

Windows XP Power Toys



Power Toys are additional programs, that some of the software developers at Microsoft have worked on, after a Windows XP had been released. They add fun and functionality to the Windows XP experience and I highly recommend you take a look at them soon!

Microsoft have taken great care to ensure that **Power Toys** operate as they should, but as they are not part of Windows XP they not supported by Microsoft.

For this reason, Microsoft Technical Support is unable to answer questions about **Power Toys**. (NB - **Power Toys** are for **Windows XP** only.)

Important Notes:

You must uninstall ANY old **Power Toys** before installing these new ones. **Power Toys** will only work with US-English regional settings.

The URL for Power Toys is:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp>

Windows XP Power Toys – Tweak UI

One of my favourite **Power Toys** is **Tweak UI**

For any Windows XP owner, who wants to have a go at making some changes to their Windows XP installation, this is a great start!

An entire industry has been created around tweaking and customising the Windows XP User Interface (UI).....

There are many applications that can be purchased, but the thing about **Tweak UI** that I like - is that it is **FREE**.

NB – This version of Tweak UI will ONLY work on Windows XP Service Pack 1 or Windows 2003 server.

Downloading the program:

Click the Power Toys URL listed above and you will be taken to the main **Power Toys** webpage.

On the right hand side you will see a listing of files. The one you require is called: **TweakUI.exe** (see Fig 1)


Tweak UI
 [TweakUI.exe](#)
147 KB file
1 min @ 28.8 Kbps

Fig 1. TweakUI.exe download link.

When you click the **TweakUI.exe** download link, a **File Download** window, like the one in Fig2, will appear. Simply click the “Save” button.

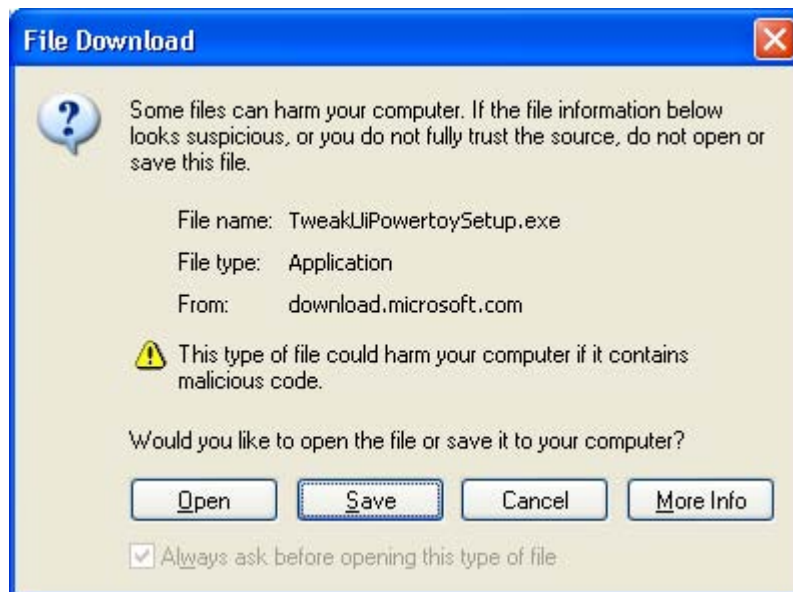


Fig 2. File Download window.

On clicking the “Save” button a new Window will appear. This Window is called the “Save As” window. You will use this new window to chose the file location, you wish to place the download into. In this instance I am choosing the local disk C: (see Fig 3)

