5.4.8 Lab: Managing System Files with Built-in Utilities in Windows XP

Introduction

Print and complete this lab.

In this lab, you will use Windows built-in utilities to gather information about the system and to troubleshoot system resources. You will also learn how to export and import registry setting.
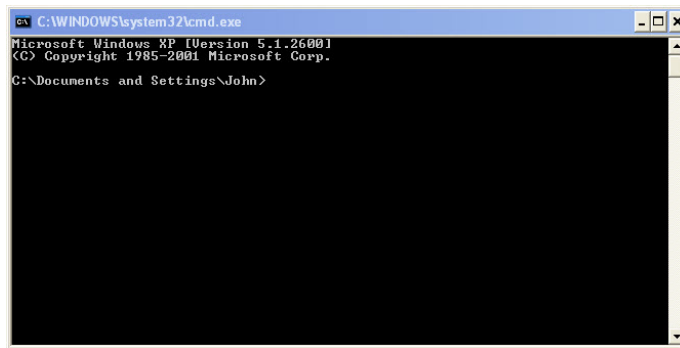
Recommended Equipment
The following equipment is required for this exercise:
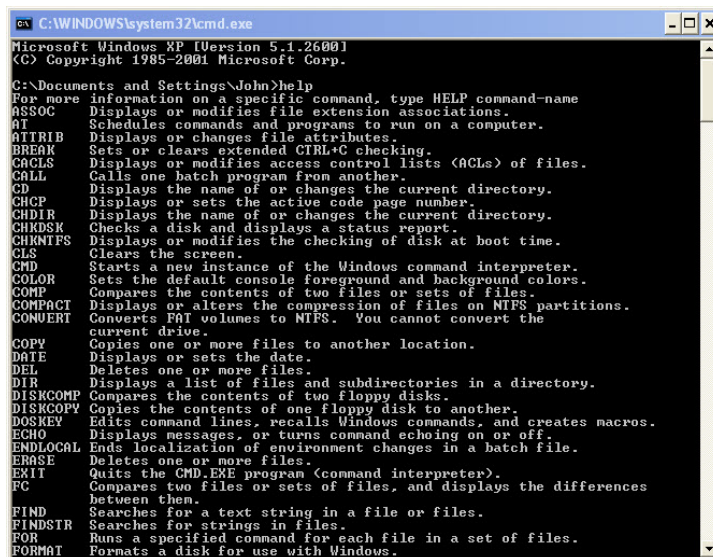> • A computer running Windows XP Professional

Step 1
> Log on to the computer as an administrator.
>
> Open the command prompt by clicking **Start > Run >** type **cmd >** click **OK**.

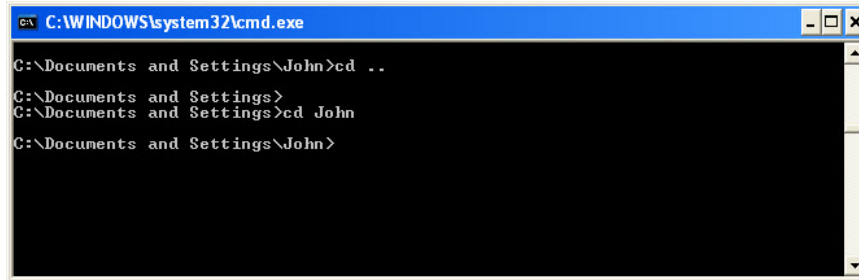> What is the drive path shown? Answers may vary.
>
> Type **help** and press **Enter**.

What is the command to change directory?

What is the command to display the contnets in a directory?

Type **cd ..** and press **Enter**.

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe                                            _ □ ×

C:\Documents and Settings\John>cd ..

