

LESSON 18

CHANGE THOSE ATTRIBUTES AND MODIFY THE FILE

What really happens when you start Windows 95? There are instructions on your BIOS (Basic Input-Output System) chips and your Video card that are carried out, loading low-level drives that power your disk drives, communication ports, video cards and the like. The last instruction in the BIOS chips executes the program that resides in the boot tracks of your hard drive or floppy drive.

The BIOS chip locates and runs that file, called IO.SYS, which is a hidden file that starts basic DOS functions and sets up DOS data structures. IO.SYS reads the file MSDOS.SYS, a text file that determines the start-up configuration for Windows 95. It then reads the files CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT if they are present.

When you see the STARTING WINDOWS 95 screen after you've turned your computer on, that message just hangs there on your screen while your computer processes your CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files. You can watch these files being processed by pressing the Escape key when the message STARTING WINDOWS 95 appears on your screen.

You can disable or by-pass the start-up screen permanently by editing the file MSDOS.SYS. This is a hidden file and is set with read-only and Hidden-file attributes so that it can't be accidentally changed or deleted. Here's how to change those attributes and modify the file.

Double-click on My Computer, and then open Drive C. If you can't see the file MSDOS.SYS listed, click on View, and then select Options. On the View tab select Show All Files and click on OK.

Now go back and highlight the MSDOS.SYS file, and right-click on it. You'll see a check mark in the Read-only and Hidden file boxes. Deselect them by clicking on them. Finally, click on OK.

When you are back at your Desktop, click on Start, then Programs, and then on Accessories. Start Notepad. Click on File, then Open. At the Look-in box click on the down-arrow and select your C drive. Now open Files of type with the Down-arrow and select All Files. Scroll across from left to right using the scroll-bar at the bottom of that window. When you locate MSDOS.SYS double-click on it. You will now see the contents of that file displayed in Notepad. Move your cursor to the beginning of the first line under [Options] and press Enter. You now have a blank line under [Options]. Move your cursor to that blank line and type "Logo=0". Be sure and use a zero and not the letter O, and don't include the quotes.

Finally, click on File, and then Save. It's a good idea to restore both the Hidden file and the Read-only file attributes. You can also restore the Windows 95 start-up screen by going back in to MSDOS.SYS and changing the line Logo=0 to Logo=1. If you want eliminate the default 2 second delay at the Starting Windows 95 prompt, add the line "bootdelay=0" to the [Options] section of MSDOS.SYS.



This lesson will work in both Windows 95 and Windows 98.

Now, that wasn't so hard, was it?