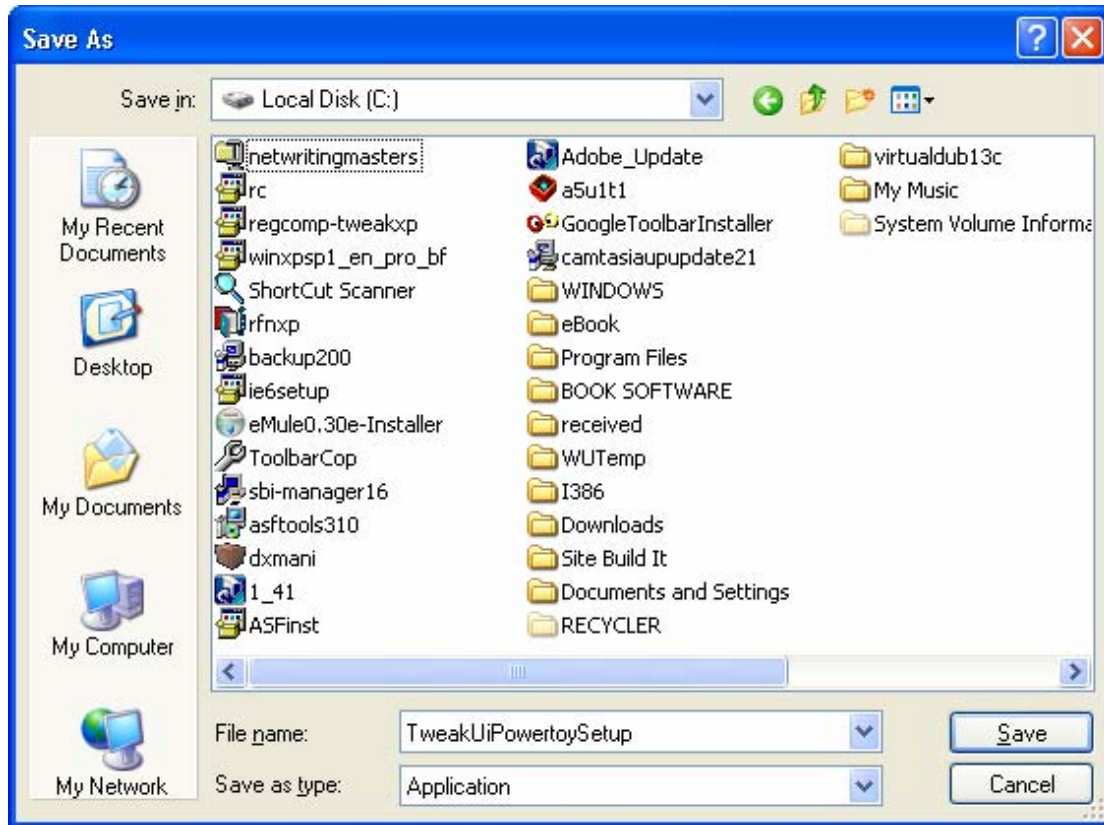


Fig 3. Save As window.

NB – Please note that whilst the website refers to the file you are downloading as: **TweakUI.exe** The actual name of the file you are downloading is called: **TweakUIPowerToySetup.exe**

Installing Tweak UI:

As soon as the application is on your computer, in the location you chose, the **Download complete** window will appear. (See Fig 4)

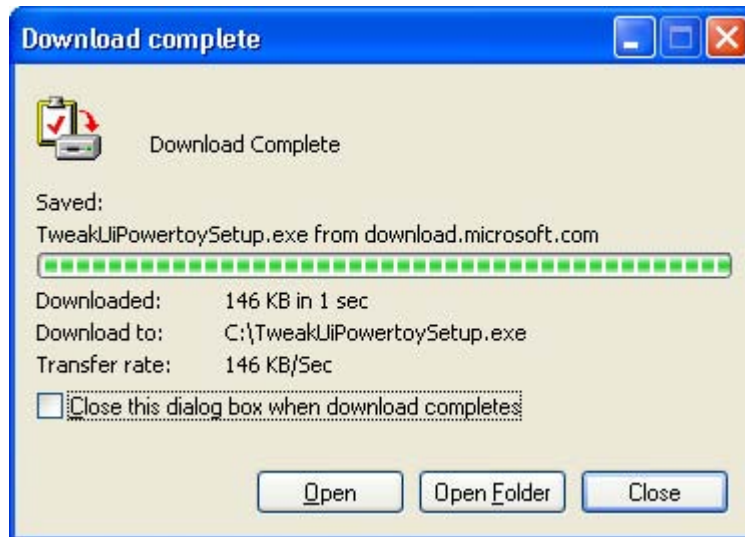


Fig 4. Download complete window.

You can now click the “Close” button then come back to the file later and perform the installation.

Or, you can click the “Open” and perform the installation routine now.

NB – Whenever you install software it is a good idea to close all other programs you have open at the time **AND** to temporarily disable your anti-virus software. Doing this will minimise any problems with the installation.

