

MODIFYING WINDOWS ADD/REMOVE PROGRAMS APPLICATION

Beginners' Kaffee Klatch
Presented by Bill Wilkinson

Find the Add or Remove Programs window at START>>CONTROL PANEL>>ADD OR REMOVE PROGRAMS.

When an already uninstalled program still appears

Every so often, you may have already uninstalled a program yet it is still showing up in your Add/Remove Programs list. Many people will try to uninstall it again from this list, but that will simply produce an error message. Try reinstalling the program once again if you can and then uninstalling it. More often than not, that approach will work. If it doesn't work, then you may wish to CAREFULLY burrow into the Registry.

Warning: For this tip, you'll be working in your **Registry Editor**, so before you begin, make sure you're comfortable using it. The Registry Editor is not a tool to just play around with. If you make a mistake, you could risk messing up other parts of your computer. If you're not 100 percent sure you can do this, please ask an experienced user for some help. **As a safety precaution, backup your registry by exporting it to your desktop!**

The way to remove it once and for all is to remove it from the registry. To do so:

1. Select to Start.
2. Select Run and type **regedit**. Click **OK** to open the Registry Editor.
3. Once in the Registry Editor, expand **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**.
4. Expand the **Software** folder.
5. Expand the **Microsoft** folder.
6. Expand the **Windows** folder.
7. Expand the **CurrentVersion** folder.
8. Expand the **Uninstall** folder.
9. Nested in the Uninstall folder (look in the left column), you will see a **folder** for every program shown on your Add/Remove Programs list. Simply find the one you want to go away, right-click on it and choose Delete. Next time you go to Add/Remove Programs, it should be gone.

When the add/remove option is missing

When you go to the **Add/Remove Programs** link, you should see a list of all the programs that are installed on your computer. In addition, there should be a **Change/Remove** or a **Remove** button for each of those applications. With that button, you can either change the application or completely remove it from your computer. If that button isn't there, however, all your control is gone.

Here's that Warning Again! For this tip, you'll be working in your **Registry Editor**, so before you begin, make sure you're comfortable using it. The Registry Editor is not a tool to just play around with. If you make a mistake, you could risk messing up other parts of your computer. If you're not 100 percent sure you can do this, please ask an experienced user for some help. **As a safety precaution, backup your registry by exporting it to your desktop!**

Follow these steps to get your Change/Remove or Remove button back:

1. Select **Start**.
2. Select **Run** and type **regedit** into the box. Click **OK** to open the Registry Editor.
3. Expand **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**.
4. Expand **SOFTWARE**.
5. Expand **Microsoft**.
6. Expand **Windows**.
7. Expand **CurrentVersion**.
8. Expand **Uninstall**
9. Nested in the Uninstall folder (look in the left column), you will see a **folder** for every program shown on your Add/Remove Programs list. Simply find the one that represents your target folder.
10. In the right pane, double click on the **NoRemove** or **NoModify** choice (REG_DWORD) and set the value to **0** (zero). If it happens to be set to 1, the Remove button will not be available.
11. In the right pane, double click on the **NoModify** option (REG_DWORD) and set it to **0** (zero) as well. If that happens to be set to 1, the Change button will not be available.

You will need to do this for each program you want to remove that does not have the Remove button, but once you change those two values, click **OK** and close everything else out. Then go back to the Control Panel and look through your list of programs. All of the Change/Remove buttons should be back in their proper position and you can then continue removing all those unnecessary programs from your computer.

Here are three FREE uninstall programs that will perform most of the tasks mentioned above and will avoid the risks that come with you or someone else digging around in the Registry.

MyUninstaller

MyUninstaller is an alternative to Windows' Add or Remove Programs tool. But it does more than mimic what Windows provides. MyUninstaller shows much more information about your programs. And it can help you with programs that don't include an uninstaller. It also displays programs that don't show up in Windows Add or Remove Programs. You might discover old programs you had forgotten about.

Unlike with Windows Add or Remove, you can select multiple programs to remove at the same time. <http://www.nirsoft.net/utils/myuninst.html>

ZSoft Uninstaller

This uninstall utility is also superior to the built-in function in Microsoft Windows. It allows an easy uninstall of programs and features a way to analyze an installation so it can be completely uninstalled. It can also find and delete temporary files, delete entries from programs that are no longer installed, hide Windows Updates, hide entries from the list that you are never going to uninstall (drivers) making the list smaller and therefore easier to manage, and show more information than is available though the built-in Windows Add/Remove applet. On top of that it can also find entries from programs that are already uninstalled and automatically find entries that are considered “crap-ware.” <http://tinyurl.com/4wqz4s>

Revo Uninstaller

Where the built-in and sluggish Windows Add or Remove Programs option fails, freeware Revo picks up the slack. Launching Revo fires up the Uninstaller screen, which shows icons and titles of all programs installed on your machine. You can change the View to List or Details, if you'd like more information. Right-clicking gives users a list of choices, from the fundamentals like Uninstall and Remove from list, to Search Google, Show the installation directory, and quick access to the app's Help file, its About screen, and an Update link.

Revo also provides some powerful tools. Advanced mode adds program-specific Registry key access to the context menu. The Tools Optimizer holds the Autorun Manager, Windows Tools access screen, and a Junk File finder/killer. The Autorun Manager provides one-stop shopping for startup tweaking. Windows Tools pulls together various and disparate basic utilities under one umbrella, and the Junk killer is just a killer.

The Tools Tracks Cleaner accesses cache-cleaning features, includes standard browser cache functions as well as crash memory dump files, MS Office cleaners, system-wide and program-specific search histories, and more. Another cool function is the Hunter, which offers click-and-drag uninstall and process-killing functionality. Revo and the way that it will revolutionize your uninstall workflow is hard to pass up.

<http://tinyurl.com/57ttt5>