C:\Documents and Settings>
C:\Documents and Settings>cd John

C:\Documents and Settings\John>
```

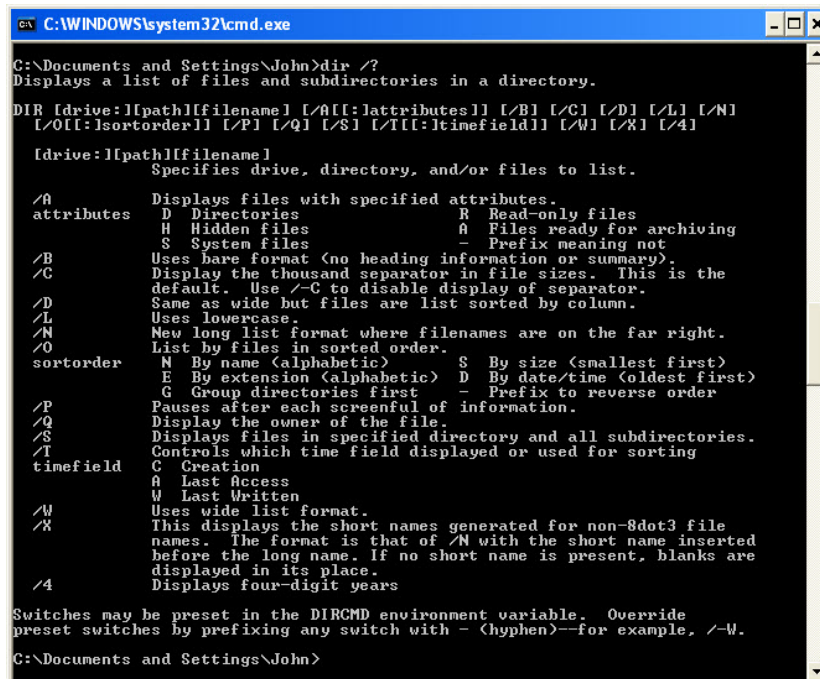What is the drive path shown? Answers may vary.

Change back to original drive path.
Example: Type **cd John** and press **Enter**.

What is the drive path shown? Answers may vary.

Type **dir /?** and press **Enter**.
If asked, Press any key to continue.

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe                                            _ □ ×

C:\Documents and Settings\John>dir /?
Displays a list of files and subdirectories in a directory.

DIR [drive:][path][filename] [/A[[:]attributes]] [/B] [/C] [/D] [/L] [/N]
  [/O[[:]sortorder]] [/P] [/Q] [/S] [/T[[:]timefield]] [/W] [/X] [/4]

  [drive:][path][filename]
              Specifies drive, directory, and/or files to list.

  /A          Displays files with specified attributes.
  attributes   D  Directories                R  Read-only files
               H  Hidden files               A  Files ready for archiving
               S  System files               -  Prefix meaning not
  /B          Uses bare format (no heading information or summary).
  /C          Display the thousand separator in file sizes.  This is the
              default.  Use /-C to disable display of separator.
  /D          Same as wide but files are list sorted by column.
  /L          Uses lowercase.
  /N          New long list format where filenames are on the far right.
  /O          List by files in sorted order.
  sortorder    N  By name (alphabetic)       S  By size (smallest first)
               E  By extension (alphabetic)  D  By date/time (oldest first)
               G  Group directories first    -  Prefix to reverse order
  /P          Pauses after each screenful of information.
  /Q          Display the owner of the file.
  /S          Displays files in specified directory and all subdirectories.
  /T          Controls which time field displayed or used for sorting
  timefield    C  Creation
               A  Last Access
               W  Last Written
  /W          Uses wide list format.
  /X          This displays the short names generated for non-8dot3 file
              names.  The format is that of /N with the short name inserted
              before the long name. If no short name is present, blanks are
              displayed in its place.
  /4          Displays four-digit years

Switches may be preset in the DIRCMD environment variable.  Override
preset switches by prefixing any switch with - (hyphen)--for example, /-W.

C:\Documents and Settings\John>
```

Which switch displays a wide list format?

Type **dir** and press **Enter**.
Type **dir /w** and press **Enter**.

