
ComputerFAQs

weekly

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions in the world of computers

Issue #13

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Here we are again! It's time for another issue of *ComputerFAQs Weekly*, the only free publication sent to you each and every week to help you survive in the age of computers. We're actually quite touched this week. We were a few days late getting the newsletter sent out, and we had three calls from our loyal readers wondering where their copies were. We appreciate *all* of your feedback, and we thank you for taking the time to read our publication. We look forward to serving each and every one of you. If you have any problems or questions, please don't hesitate to call our *HelpDesk* at 1-800-283-2255 #20996. Thanks for reading *ComputerFAQs Weekly*!

Q: When I start my computer, it automatically loads Windows. I, however, do not want to run Windows every time I turn my computer on. How can I stop Windows from loading? - *Ann T., Blasdell NY*

A: Ann, there are a few things you can do. First, if you want Windows removed from your computer's startup procedure forever, you can type in **EDIT AUTOEXEC.BAT** from your computer's **C:\>** prompt. This will place you in the DOS editor. In here, look for a line that says "win" at the beginning. It may have parameters after it, like "win /3" or "win /s" or something along those lines, but that doesn't matter. This is the line that starts Windows, and it's probably the last line in the file. All you have to do is delete this line, or add the word "REM" in front of it. That should stop Windows from loading next time you start your computer.

TIP: If you want to completely bypass the boot sequence (CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT) of your computer, press and hold the **F5** key as soon as you see "Starting MS-DOS...." You can also step through the boot sequence files line by line, which is great if you want to load some things (like device drivers), but not others. To do this, press and hold **F8** (instead of F5) at the same point. Need help? Call us! It's free.

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Q: How do I maneuver around in Windows without a mouse? - *Pat P., Dunkirk NY*

A: To be honest, Pat, Windows was developed with a pointing device (e.g. mouse or trackball) in mind. While it is possible to maneuver around the various program groups and windows without one, most applications require a pointer of some kind. Here are some basic tips (you can read more about them in your Windows manual): **ALT-SPACE** will open the *Control Menu* (that little box in the upper left-hand corner of a window) for the current application. **ALT-MINUS** will open the Control Menu

for a document inside an application. Once you have access to this Control Menu, it's an easy matter to size, move, maximize, minimize (etc.) the window. You can use **ALT-TAB** to cycle between all of the open applications; **CTRL-ESC** will display a listing of them all (the *Task List*); and **ALT-F4** will close the current application. The toughest keyboard-based maneuver is opening a program group from the Program Manager. You have to press **ALT-W** for the Window menu item, and then select the program group you want to open from there! Have fun using Windows without a mouse, and if you need more assistance, look in the Windows manual, or call our *HelpDesk*.

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