If you have chosen to install the application now, a new Window will appear. This is the Installation **Welcome window**. (see Fig 5)



Fig 5. Installation Welcome window.

To commence the installation of the **Tweak UI** application, click the “**Next**” button.

You will then be presented with the usual Microsoft License agreement. Until you click to *accept* it, you can NOT go ahead and install the application.

When you do accept the agreement, the “**Next**” button will become available (until now it has been greyed out, which means you can not click on it.)

Click the “**Next Button**” and the application installation will complete. You will then be presented with the **Install Completed** window. (see Fig 6)

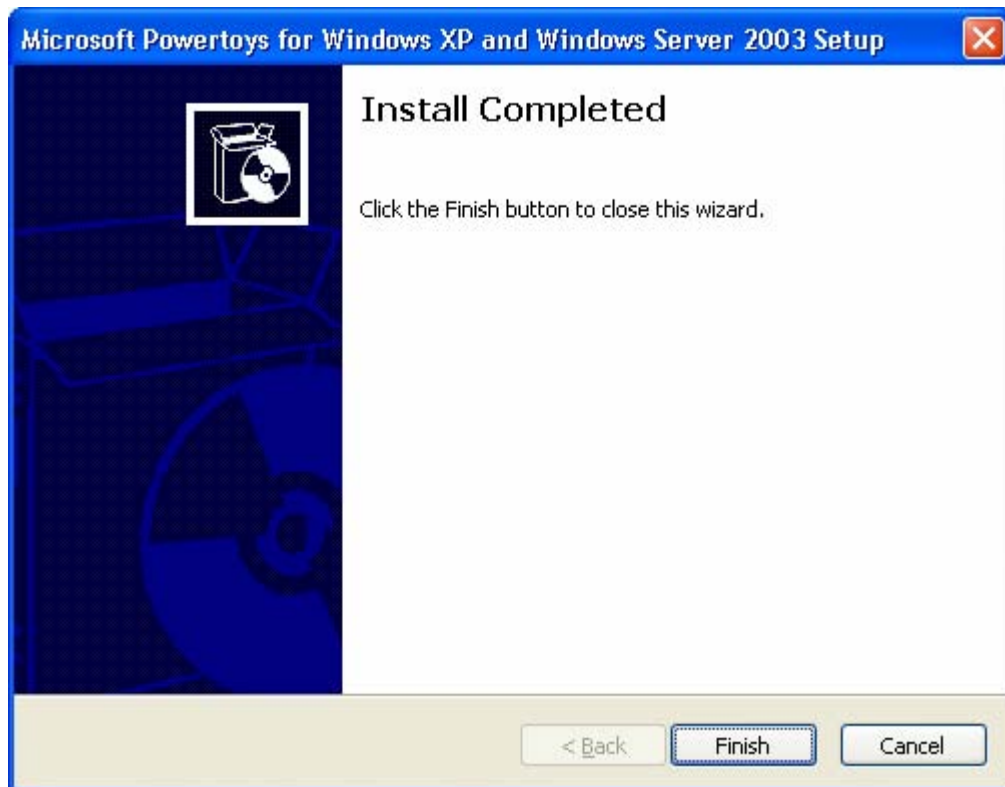


Fig 6. Install Completed window.

And that is it! Installation completed. Now it is time to start using Tweak UI...

Running Tweak UI:

Now **Tweak UI** has been installed you will find it on the **Start Menu** under **All Programs** and **Power Toys for Windows XP**,

Go ahead and start the application. When you do the main **Tweak UI** window will appear. (see Fig 7)

