

## LESSON 58

### WINDOWS 98 REGISTRY FILES TOOLS TO BACKUP & RESTORE

Windows keeps vital setup information in the files System.dat and User.dat, and these two files are called the Registry. Each time you start Windows 95, these two files are copied to System.da0 and User.da0, the Registry backup files. The process of replacing Registry files with the Registry backup files is cumbersome, requiring you to remove the Hidden, System and Read-only attributes before copying the backup files over the Registry file. Once the backup files have replaced the original Registry, files those same attributes have to be restored to the new Registry files. If you don't notice right away when Windows has a serious problem linked to problems with the Registry, you may restart Windows and in so doing create Registry backup files based on the bad or corrupted Registry.

Windows 98 has a much better idea. It's called the Registry Checker. When you start Windows 98 each day Registry Checker makes backup copies of the System.dat, User.dat, System.ini and Win.ini files, compresses the files and places them in a single .CAB file named RB000.CAB. which is then stored in the folder C:\WINDOWS\SYSBCKUP.

By default, Registry Checker stores five (5) of these Registry backup files and names them RB000.CAB through RB005.CAB. Each of these backup files is dated based on the date Windows creates them. Each time Windows creates a new Registry backup file, the oldest Registry file is overwritten.

If you leave your computer on all the time, you can, at any time, force a Registry backup by clicking on Start, then on Run and typing "SCANREG" without the quotes. Press the Enter key or click on OK. Windows will then give you a message telling you that the Registry files have not been backed up on that particular day and asks if you want to do the backup at that point. If the Registry files have been backed up the message tells you that the Registry files have been backup up, that day and gives you the option to back them up again. You can force Windows 98 to make more than 5 backup copies of the Registry files by clicking on Start and then on Run. Type "scanreg.ini" without the quotes and press the Enter key or click on OK. That file will then be opened in Notepad. Look for the line that says MaxBackupCopies=5 and simply change the number 5 to the number of backup Registry files you want Windows to create. The maximum here is 99. Each of these backup Registry .CAB files can take up from 2MB to 5MB of disk space so don't go crazy here. You can also add more files to the Registry backup, like Autoexec.bat and Config.sys, by adding the line config.sys without the quotes. Notice that I have included the Drive letter, the Directory or folder that contains the files to be added, and the file names separated by commas.

Scanreg exists in both Windows and DOS formats as Scanregw.exe (Windows) and Scanreg.exe (DOS). To restore your Registry files you must use the file Scanreg.exe, the DOS version of Scanreg. If your computer boots up in Windows select Start, Shutdown and then "Restart in MS-



DOS mode". Type "Scanreg" without the quotes and then press the Enter key. You can now force a Registry backup or restore the Registry files from one of the Registry backup .CAB files.

When you install new hardware backup the Registry files and then opens Explorer by right clicking on My Computer and selecting Explore. Drill down to the C:\WINDOWS\SYSBCKUP folder and locate the most recent Registry backup file. Right click on the file and then select Rename. Rename the file with a name that will inform you that this backup was done just after you added or removed hardware or software. For example, you could rename the file RB005.CAB 041598B.CAB or Modem\_before.CAB. You should also make a backup just removing hardware or software, i.e. 041899A.CAB or Scanner\_after.cab. If the Registry has a problem after you install hardware or software the Registry backup file you created after making the changes can get you up and running.