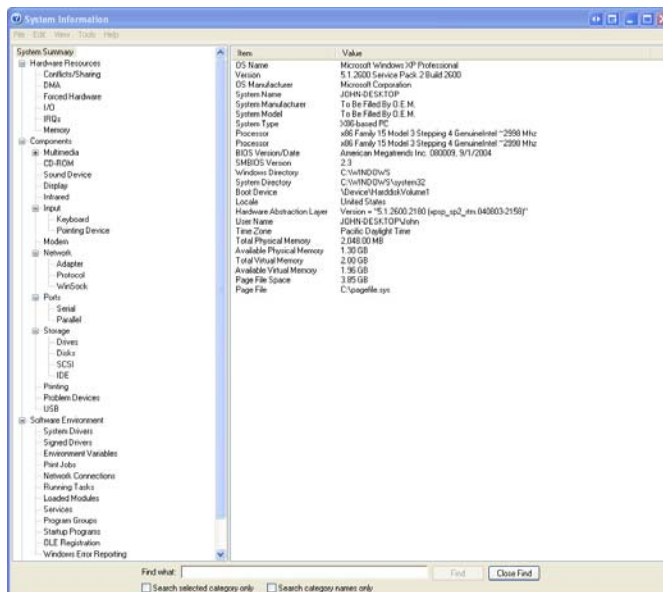What is the difference between these two commands?

Type **VOL**.
What volume is drive C in? Answers may vary.

Close the Command prompt window.

Step 2

Open System Information by clicking **Start > Run >** type **msinfo32 >** click **OK**.

Click the **plus sign** next to Hardware Resources, Components, and Software Environment. Expand the window so you can see all the content.

Under the System Summary heading locate and list the following:
Processor
BIOS Version/Date
Total Physical Memory

Under the Hardware Resources heading locate and list the following:

DMA channels and the device using the resources.

I/O address range for these devices.
Printer Port (LPT1)
Communications Port (COM1)
Communications Port (COM2)

IRQ address for these devices.
System timer
Communications Port (COM1)
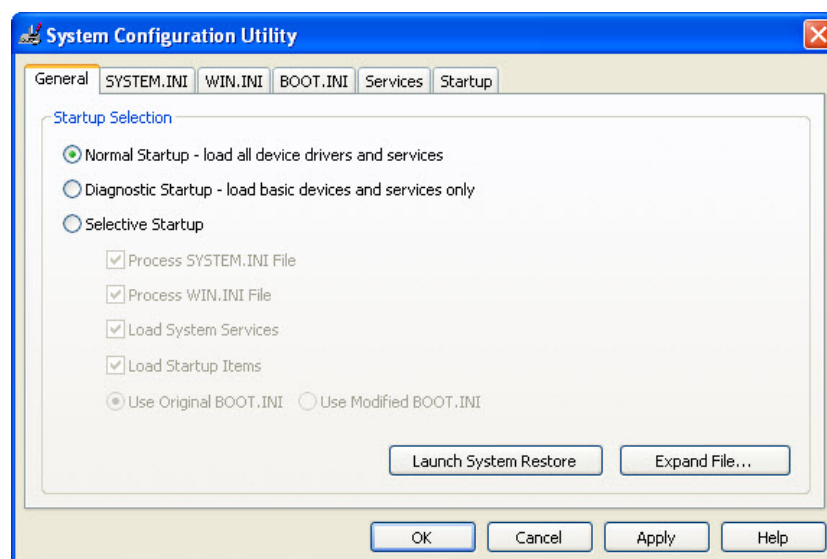Communications Port (COM2)

Under the Components heading and Software heading look around to see what information is provided in these areas.

Close the System Information window.

