

## THE COMPUTER CORNER

**No. 107. TweakUI**

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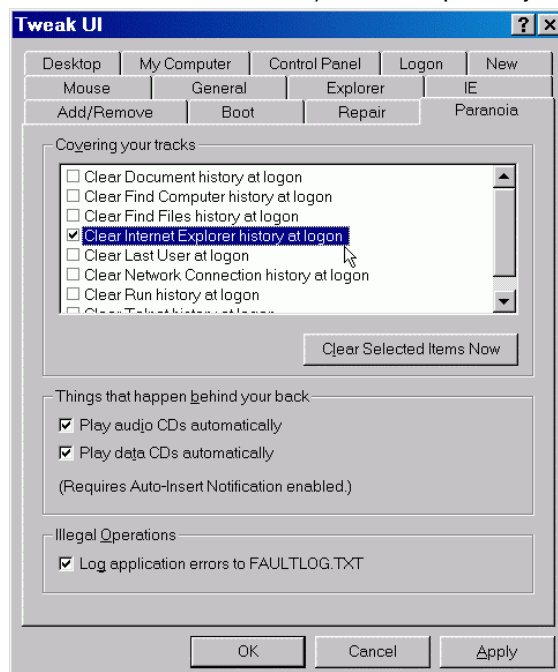
TweakUI is a free Microsoft Power Tool that has been around since at least 1998. It was written by Microsoft programmers and made available publicly, but it is a non-supported utility. That is, if a user has problems getting it to work, they will not help you with it. Nonetheless, it has been classed as a “must have” utility by a number of publications, including PC Magazine. Now, a new release (V1.33) is available that works with nearly every version of Windows (95, 98, 98SE, ME, XP and 2000). I recommend it. It is a Good Thing.

**PREPARATION:** Make a new folder called TweakUI on the drive of your choice, and remember where you put it.

**GET THE PROGRAM:** Go to [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com), and in the upper left corner type TweakUI in the search box. When you find it, download the small program (only 111 kb) to your new TweakUI folder. It is compressed, with several components inside. Double-click the Tweakui.exe program to release the components. Windows will ask you if you want to unzip the file to C:\Windows\Temp (highlighted in blue). Don't let it do that. Instead, type D:\TweakUI (where D: is the your drive containing the TweakUI folder you recently created) so that the components are placed there.

**INSTALL:** This couldn't be easier. In the TweakUI folder, find Tweakui.inf. **Right** click it, then select Install from the menu that comes up. You are now done.

**RUN:** In the Control Panel, you will find a new TweakUI icon. Click it to run. As you see here, there are 13 tabs covering a number of items in Windows 98 SE (there may be more or fewer in other versions of Windows). I have opened just one here, Paranoia. With it, you can clear all



sorts of histories at logon. The other tabs allow you to repair icons, alter boot parameters, remove a stubborn, long-gone program's name from the Add/Remove menu, change mouse and cursor characteristics, remove items from the My Computer menu, and many, many other functions. Just page through the tabs on your machine, and try one function that looks like it would be useful. Run with the modification for a day or two to see if you like it. If not, open TweakUI again and change it back. No harm done! Don't forget, the icon resides in the Control Panel folder (though you can make a desktop shortcut, if you desire).

Short for **Tweak User Interface**, the little program does just that – allows you to modify many items that otherwise would be inaccessible to the user. Not bad, at all! A great Power User tool. Happy computing!