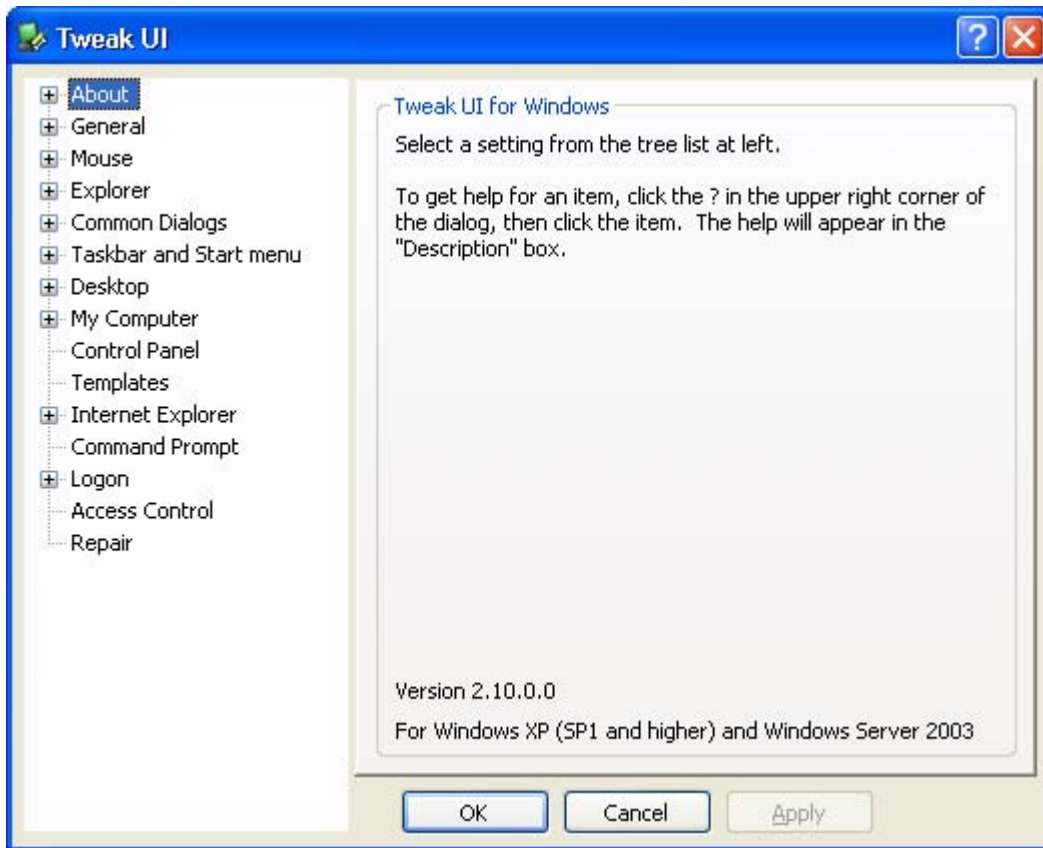


Fig 7. Main Tweak UI window.

Now you have **Tweak UI** running, let's learn how to use it!

Using Tweak UI

The main **Tweak UI** screen is split into two sections. On the left hand side are the different sections of the Windows XP user interface you can make changes to. On the right hand side is where you do the actual changing of the settings and any information you should know about.

Under each section you will notice a + symbol. By clicking on this you will then expand (open up) the complete section you are in at that time. If you are finished in a section just click on the - symbol and that section will close.

The main sections are:

About

Under this section you learn about the different Tips on how to use this application, and the Group Policy Editor. Please note that the Group Policy

Editor is **ONLY** available on Windows XP professional. It is a very powerful tool so use it wisely! (see Fig 8.)

