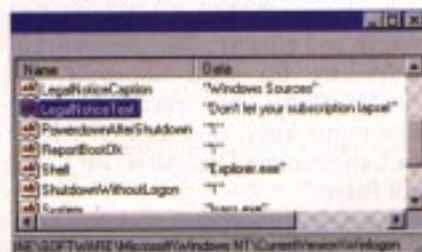


Push Windows To the Limit

NT 4.0 WELCOME TO WINDOWS NT ONLY

Now you can create a message that appears when a user logs on to NT 4.0. It can be anything from an unauthorized-user warning to a friendly reminder. To do this, first back up the Registry (for details, see this month's feature, "NT



4.0 Secrets"); then open the Registry Editor to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE. From the Edit menu, choose Find and search for *Legal* in Values only. When the LegalNoticeCaption string value appears, press Enter. Type the message title and click on OK. Next, double-click on the LegalNoticeText icon immediately below, enter the message text, and click on OK. Reboot to see the message appear.

NT 4.0 CLOAK THE BOOT MENU ONLY

On a dual-boot system running Win 95 and NT 4.0, a menu appears at start-up letting you choose an OS. You can hide this boot menu, however, and ensure that the system loads only the default OS. From the Startup|Shutdown tab, set the "Show list for" option to zero. To make the menu reappear, simply set the option to a number greater than zero.

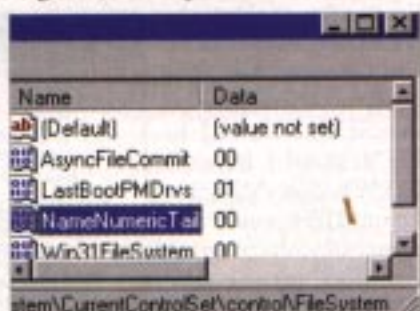
EXPLORER VIEWS, ALL AROUND

To set My Computer to display folder contents in the double-paned Explorer view, open a window and choose View|Options|File Types. Select Fol-

der from the Registered file types list, then click on Edit. Select Explore from the Actions box, click on the Set Default button, then close the Edit File Type and Options dialog boxes.

Win 95 NO MORE TILDES ONLY

You can force Win 95 to create more-readable 8.3-character filenames, such as WREGIONS.DOC instead of WREGIO-1.DOC. To do this, back up the Registry (for details, see Quick Tips online, at www.winsources.com), run RegEdit, and open HKEY_LOCAL



MACHINE. Choose Edit|Find and search for *Win31F*. When the Win31FileSystem value appears, right-click in the right pane and choose New|Binary Value. Type in NameNumericTail, press Enter twice, type 00, then press Enter again. Close the Registry Editor and reboot. Note: If you have two or more long filenames that share the same first eight letters, Win 95 resorts to its tilde-plus-number naming scheme.

Win 95 REPLACE CORRUPT FILES ONLY

Replacing a corrupt Windows 95 system file is a chore, because there's no simple way to find the distribution *.CAB file that contains the compressed master file. To make this task less daunting, you can create a list of master files that you can search easily. First, insert the Win 95 dis-

tribution media (we used the Win 95 CD-ROM in the D: drive), then run these three commands from a prompt:

```
EXTRACT /D D:\WIN95\MINI.CAB >
WINLIST.TXT
EXTRACT /A /D D:\WIN95\PRE-
COPY1.CAB >> WINLIST.TXT
EXTRACT /A /D
D:\WIN95\WIN95_02.CAB >> WIN-
LIST.TXT
```

Next, open WINLIST.TXT in WordPad and use Edit|Find to locate the corrupt file. When you locate its master file, scroll to the top of the list to find the .CAB file in which it resides. Now use EXTRACT /Y /L {target folder} (.CAB file) (master filename) to overwrite the corrupt file.

SAME OLD ICONS—NOT!

Want to change such immutable desktop icons as My Computer and Inbox? First, find suitable replacements. To do this, right-click on any Shortcut and choose

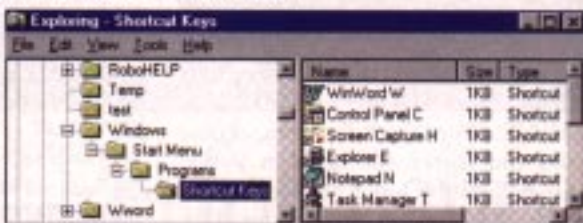
Properties. Select the Shortcut tab and click on Change Icon. Next, click on Browse and open either SHELL32.DLL or PIFMGR.DLL from the C:\Windows\System folder. Here, you'll find plenty of icons from which to choose. For more, browse \Windows\MORICONS.DLL and \PROGMAN.EXE. (In NT 4.0, these files reside in the \System32 folder.) If you have Microsoft Plus!, you can find still more icons in the \System\COOL.DLL folder.

Once you select an icon, note its exact path, filename, and number. Icons are numbered left to right, starting with zero. Now click on Cancel to keep the original Shortcut intact.

To replace the My Computer icon, for example, right-click on the icon and rename it. Then back up the Registry (for details, see Quick Tips online, at www.winsources.com), open the Registry Editor, choose Edit|Find, and search for the new name. Once you find it, right-click on the Default item in the right pane and choose Modify. Type in *path\filename*, a comma, and the icon number; for example, C:\Windows\System\SHELL32.DLL,5.

SMOOTH STROKES

A faster way to open frequently used applications (as well as files and folders) is to use shortcut keys. The trouble is, for each shortcut key combination you create, you also put a Shortcut on the desktop or the Start menu that activates the key. But there's a way to create shortcut keys without cluttering your desktop or Start menu: Put them all in a single folder in \Windows\Start Menu\Programs. To do this, copy, move, or create Shortcuts to, say, the apps to which you want to link shortcut keys. Next, right-click on a Shortcut and choose Properties|Shortcut. In the text entry box, enter the shortcut key combination and click on OK. Repeat this procedure for each Shortcut. So they're easy to recall, create mnemonic keys, such as Ctrl-Alt-E for Explorer and Ctrl-Alt-C for Control Panel.



EASY DRAG AND DROP

To manage files and folders more easily in Explorer, launch two instances of Explorer, right-click on the Taskbar, and choose Tile Vertically. This lets you drag and drop items between the source and target folders within a single view.

QUICK FILE-SAVE

Here's a fast way to save a file and subsequently close its application. Simply click on the close button in the app window's upper-right-hand corner. If the document includes any unsaved changes, the app prompts you to save them.

Chris Morton is a consultant who teaches courses on Windows NT and Windows 95 for Learning Tree International. You can send him e-mail at cmorton@goodnet.com.