Step 3

Open System Configuration Utility by clicking **Start > Run >** type **msconfig >** click **OK**. Note: It is very important that you do not make any changes in this utility without instructor permission.
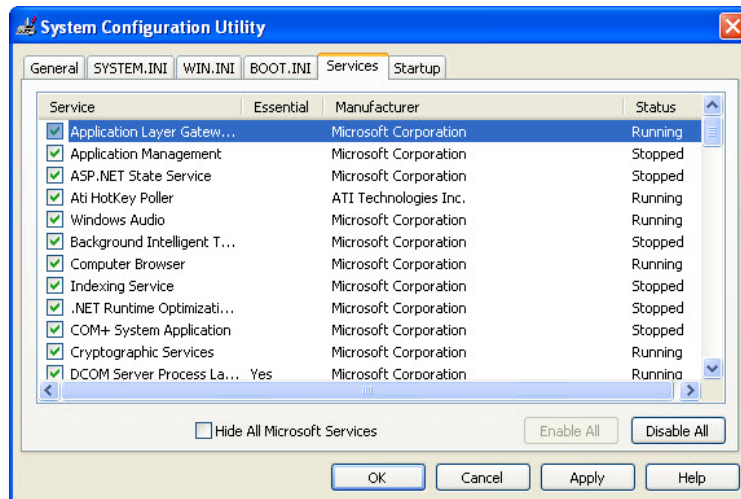

Click the **General** tab if not all ready active.
What are the startup options?

Click the **SYSTEM.INI**, **WIN.INI** and **BOOT.INI** tabs. These tab are for modifying these files.

Click the **Service** tab. This tab lists the computers services and there status.

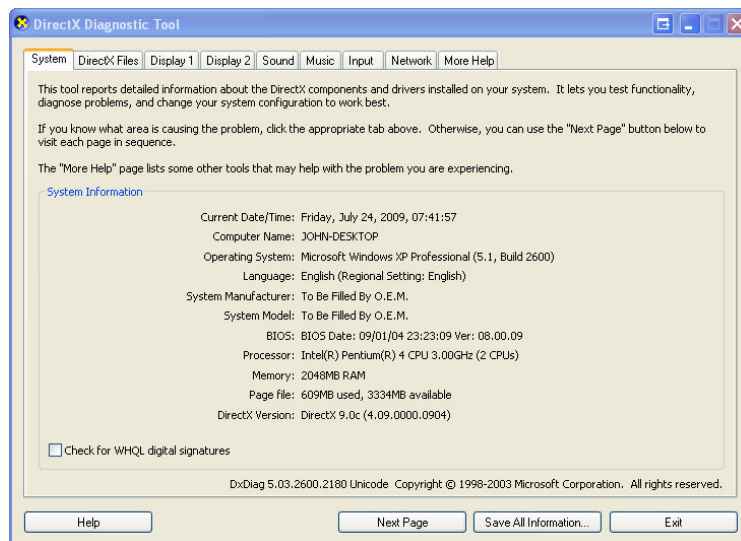Can you enable and disable services at this tab?

Click the **Startup** tab. This tab lists the programs that are automatically loaded every time you turn on your computer.

Click **Cancel** to close the System Configuration Utility window.