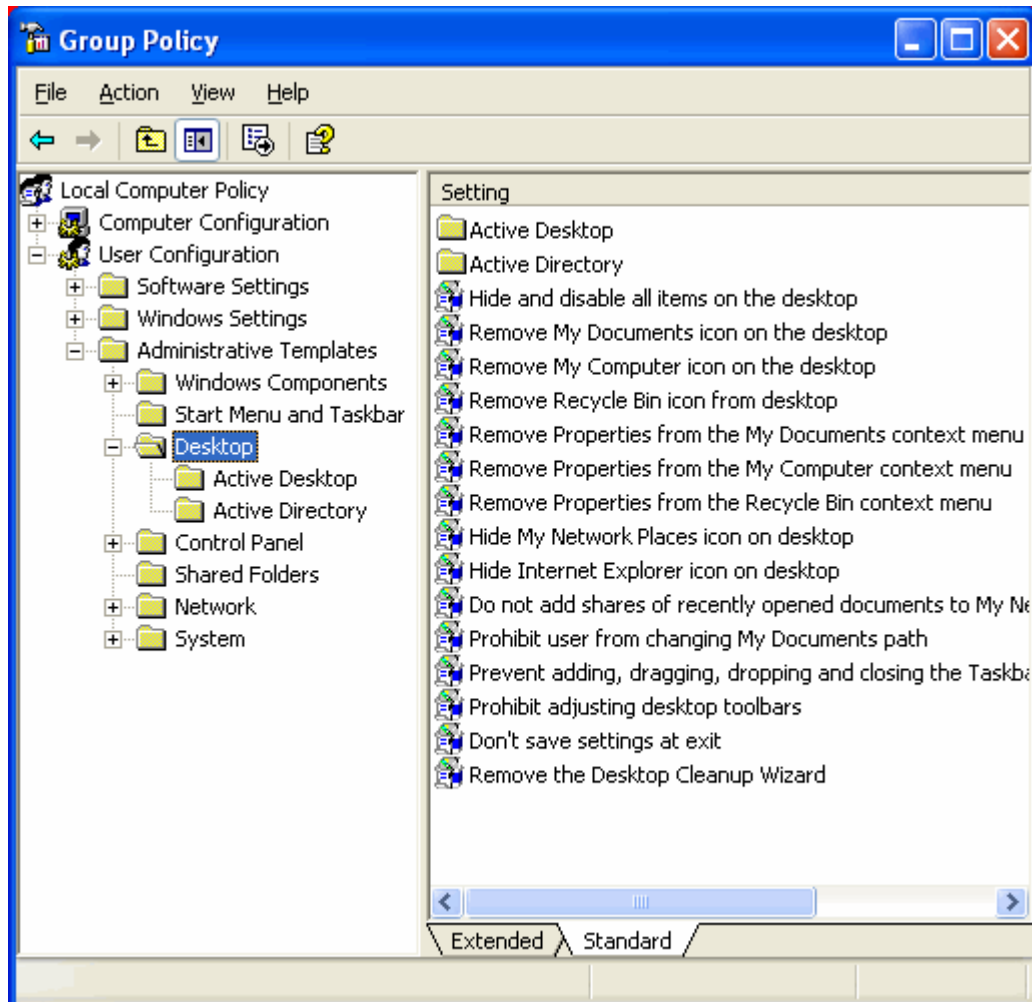


Fig 8. The Group Policy Editor window.

General

This section has 13 “general” Windows XP tips and then a few settings on the Windows Focus and Alt-Tab function.

Mouse

As the name suggests, a handful of settings that can be tweaked to affect the way your mouse behaves.

Explorer

This section has 23 tweaks that can be applied to Windows Explorer, as well as the TOP 6 settings that can be tweaked by every user... I particularly enjoy these ones!

Common Dialogs

Here you will find a few tweaks that will change the way some common dialogs behave.

Task Bar and Start Menu

Very commonly requested tweaks that you can apply to the Task Bar and Start Menu. This includes the famous "Turn off balloon tips"

Desktop

Want to change what Icons appear on your desktop? This section is for you!

My Computer

These tweaks are not for the beginner... so be careful! You will be shown what tweaks customise your Drives, Drive letters etc.

Internet Explorer

6 great tweaks for changing the way Internet Explorer looks and feels.

Logon

Power tweaks for the more adventurous user! It also contains a useful set of "Repair" features for Windows XP...

Tweak UI Conclusion

Microsoft's **Tweak UI** is a great start to customising Your Windows XP experience.

However, it is **ONLY** a taste of what you can do!

Once YOU use **Tweak UI**, you are going to want to take the **NEXT** step...

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There are two main options open to you at this point!

Option One

You can purchase one of the commercial “Tweaking” packages available on the Internet Today.

Two of the best I have found, and recommend are:

Magic Tweak



100's of Windows XP tweaks and the ability to backup the registry too!

Read the Review at: <http://www.updatexp.com/registry-tweaks.html>

Tune Up Utilities 2003



Tweaking and Windows XP system tools!

Read the Review at: <http://www.updatexp.com/windows-xp-tweaks.html>

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Option Two

Learn how to use the Registry yourself!

Once you know how to safely edit the Registry, you can manually tweak Windows XP, to behave the way YOU want it too!

However, there is NO Windows XP Registry book available, that is targeted at the average Windows XP user....

Well that is until **NOW!**

Find out more at: <http://www.updatexp.com/windows-xp-registry.html>

Kind Regards

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