

# Windows 2000 Professional Service Configurations

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## Notes for a happier Computer and User:

- **Do NOT use “msconfig” to disable services, type “services.msc” in the Run box instead!**
- Service settings are *global*, meaning changes apply to all users.
- Before disabling **any** service, check out the information about each starting on Page 12 of this document.
- All of these services are “Standard” with Windows 2000 Service Pack 4. If you discover something other than these listed here running, another program installed them. A few of the more common processes are listed starting on page 41.
- Still unsure? Put your setting to “manual” or the listing under “Safe.” Manual allows Windows 2000 to start the service when it needs to (or when ever it feels like it), but not at boot up. Depending on your configuration, not all services will start when required while in “Manual” mode. If you find you need a service, place it in Automatic.
- **After adjusting your service settings, reboot your computer.**
- If you find this document helpful and you wish to use this information (forums, web sites), please link to <http://www.blkviper.com> and do not copy or redistribute it. The online information is up to date and I do not want anyone posting old content.
- Disabling all of the “unneeded services” frees up 12-70 MB of RAM, depending on system.

## Table Header information:

- **Display Name** ~ is how it displays in the Services Control Panel.
- **Process Name** ~ name of the Process running in the background (displays in Task Manager by hitting Ctrl+Shift+Esc).
- **Dependencies** ~ describe what services this service needs for proper functionality.
- **Default Server** ~ this is what runs by default on Windows 2000 Server.
- **Default Pro** ~ this is what runs by default on Windows 2000 Professional.
- **"SAFE" Configuration** ~ this is the configuration that 95% of the people will be able to use with little or no side effects. It will also minimize the amount of "errors" that is reported in the Event Viewer. This does NOT guarantee it will work for you, but if this scares you, this configuration would be a good starting point. **Note: This is not for Windows 2000 Server in a corporate environment. Every network is different. Only you can decide what you need.**
- **Internet Gateway Configuration** ~ setup to allow multiple computers on a network to share one access point using Microsoft's "Internet Connection Sharing and Personal Firewall" software. If you do not have this type of setup, compare the differences between "SAFE" and "GAMING" to find a middle ground that works for your system. Other software or hardware type firewall and gateway software may require a slightly different configuration.
- **Gaming Configuration** ~ this is the power user setup. This setup is a system that connects through a network (such as a gateway / router) to the internet, provides file and print sharing resources and gaming enjoyment. Some things MAY not function with this setup. No passwords save. Its use is not for a computer with analog modems or some direct DSL/cable connections. Try "Internet Gateway" Configuration first.
- **Super Tweak Configuration** ~ this is the Super Geek setup. This setup is a system that connects through a network (such as a gateway / router) to the internet with a static IP address. This system does not provide file and print sharing resources, nor have the ability to print. Its use is not for a computer with analog modems or many direct DSL/cable connections. You can use this configuration for extreme tweaking and testing purposes. Many things MAY not function with this setup. No passwords save. The Event Log may display "errors" of not being able to start certain services. Please do not ask, "How do I fix" questions while using this configuration. The answer will be "Use SAFE." This information's intention is for reference only. However, I use this configuration on a daily basis.

Display Name	Process Name	Dependencies	Default Server	Default Pro	"SAFE"	Internet Gateway	Gaming System	Super Tweak
Alerter	services.exe	Workstation	Automatic	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Application Management	services.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual
Automatic Updates	svchost.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled
Background Intelligent Transfer Service	svchost.exe	System Event Notification, Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension, Workstation	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled
Boot Information Negotiation Layer	tcpsvcs.exe	Server	Not Installed	Not Available				
ClipBook	clipsrv.exe	Network DDE	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
COM+ Event System	svchost.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Computer Browser	services.exe	Server, Workstation	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled
DHCP Client	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
DHCP Server	tcpsvcs.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Security Accounts Manager	Not Installed	Not Available				
Distributed File System	Dfssvc.exe	Server, Workstation	Automatic	Not Available				
Distributed Link Tracking Client	services.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Automatic	Automatic	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled

Display Name	Process Name	Dependencies	Default Server	Default Pro	"SAFE"	Internet Gateway	Gaming System	Super Tweak
Distributed Link Tracking Server	services.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Manual	Not Available				
Distributed Transaction Coordinator	msdtc.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Security Accounts Manager	Automatic	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
DNS Client	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
DNS Server	dns.exe	NT LM Security Support Provider, Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				
Event Log	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Fax Service	faxsvc.exe	Plug and Play, Print Spooler, Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Telephony	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
File Replication	ntfrs.exe	Event Log, Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Manual	Not Available				
FTP Publishing Service	inetinfo.exe	IIS Admin Service	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
IIS Admin Service	inetinfo.exe	Protected Storage, Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Automatic	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
Indexing Service	cisvc.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Internet Authentication Service	svchost.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				
Internet Connection Sharing	svchost.exe	Remote Access Connection Manager	Manual	Manual	Manual	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled

Display Name	Process Name	Dependencies	Default Server	Default Pro	"SAFE"	Internet Gateway	Gaming System	Super Tweak
Intersite Messaging	ismserv.exe	Security Accounts Manager	Disabled	Not Available				
IPSEC Policy Agent	lsass.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Automatic	Automatic	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Kerberos Key Distribution Center	lsass.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Disabled	Not Available				
License Logging Service	llssrv.exe	None	Automatic	Not Available				
Logical Disk Manager	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service	dmadmin.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Message Queuing	mqsvc.exe	Distributed Transaction Coordinator, NT LM Security Support Provider, Protected Storage, Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Security Accounts Manager, Server	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
Messenger	services.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Workstation	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Net Logon	lsass.exe	Workstation	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
NetMeeting Remote Desktop Sharing	mnmsrvc.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled

<b>Display Name</b>	<b>Process Name</b>	<b>Dependencies</b>	<b>Default Server</b>	<b>Default Pro</b>	<b>"SAFE"</b>	<b>Internet Gateway</b>	<b>Gaming System</b>	<b>Super Tweak</b>
Network Connections	svchost.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Manual	Manual	Automatic	Automatic	Manual	Disabled
Network DDE	netdde.exe	Network DDE DSDM	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Network DDE DSDM	netdde.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Network News Transport Protocol (NNTP)	inetinfo.exe	IIS Admin Service	Not Installed	Not Available				
NT LM Security Support Provider	lsass.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled
On-line Presentation Broadcast	nslservice.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				
Performance Logs and Alerts	smlogsvc.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Plug and Play	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Print Server for Macintosh	sfmprint.exe	Print Spooler	Not Installed	Not Available				
Print Spooler	spoolsv.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled
Protected Storage	services.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled
QoS RSVP	rsvp.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Remote Access Auto Connection Manager	svchost.exe	Remote Access Connection Manager, Telephony	Manual	Manual	Manual	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled

<b>Display Name</b>	<b>Process Name</b>	<b>Dependencies</b>	<b>Default Server</b>	<b>Default Pro</b>	<b>"SAFE"</b>	<b>Internet Gateway</b>	<b>Gaming System</b>	<b>Super Tweak</b>
Remote Access Connection Manager	svchost.exe	Telephony	Manual	Manual	Manual	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled
Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	svchost.exe	None (but everything depends on it)	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator	locator.exe	Workstation	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Remote Registry Service	regsvc.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Remote Storage Engine	RsEng.exe	Event Log, Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Remote Storage File, Remote Storage Media, Task Scheduler	Not Installed	Not Available				
Remote Storage File	RsFsa.exe	Event Log, Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				
Remote Storage Media	RsSub.exe	Event Log, Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Removable Storage	Not Installed	Not Available				
Remote Storage Notification	RsFsa.exe	Event Log, Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				
Removable Storage	svchost.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
RIP Listener	svchost.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
Routing and Remote Access	svchost.exe	NetBIOSGroup, Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled

<b>Display Name</b>	<b>Process Name</b>	<b>Dependencies</b>	<b>Default Server</b>	<b>Default Pro</b>	<b>"SAFE"</b>	<b>Internet Gateway</b>	<b>Gaming System</b>	<b>Super Tweak</b>
RunAs Service	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Security Accounts Manager	lsass.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Server	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled
Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP)	inetinfo.exe	IIS Admin Service	Automatic	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
Simple TCP/IP Services	tcpsvcs.exe	None	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
Single Instance Storage Groveler	grovel.exe	None	Not Installed	Not Available				
Site Server ILS Service	inetinfo.exe	IIS Admin Service	Not Installed	Not Available				
Smart Card	SCardSvr.exe	Plug and Play	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Smart Card Helper	SCardSvr.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
SNMP Service	snmp.exe	Event Log	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
SNMP Trap Service	snmptrap.exe	Event Log	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
System Event Notification	svchost.exe	COM+ Event System	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled
Task Scheduler	MSTask.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Automatic	Automatic	Manual	Automatic	Disabled	Disabled
TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper Service	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
TCP/IP Printer Server	tcpsvcs.exe	Print Spooler	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed

<b>Display Name</b>	<b>Process Name</b>	<b>Dependencies</b>	<b>Default Server</b>	<b>Default Pro</b>	<b>"SAFE"</b>	<b>Internet Gateway</b>	<b>Gaming System</b>	<b>Super Tweak</b>
Telephony	svchost.exe	Plug and Play, Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled
Telnet	tlntsvr.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Terminal Services	termsrv.exe	None	Disabled	Not Available				
Terminal Services Licensing	lserver.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				
Trivial FTP Daemon	tftpd.exe	None	Not Installed	Not Available				
Uninterruptible Power Supply	ups.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Utility Manager	UtilMan.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Windows Installer	msiexec.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual
Windows Internet Name Service (WINS)	wins.exe	NT LM Security Support Provider, Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Security Accounts Manager	Not Installed	Not Available				
Windows Management Instrumentation	WinMgmt.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual
Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension	services.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual
Windows Media Monitor Service	nspmon.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				

<b>Display Name</b>	<b>Process Name</b>	<b>Dependencies</b>	<b>Default Server</b>	<b>Default Pro</b>	<b>"SAFE"</b>	<b>Internet Gateway</b>	<b>Gaming System</b>	<b>Super Tweak</b>
Windows Media Program Service	nspm.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Windows Media Station Service	Not Installed	Not Available				
Windows Media Station Service	nscm.exe	Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				
Windows Media Unicast Service	nsum.exe	NT LM Security Support Provider, Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	Not Installed	Not Available				
Windows Time	services.exe	None	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Wireless Configuration	svchost.exe	Protected Storage, Remote Procedure Call (RPC), Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension	Manual	Manual	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
Workstation	services.exe	None	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
World Wide Web Publishing Service	inetinfo.exe	IIS Admin Service	Automatic	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed

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## **Alerter**

The Alerter service notifies users of administrative alerts. This service usually is not required under normal circumstances. Note: This is NOT “WinPopUp”.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Alerter needs to function properly:

- Workstation

What other service require Alerter to function properly:

- None

## **Application Management**

Used for Assign, Publish and Remove software services. If you cannot modify your software installation of certain applications, put this service into automatic or manual.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service Application Management needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Application Management to function properly:

- None

## **Automatic Updates**

This service is used to check up to see if there is any critical or otherwise updates available for download. You may choose to update manually due to the very long lag time from when an update is available and when Windows 2000 reports it. However, after the installation of Service Pack 3, you may configure how “often” updates are checked. Using default values, Windows 2000 “Automatically” downloads the updates and asks to “install” them. A few reasons why you may think this is unacceptable in your situation:

- You could have a dial-up connection. If 2000 feels like downloading whenever it wants, it just may not allow you to do what “you” want.
- You may also: Wish to know what, when and how an update installs BEFORE using any bandwidth.
- Want to read about the update BEFORE downloading.
- Want to know WHY you need it and WHAT it fixes.

**It is very important that if you decide to disable this service, you check the Windows Update site often to ensure the latest patches install properly.**

Take note: Manual (and Automatic) updates via Windows Update web site requires Background Intelligent Transfer Service, and System Event Notification.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Automatic Updates needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Automatic Updates to function properly:

- None

## **Background Intelligent Transfer Service**

This service is used to transfer asynchronous data via http1.1 servers. According to Microsoft's site, Windows Update uses this “feature.” It “continues” a download if you log off or shutdown the system (that is, when you log back in). The problem with that is I do not like having this “feature” running all of the time. Even though I have found no side effects as to this being disabled, you may require this service for some MSN Explorer, Windows Messenger, Windows Media Player or future .NET functions.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What services Background Intelligent Transfer Service needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- System Event Notification
  - COM+ Event System
    - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension
- Workstation

What other service require Background Intelligent Transfer Service to function properly:

- None

### **ClipBook**

Used to store information (cut / paste) and share it with other computers. I have never found enough need for this to allow this service to always be running. This service alone uses about 1.3 MB of memory.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What services ClipBook needs to function properly:

- Network DDE
  - Network DDE DSDM

What other service require ClipBook to function properly:

- None

### **COM+ Event System**

You will receive, in the Event Log, an entry from “DCOM” complaining about not having this service running if disabled. I am unaware of any application that uses COM+, but if set to manual, many services report to it, so it will start anyway. This service is required for System Event Notification. For the fun of it:

"C:\Program Files\ComPlus Applications\"

On your system, see if you have any installed “COM+” Applications. If not, you can probably disable this service with no side effects (besides the Event Log complaining upon reboots).