Step 4

Open DirectX Diagnostic Tool by clicking **Start > Run >** type **dxdiag >** click **OK**.
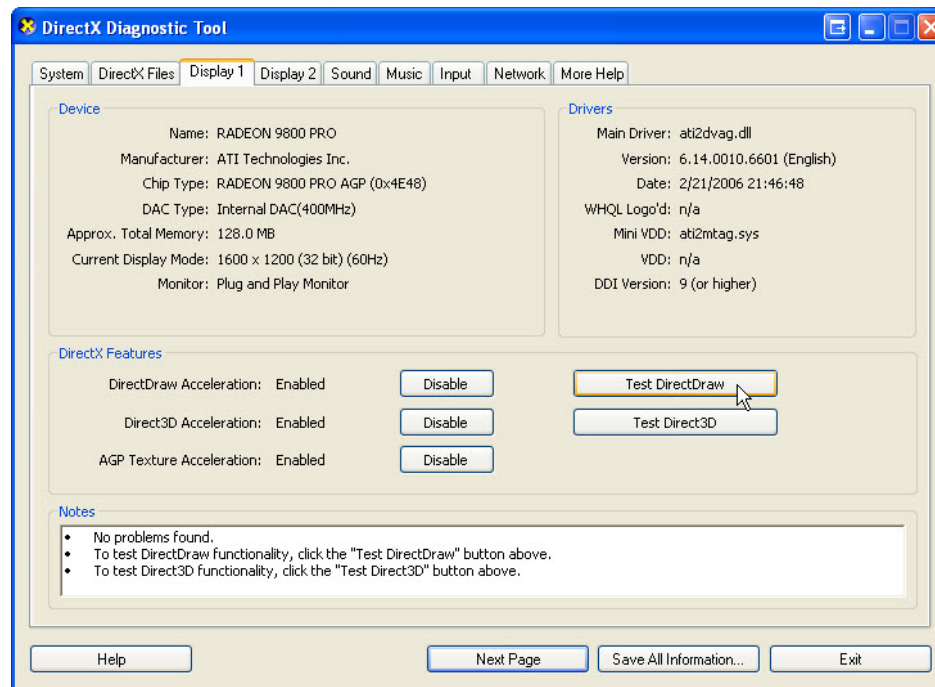If you are asked to have DirectX check driver signatures click **No**.

Note: When DirectX Diagnostic Tool first opens it may take a minute to load all information. Your DirectX Diagnostic Tool may not appear exactly as shown in this lab.

Make sure the System tab is active.
What does this tool report?

Click **Next Page** until you are at the DirectX Files tab.
A list of DirectX files is listed.

Click **Next Page** until you are at the Display tab.
Click **Test DirectDraw**.

Follow the rest of the instruction as the test progresses.
Place a check mark next to ever test that your computer passes.
alternating black and white rectangles   _____

bouncing white box in a black box   _____

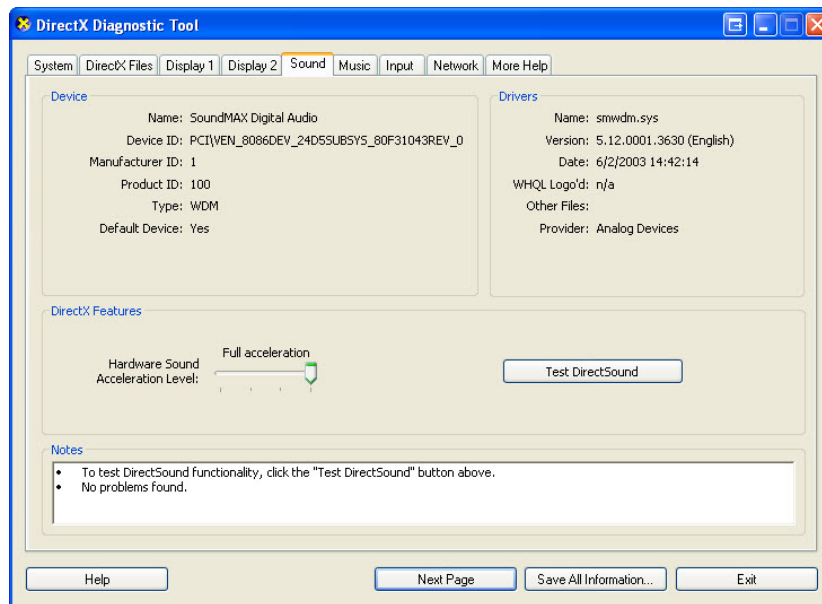fullscreen bouncing white box   _____

Click **Test Direct3D**.

