlike reg.exe which does. This makes it

hard to script, however a possible workaround is to add the following lines into your [batch file](#):

```
regedit /s file.reg
regedit /e test.reg "key"
if not exist test.reg goto REGERROR
del test.reg
```

The default association for .reg files in many versions of [Microsoft Windows](#), starting with [Windows 98](#) does require the user to confirm the merging to avoid user mistake.

Registry permissions can be manipulated through the command line using the [SubInACL.exe](#) tool. The permissions on the HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE key can be displayed using:

```
subinacl /keyreg HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\software /display
```

To set the owner of the key HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\software and all of its subkeys to Administrator:

```
subinacl /keyreg HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\software /setowner=Administrator
subinacl /subkeyreg HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\software /setowner=Administrator
```

To grant full access rights to the HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\software key to Administrator:

```
subinacl /keyreg HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\software /grant=Administrator=F
```

### [\[edit\]](#) Programs or scripts

The registry can be edited through the APIs of the Advanced Windows 32 Base API Library (advapi32.dll).<sup>[6]</sup>

List of Registry API functions			
RegCloseKey	RegOpenKey	RegConnectRegistry	RegOpenKeyEx
RegCreateKey	RegQueryInfoKey	RegCreateKeyEx	RegQueryMultipleValues
RegDeleteKey	RegQueryValue	RegDeleteValue	RegQueryValueEx

RegEnumKey	RegReplaceKey	RegEnumKeyEx	RegRestoreKey
RegEnumValue	RegSaveKey	RegFlushKey	RegSetKeySecurity
RegGetKeySecurity	RegSetValue	RegLoadKey	RegSetValueEx
	RegNotifyChangeKeyValue	RegUnLoadKey	

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