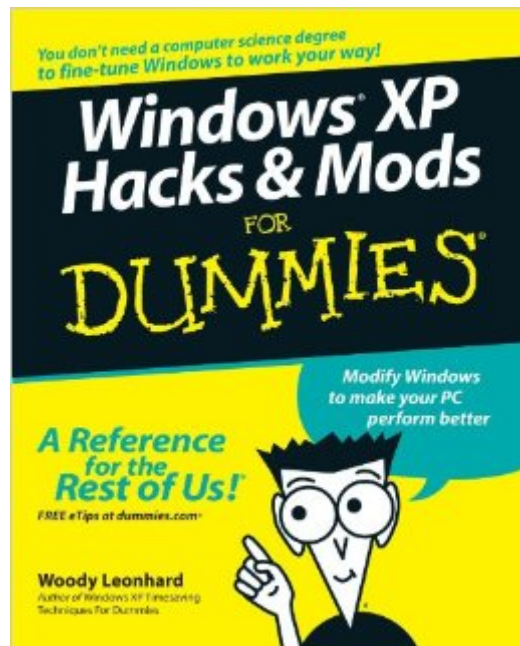


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# Windows XP Hacks & Mods For Dummies (For Dummies (Computers))



## Synopsis

Ever feel as though Windows XP was running YOU, instead of the other way around? Maybe it's time to show Windows who's boss. Make it run YOUR way. Get rid of the stuff that doesn't help you do what you want to do. Soup up security so you're better protected against spyware and other nasties. Find things faster with more efficient searches. Woody Leonhard shows you exactly how to do it in *Windows XP Hacks & Mods For Dummies*. Don't let the word "hack" intimidate you. Woody walks you through every suggested adjustment step by step. He even provides plenty of explanation about what's involved and what tools you need. *Windows XP Hacks & Mods For Dummies* even gives you a convenient list of common hacks you should avoid because they don't accomplish much. You'll discover how to:

- Eliminate the annoying features that came pre-installed on your PC
- Speed up your system performance
- Pin programs, folders, files, and Web pages so they appear on your Start menu
- Launch applications more quickly
- Boost the performance of your favorite games
- Get the most from your iPod and Windows Media Player
- Navigate peer-to-peer file sharing safely
- Find free virus protection

In the fun and friendly *Dummies* style, Woody Leonhard gives you tons of helpful advice to make your relationship with Windows XP a lot more rewarding.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you run Windows XP and you're annoyed by the number of things you can't do (or so says

Microsoft), you'll love this book... Windows XP Hacks & Mods For Dummies by Woody Leonhard. Contents: Part 1 - The Nuts & Bolts of Hacks & Mods: Windows XP - What's Not to Love?; Tools of the Hacking Trade; A Quick XP Makeover Part 2 - Controlling the Look and Feel of Windows XP: TweakUI, the Power User's PowerToy; Pinning Down the Start Menu; Taking On the Taskbar; Decking Out the Desktop Part 3 - Adjusting Everyday Activities: Reining In Windows Explorer; Cool Keyboard Hacks and Menu Mods; Searching on the Desktop; Switching to Better Online Software; Pulling Off Pictures Part 4 - Modding to Monitor and Manage: Seeing What's Happening; Decoding IDs, Accounts, and Passwords; Using Remote Assistance; Retooling Disks Part 5 - Protecting Yourself (And Your PC): Changing (In)Security Settings; Taking the "Mal" out of Malware; Keeping Your Privates Private Part 6 - Entertaining Yourself: Making the Most of Media Player; Buying Music and Videos; Trading Music and Videos; Getting Games to Work Part 7 - The Part of Tens: Ten Steps to Mastering the Registry; Ten Speed-Up Hacks - Maybe Index This was one of the most entertainingly informative books I've had the pleasure of reading in awhile. Leonhard is not at all a fan of Microsoft and his cynicism drips on every page. Things I normally take for granted as "that's just the way it works" are dissected, and ways to hack around them are outlined. For instance, perhaps you don't like the way that the roller wheel on your mouse scrolls more than one line at a time.

Well, perhaps giving 5 stars to this book is a bit too much (perhaps a 4,5 would have been better). First I'll clarify what the book's title means with "hacks and mods": what it means is no more than teaching the most important menu options, and capabilities that are taught in any serious manual. And it also enhances the power of XP by installing Microsoft's TWEAKUI program, that's very easy to use but you need to be explained how to use it. It also advises what tools there're to be acquired to enhance XP, make it more stable, use the correct Antivirus, Firewall etc, and it explains very well what garbage you must avoid when you're advised to get and which to acquire from Microsoft and from other software firms. The book doesn't mince its words in criticising the worst of Microsoft's practice and the many garbage it includes in XP to make it sell you useless stuff. It also advises good websites and software that is usually free and improves XP. When I started the book it seemed to me a bit "light" i.e.: that it didn't say anything new, but as I advanced I learnt very useful things that I always missed. Who's this book intended for?: I'd say it's intended for the average XP user who misses to show off a little bit of his XP knowledge to his friends (and enemies). It's not an XP exhaustive manual (which would be boring). The best about this book is that it's very easy to read, the author shows to be proficient in computing but won't bore you with unnecessarily deep

stuff. I've read this book (only two last chapters to finish) and summarized its brightest points in a Word file that I'll revise.

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