Follow the rest of the instruction as the test progresses.
DirectX 7 interface test: what did you see? S
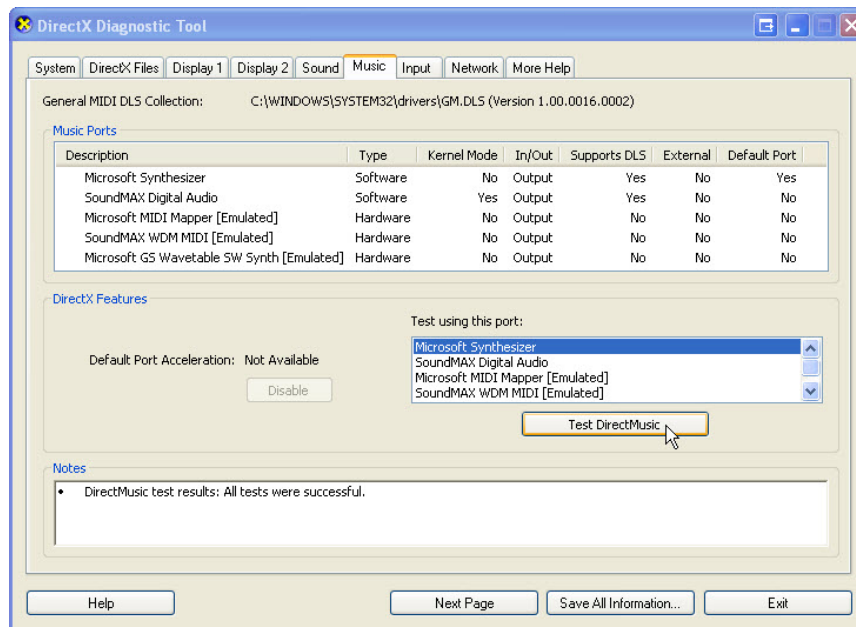

DirectX 8 interface test: what did you see?

DirectX 9 interface test: what did you see?

Click **Next Page** until you are at the Sound tab.
If you have a headphones click **Test DirextSound**. If you have no headphones move to the next instruction.

Did you hear the sound effects in the audio test?

Click **Next Page** until you are at the Music tab.
If you have a headphones click **Test DirextMusic**. If you have no headphones move to the next instruction.

Did you hear music playing?

Click **Next Page** until you are on the Input tab.
What information is listed on this page?

Click **Next Page** until you are on the Network tab.
What information is listed on this page?

Click **Next Page** until you are on the More Help tab.

Click on the various buttons to see what is provided.
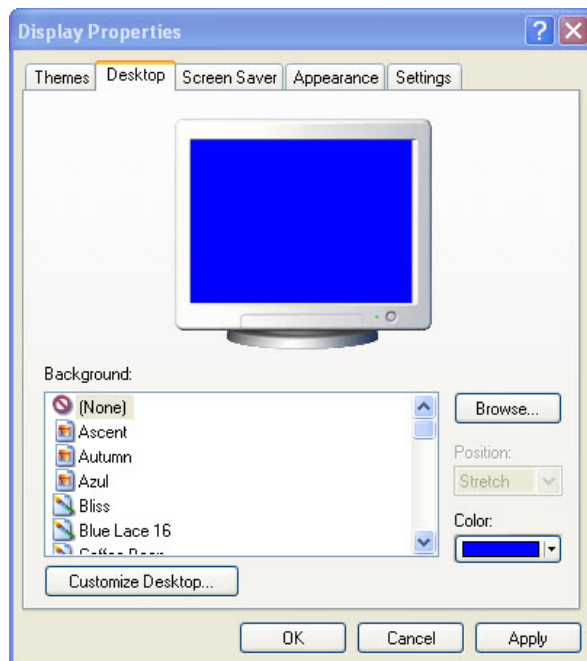What tools are provided on this page?

Click **Exit**.

Step 5

Open the Desktop tab in Display Properties by right clicking the **desktop > Properties > Desktop** tab.

