

LESSON 53

CHANGE DESKTOP ICON SIZE

DISABLE CD ROM CASE INFO

I'm often asked if there is a way to change the size of Desktop icons in Windows 95/98. Can these icons be made larger or smaller? The answer is yes and here are two ways to do just that. The longer way is to change settings in the Registry. Click on Start and then on Run. Type "REGEDIT" without the quotes in the box titled "Open" and press the Enter key or click on OK. Use the down-arrow key to highlight HKEY_CURRENT_USER and double click on it. Double-click on Control Panel and then again on Desktop.

Now double-click on Window Metrics. The Registry Editor Window you are working in has two sections or panes. In the right pane locate Shell Icon Size. Highlight Shell Icon Size with a single mouse click and click on Edit on the Registry Editor tool bar. Select Modify and change the number you find in the Value data: box. Of course a larger or smaller number will produce larger or smaller icons. Click on OK. Close the Registry Editor and left-click anywhere on the Desktop. Now right-click on the Desktop and click on Refresh to implement the changes. If you don't see the changes at that point just restart the computer.

If you don't find a Shell Icon Size value you can create one by highlighting the Window Metrics key and right clicking on any blank area in the right pane. Now select New and then String Value. Type "Shell Icon Size" without the quotes and click OK. You can now set the Shell Icon Size value to control the size of your Desktop icons.

A shorter method is to Right-click anywhere on the desktop and then choose Properties. In Display Properties, click on the Appearance tab. Under Item: select Icon. You can now change the size of both your icons and the fonts used in the text that appears under the icons. When you are finished, just click on OK.

I presented both methods because, while the first takes longer, it gives you hands-on experience editing and changing the Registry.

On another note, if your computer starts playing a music CD-ROM disk when you insert the disk and close the drive, you can disable the AutoPlay feature by holding down the Shift key while inserting the disk. When you are ready to face the music, open My Computer and right-click the CD-ROM drive icon, which will be labeled "Audio CD". Now click on Play.

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

