

Add a Registry Value With a .bat File

What

Instructions on how to use a .bat file to add/change a Registry key value.

Why

When situations arise where the solution is the addition or change of a Registry key. For many users, directly adding or editing a Registry key is not an option so generous, more knowledgeable people post the Registry change as a .reg file. This is better than having to work directly in the Registry, but the Merge process with warning windows that pop up and other confirmation windows before the process is completed is still scary to a lot of users and some users do not install the Registry change due to fear of these standard warnings. If the Registry change is placed in a .bat file, the user will not see any warning message and requires only one confirmation click.

How

- A Registry key, value, and data can be entered into the Registry using the REG ADD command. A command can be ran by a .bat file. Thus a .bat file can be used to make a Registry addition.
- The REG ADD syntax is long and includes options not needed for a single value key, so the syntax below displays only the options needed for single value entries.

REG ADD <keyname> [/v valuenam] [/t datatype] [/d data] [/f]

- To explain how to turn that .reg file to a .bat file, the example I will use is the Registry key that controls how Outlook opens – Online or Offline
- The Registry key (keyname) is:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Outlook\Profiles\Outlook\0a0d020000000000c000000000000046

- The Value for that key (valuenam) is:

00030398

- The Data Type for that Value (datatype) is

REG_BINARY

Note: The Data Type is displayed for that Value in the view pane of the Registry for that key.

- The data (hex) for the Value is:

01000000 To open Outlook Offline

or

02000000 To open Outlook Online

- The command to add the Offline key is:

REG ADD

HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Outlook\Profiles\Outlook\0a0d02000000000c0000000000000046 /v 00030398 /t REG_BINARY /d 01000000 /f

Although it covers several lines in this document due to text warping, it is a one line command.

- Pasting that one line command into a blank Notepad document and naming with a .bat extension creates the .bat file.
- The same .reg file for this Registry change is:

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

```
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Outlook\Profiles\Outlook\0a0d02000000000c0000000000000046]
"00030398"=hex:01,00,00,00
```

- Note the differences:
 - Command does not need to use the Registry Editor and does not need the "Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00" identifier.
 - Command uses *only* abbreviated hive identification (HKCU instead of HKEY_CURRENT_USER)
 - Command does not place the Value in quotes.
 - The .reg file places the Value, data type, and data on a separate line and presented in a different format than viewed in the Registry.
- Both of the files above will change that Registry key.
- Merging the .reg requires permission to use the Registry Editor window to be answered, a second confirmation window acknowledging the dangers of editing the Registry, and finally click to close the third window stating that the key had been added.
- Running the .bat file as an administrator requires permission to use the Command Processor and no other actions, warning, or completion windows.