What is the Background picture?
Answers will vary

Set the background image to (None). If the **Color** dropdown button is not blue, click the **Color** dropdown button, select **blue**.
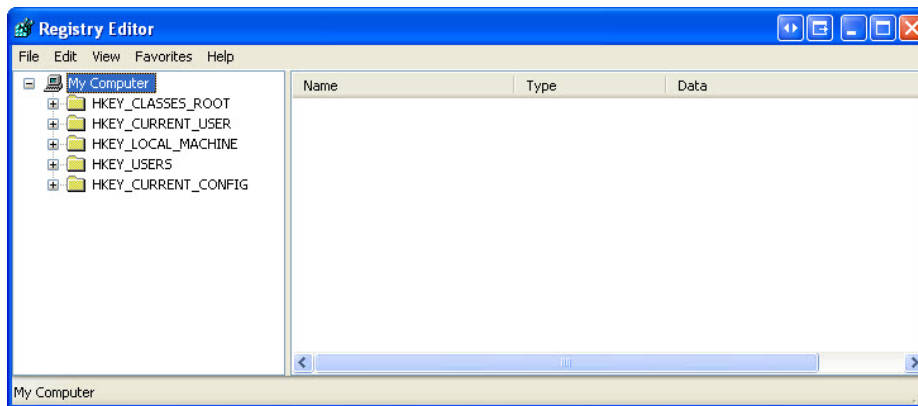Click **OK**.

The computer screen should now have a blue background. If not ask the instructor for assistance.
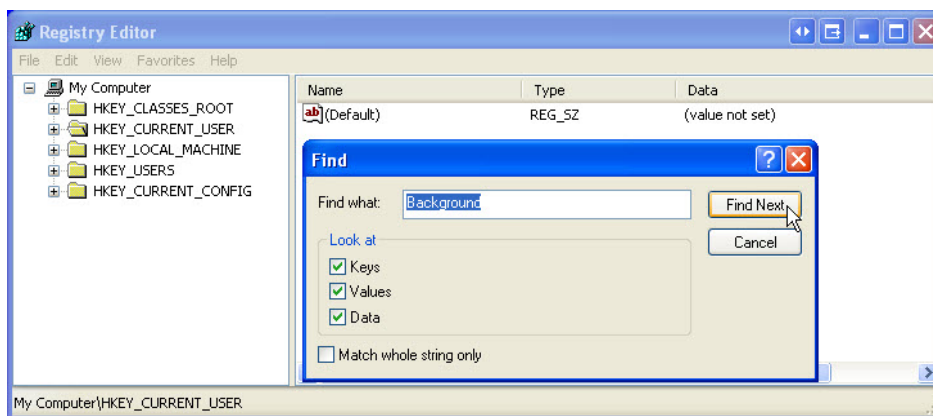
Step 6

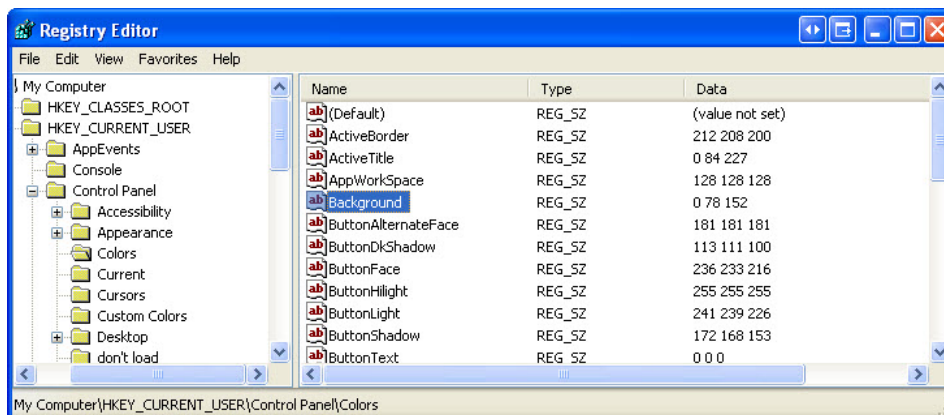Open Registry Editor by clicking **Start > Run >** type **regedit >** click **OK**.
Note: Do make any changes in the Registry Editor without instructor permission.

Click the **HKEY_Current_User** icon. To search for the desktop Background key **click Edit > Find >** type **Background >** click **Find Next**.

The Background value is located. Leave this window open.

