Make an Icon Invisible

What

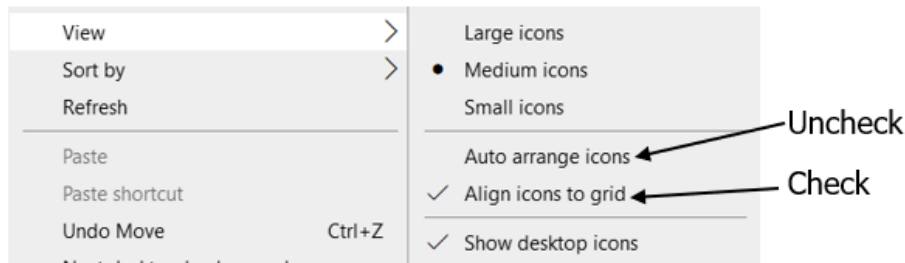Make a shortcut icon on the Desktop invisible, but still functional.

Why

Create a keyboard shortcut for a shortcut on the Desktop, make the Desktop shortcut invisible to keep from cluttering the Desktop with too many icons and not use a third party app to accomplish this.

How

Step 1

Place the shortcut on the Desktop. Right click a blank space on the Desktop and select *View*. Uncheck **Auto arrange icons** and Check **Align icons to grid** as shown below. Move the icon to the tope right corner of the Desktop screen.
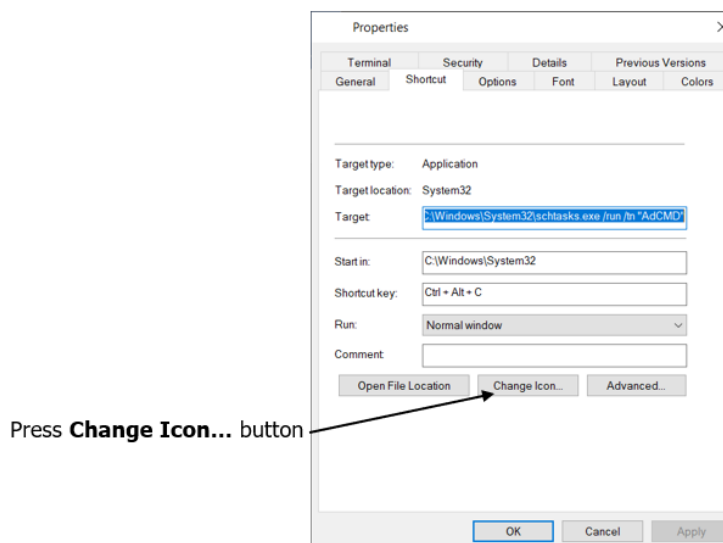

Step 2

Right click the shortcut and select **Rename**. This will highlight the current name of the shortcut. While the name is highlighted, press and hold down the **Alt** key, enter **0160** on the *number pad* next to the keyboard, release the **Alt** key and press the **Enter** key. This entered the ASCII code for a blank character, which makes the name invisible.
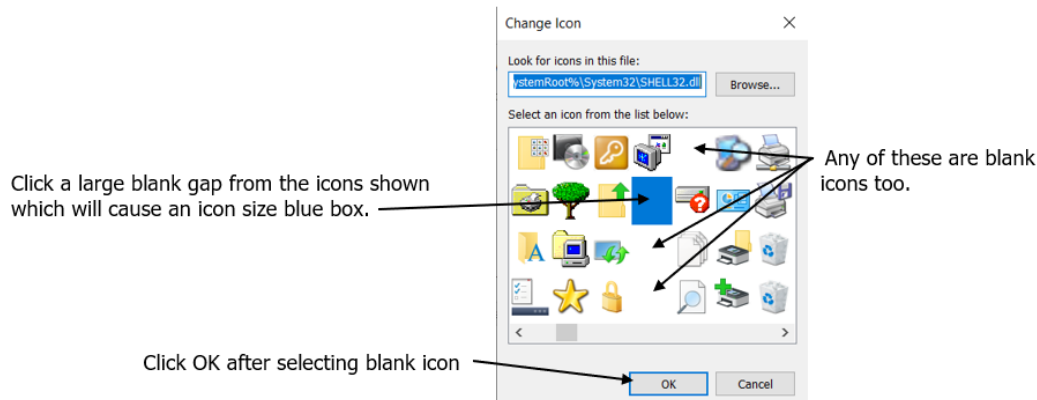
Step 3

Right click the shortcut and select **Properties** to open the *Properties* window. On the **Shortcut** tab click the **Change Icon..** button as shown below which will open the *Change Icon* window.

Press **Change Icon...** button

Step 4

In the Change Icon window, scroll thru the icons until there is a gap between the icons and click on one of the large gaps which will highlight a blank space the size of an icon as shown below. This is really a blank icon. With this blank icon selected press the **OK** button which returns you to the Properties window.

Click a large blank gap from the icons shown which will cause an icon size blue box.

Any of these are blank icons too.

Click OK after selecting blank icon

Step 5

Press **Apply** and **OK** to save your changes. Press F5 to refresh the desktop and make the shortcut invisible.

Comments

Works on all versions of Windows since Windows 7.

When you place your mouse pointer over the invisible icon it will highlight like all icons do, so you will still know it's there and clicking this highlighted area will run the shortcut to open what it is a shortcut to.

You can assign a keyboard shortcut to the shortcut just like any Desktop shortcut and use that rather than clicking the icon.