

Windows 7 Tweaks

(Suggestions From RML Labs For Better SAC, SAWStudio and overall Windows Performance)
(Follow any or all of these at your own discretion)

1) ***Turning OFF Border Padding and Display Composition***

A new windows option has been added starting with Vista called Border Padding which adds an extra border inside the window client area of x pixels. This must be turned OFF or the pixel mapping of the mixer views will be corrupted.

Desktop Composition is the option that allows Win 7 to display the fancy Aero theme and the various transparency options of windows and gadgets. This can slow screen redraws drastically and affect your ability to hold low latency performance without slipped buffers during F-key and Mixer changing screen redraws.

Right-Click the desktop
Select Personalize
Scroll through the themes and select the Windows Classic Theme

Select the Control Panel Home option in the top left corner of the screen
Change the View By Category option (on the right side of the screen) to Large Icons

Scroll Down and Select System
Select Advanced System Settings on the left side of the screen
Push the Settings button
Select Adjust For Best Performance

All checkboxes should now be deselected
Check Show shadows under mouse pointer
Check Show shadows under windows
Check Smooth edges of screen fonts
Check Use drop shadows for icon labels on the desktop

Or, you may decide to keep the more fancy look of one of the Win 7 themes, but then make sure to manually disable border padding and Desktop Composition.

Right-Click the desktop
Select Personalize
Select Window Color at the bottom of the screen
Select Advanced Appearance Settings at the bottom of the screen
Click the drop listbox labeled Item and select Border Padding
Set to 0

Click the Back button to get back to the theme screen
Select the Control Panel Home option in the top left corner of the screen
Change the View By Category option (on the right side of the screen) to Large Icons

Scroll Down and Select System
Select Advanced System Settings on the left side of the screen
Push the Settings button
Uncheck Enable Desktop Composition

2) ***This is one recommended way of setting the TaskBar to keep it out of the way of the main***

application window and yet still easily accessible. I also recommend this method of displaying the Start Menu.

Right-Click the Taskbar
Select Properties
Check Lock Taskbar
Check AutoHide Taskbar
Check Use small icons

Start Menu tab
Push the Customize button
Select Computer Display as a menu
Select Control Panel Display as a menu
Check Default Programs
Check Devices and Printers
Select Documents Display as a menu
Select Downloads Don't display this item
Select Games Display as a menu
Check Help
Select Music Display as a link
Check Network
Check Open submenus when I pause on them
Select Personal Folder Don't display this item
Select Pictures Display as a link
Select Recorded TV Don't display this item
Check Run command
Select Search other Files and Libraries Search with public folders
Select Videos Don't display this item

Uncheck all other options

- 3) ***This is highly recommended for better and more stable performance as well as being visually uncluttered.***

Click the Windows Start button on the taskbar
Select Control Panel
Select Power Options
Select High Performance
Select Change Plan Settings on the right side of the page
Set every option to NEVER

- 4) ***This is highly recommended for better Performance.***

Left-Click the Start Button and select Run
Type regedit

Go to
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SYSTEM \ CurrentControlSet \ Services \ Cdrom

Change the Autorun value to 0

- 5) ***This is highly recommended to tame the Windows Explorer and make it more useful.***

Select the Windows Explorer from the taskbar on the left

Click the small arrow next to Computer to open the Computer icon
Do the same to open the C Drive icon

From the Tools menu, select Folder Options

General tab

Select Windows Classic Folders

Set Browse Folders to open in the same window

Set Click Items to double-click to open

View Tab

Uncheck all options

Then check Display File Size Info in folder tips

Check Display Contents of System Folders

Check Show Hidden Files

Check Restore Previous Folders at logon

Check Show Drive letters

Check Show encrypted NTFS in color

Check Use Checkboxes to select item

Check Use Sharing wizard

Select When typing into list view Select the typed item in the view

Click Apply

Click the Apply To All Folders button

Close Windows Explorer. Open again. Resize if needed and close again. Repeat multiple times until it retains size and column widths

6) ***This can help stabilize your Soundcard interface interactions.***

Left-Click the Start Button and select Control Panel

Select Sound

Sounds tab

Select No Sounds option from the Sound Scheme dropdown listbox

Select the Playback tab

If you have another multimedia soundcard as well as a high quality audio card, set the default playback device to the multimedia card for standard Windows audio playback

Select the Recording tab

If you have another multimedia soundcard as well as a high quality audio card, set the default recording device to the multimedia card for standard Windows audio playback

Otherwise, it is optional to leave the default set to none or set it to the first out device pair of your high quality audio card. I usually have no problems setting this to my high quality audio card as long as there is not another multimedia card in the system, and it is nice to be able to use the generic Windows playback of audio and video files.

7) ***This is highly recommended for better and more stable performance as well as all around Windows interface usability.***

From the Control Panel
Select System

Select Advanced System Settings
Select the Advanced tab
Push the Performance Settings button

Select the Advanced tab from this page
Set the Best Performance of Programs. (*This will deliver much higher overall performance especially for disk access, Sample Rate Conversion and Build Mixes*)

Select the Virtual Memory Change button
Set the min and max to the same value

If you have 2gb or more of ram, you may turn this OFF completely, NO Paging File (*Much smoother overall Windows performance in my experience*)

8) ***This is highly recommended for better and more stable performance.***

From the Control Panel
Select System
Select Advanced System Settings

Select the Remote tab
Uncheck Allow Remote Assistance
Select Don't Allow connections under the Remote Desktop option

Select the System Protection tab. Leave monitoring only on the C drive, or turn it off completely

9) ***These tips can improve the overall Windows experience.***

Turning off some not needed Services.

Right-Click the taskbar
Select Task Manager
Select the Services tab
Push the Service button in the bottom right corner of the screen

Adjust the screen and column sizes to be able to see the service names clearly

Select the Windows Update Service, if running. (*This will keep Windows from being automatically updated in the background*)

Then right-click and select properties

Then stop the service

Then set the startup type to disabled

Select the Shell Hardware Detection Service, if running. (*This will stop the media scanning that occurs everytime you plug a usb stick into the computer*)

Then right-click and select properties

Then Stop the service

Then set the startup type to disabled