In which folder is the Background located?

What is the data value of the Background (hint – it has three number that corresponds to red, green blue)? Answers may vary based on the shade of red selected in Display Properties.

Step 7

We will now export **HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Colors** folder.
In the left pan click the **Colors** folder.

Click **File > Export**. Save the file to the Desktop. File name: **BlueBKG**

At the desktop right click the **BlueBKG.reg** icon **> Edit**.

What is the data value of the Background? Answers may vary based on the shade of blue selected in Display Properties.

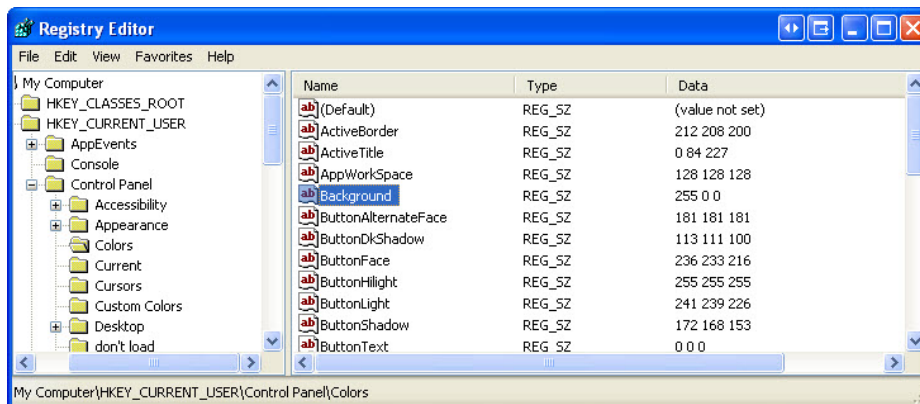Close **BlueBKG.reg – Notepad** window.

Step 8

Open the Desktop tab in Display Properties by right clicking the **desktop > Properties > Desktop** tab.
Set the **Color** dropdown button is not red, click the **Color** dropdown button, select **red**.
Click **OK**.

In a few second the desktop will turn to red.

Click the Registry Editor window so it is activated.
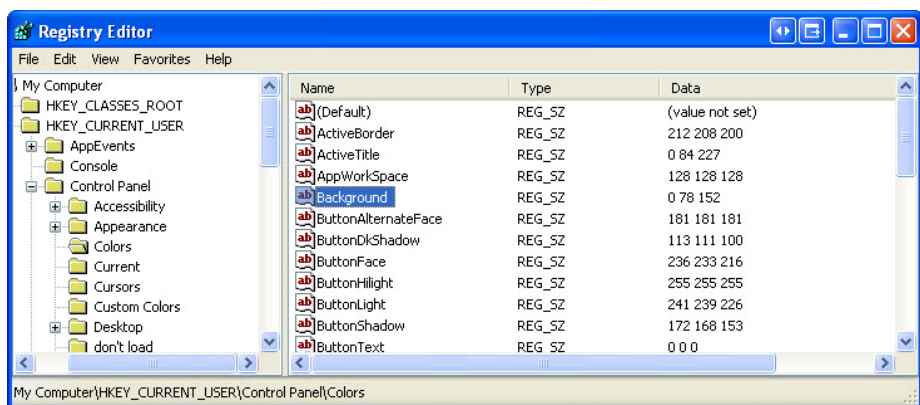On your keyboard press F5 to refresh the Registry Editor window.

What is the data value of the Background? Answers may vary based on the shade of red selected in Display Properties.

Step 9

We will now import **BlueBKG.reg** file.
Click the Registry Editor window so it is activated.

Click **File > Import**. Locate and click the **BlueBKG.reg** icon then click **Open**. Click OK.

Click the Registry Editor window so it is activated.
What is the data value of the Background? Answers may vary based on the shade of blue selected in Display Properties.

What is the color of the desktop?

Restart the computer.
What is the color of the desktop?

Reset Display Properties Background to the original settings (hint – see step 5).