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service COM+ Event System needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other services require COM+ Event System to function properly:

- System Event Notification
  - Background Intelligent Transfer Service

### **Computer Browser**

Computer Browser service maintains a listing of computers and resources located on the network. This service is not required on a standalone system. In fact, even if you want to browse the network (workgroup or domain) or have mapped network shares as local hard drives, you can still do so. On a large network, one computer is designated the “master” browser and another one is the “backup” browser. All others just announce they are available every 12 minutes to “take over” duties if one of the other computers fail. No lag time is discernable if this service remains disabled on all but one computer. Honestly, I do not even believe one needs to be running. You could, “just in case,” but it sure does not need to be running on all computers, all of the time.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What services Computer Browser needs to function properly:

- Server
- Workstation

What other service require Computer Browser to function properly:

- None

### **DHCP Client**

This service automatically receives a Dynamic IP address from your DHCP server and DNS updates. Required for ICS / internet client and if you run IPSEC, disable on a standalone system or one that has a static IP address. Take note: Most DSL/cable ISP's use DHCP to provide internet access. If you disable this service and your Internet connection no longer works, place this back into automatic. Most DSL and cable hardware routers have the option of enabling a DHCP server for the internal network. Ensure that the router is configured the same as your local PC's.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What services DHCP Client needs to function properly:

- Server
- Workstation

What other service require DHCP Client to function properly:

- None

### **Distributed Link Tracking Client**

Maintains links with NTFS files within your computer or across a domain. For example, you make a file on "Computer A." You then create a "short cut" or "link" to that file on "Computer B." If you would move the file on Computer A to a different location, this service would tell Computer B to update its information to allow uninterrupted connectivity. Even though this is rather valuable on a large network, I have not found a use for this service. It uses about 3.5 MB to 4 MB in an idle state.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service Distributed Link Tracking Client needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Distributed Link Tracking Client to function properly:

- None

### **Distributed Transaction Coordinator**

Automatically takes care of transactions that span multiple resources. You may also see complaints in the Event Log if this service is disabled, but I have experienced no side effects. Microsoft's .NET may require this service in the future.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What services Distributed Transaction Coordinator needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Security Accounts Manager

What other service require Distributed Transaction Coordinator to function properly:

- Message Queuing

## **DNS Client**

Resolves and caches DNS names and Active Directory domain controller functions. This service is not required for DNS lookups, but if it makes you happy to have it running, you may. This service is required if using IPSEC. If your computer connects to a network with a domain controller, you will be unable to connect to Active Directory with this service disabled. To reduce network traffic to your ISP's DNS servers, leave this service on automatic.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service DNS Client needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require DNS Client to function properly:

- None

## **Event Log**

View Event Log messages from applications in Event Viewer. Always helpful to check out the Event Log to see what problems with applications are popping up that is "hidden" from the normal user. To see quickly what, if anything has resulted in your adjustments, you may consider clearing the Event Log. It is just best to keep Event Log active for troubleshooting purposes and normal operations.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Event Log needs to function properly:

- None

What other services require Event Log to function properly:

- SNMP Service
- SNMP Trap Service

## **Fax Service**

Maintains the ability to send and receive FAX documents on your computer.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What services Fax Service needs to function properly:

- Plug and Play
- Print Spooler
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Telephony
  - Plug and Play
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Fax Service to function properly:

- None

### **FTP Publishing Service**

Not installed by default, but if you need it, you may install it later off the Windows 2000 CD. This service provides a FTP server on your network.

Default 2000 Server: Not installed

Default 2000 Pro: Not installed

Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What services FTP Publishing Service needs to function properly:

- IIS Admin
  - Protected Storage
    - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require FTP Publishing Service to function properly:

- None

### **IIS Admin**

Not installed by default, but if needed, you may install it later off the Windows 2000 CD. This service usually operates in conjunction with a local web site or FTP servers. Leave it uninstalled mainly because IIS has been “popular” for crackers to break.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Not installed

Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What services IIS Admin Service needs to function properly:

- Protected Storage

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other services require IIS Admin Service to function properly:

- FTP Publishing Service
- Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP)
- World Wide Web Publishing Service

### **Indexing Service**

This service always has been a major resource hog. I NEVER recommend having this service enabled. Remove the function via the “Add / Remove Programs” icon in the control panel (Windows Setup Programs). It uses about 500 K to 2 MB in an idle state, not to mention the amount of memory and CPU resources it takes to INDEX the drives. I have had people (and witnessed it on other people's computers) report to me that the Indexing Service sometimes starts up EVEN while the system is NOT idle... as in the middle of a game. You may feel, as I do, that this is unacceptable. If your computer suddenly seems “sluggish,” Indexing Service is usually the cause of it.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Indexing Service needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Indexing Service to function properly:

- None

### **Internet Connection Sharing**

This service is used to allow multiple computers on your network to access the internet via only one account. This service installs on the “modem” computer. If you are using a third party Internet Connection Sharing software package, this service is not required.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What services Internet Connection Sharing needs to function properly:

- Remote Access Connection Manager
  - Telephony
    - Plug and Play
    - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Internet Connection Sharing to function properly:

- None

### **IPSEC Policy Agent**

May be required on some domains or VPN connections, but the “average” user will not need this.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

What service IPSEC Policy Agent needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require IPSEC Policy Agent to function properly:

- None

### **Logical Disk Manager**

This service is vital to run the Disk Management MMC console for dynamic volumes. If you attempt to “Manage” your hard drives and a dialog box pops up complaining about not being able to do this, start this service.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What services Logical Disk Manager needs to function properly:

- Plug and Play
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Logical Disk Manager to function properly:

- Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service

### **Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service**

This service is vital to run the Disk Management MMC console for dynamic volumes.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What services Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service needs to function properly:

- Logical Disk Manager

- Plug and Play
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Plug and Play
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service to function properly:

- None

### **Message Queuing**

May be used on some domains, but the “average” home user will never need this service.

Default 2000 Server: Not Installed

Default 2000 Pro: Not Installed

Safe Setting: Not Installed

Dependencies:

What services Message Queuing needs to function properly:

- Distributed Transaction Coordinator
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
  - Security Accounts Manager
- NT LM Security Support Provider
- Protected Storage
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Server

What other service require Message Queuing to function properly:

- None

### **Messenger**

This service provides the ability to send messages between clients and servers. This service needs not to be running under normal “home” conditions. It is also advisable to make this service go away to avoid the possibility of “net send” messages hitting your computer from the internet. This has nothing to do with MSN Messenger, nor is it “WinPopUp.”

To test for this security vulnerability, at the command prompt, (run: cmd.exe) type:

**net send 127.0.0.1 hi**

If you get a popup “hi” message, you should disable the Messenger service.

If you get an error stating, “The message alias could not be found on the network,” you are safe.

If, for whatever reason, you need the Messenger service running but wish not to have spam popups active, you can disable the particular ports at your firewall. The Messenger service uses UDP ports 135, 137, and 138; TCP ports 135, 139, and 445.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic  
Default 2000 Pro: Automatic  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What services Messenger needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Workstation

What other service require Messenger to function properly:

- None

### **Net Logon**

Used for logging onto a Domain Controller. This service is not required on a standalone system, or for a “home” network.

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Net Logon needs to function properly:

- Workstation

What other service require Net Logon to function properly:

- None

### **NetMeeting Remote Desktop Sharing**

Enables a user to access your computer using NetMeeting. This may create a BIG open door for the unwanted. If you are paranoid about security, disable this function. Even if you were not worried, I would still get rid of it.

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service NetMeeting Remote Desktop Sharing needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require NetMeeting Remote Desktop Sharing to function properly:

- None

## **Network Connections**

Required for managing network connectivity. Set to disabled if you have NO network or you do not toy with the configurations a lot. If your internet connectivity no longer operates after disabling this function, set it back to Automatic! Note: While disabling this service, you will no longer see the system tray icon (lower right) displayed, even for modem connections. Connectivity, however, still exists even on incoming shared network drives.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Network Connections needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Network Connections to function properly:

- None

## **Network DDE**

I have not found a good use for this service. Unless you use remote ClipBook, disable it. This uses about 1.5 MB idle.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Network DDE needs to function properly:

- Network DDE DSDM

What other service require Network DDE to function properly:

- ClipBook

## **Network DDE DSDM**

I have not found a good use for this service. Unless you use remote ClipBook, disable it.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Network DDE DSDM needs to function properly:

- None

What other services require Network DDE DSDM to function properly:

- Network DDE DSDM
  - ClipBook

### **NT LM Security Support Provider**

Manages local system security information on the computer. You need this service if you are running Message Queuing or Telnet server.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service NT LM Security Support Provider needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require NT LM Security Support Provider to function properly:

- Message Queuing

### **Performance Logs and Alerts**

Collect performance data on a schedule and send the information to a log or trigger an alert. This may be a super geek tool, but I feel that the overhead associated with it is not worth the benefit. You decide.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Performance Logs and Alerts needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Performance Logs and Alerts to function properly:

- None

### **Plug and Play**

This service is the heart and soul of the Plug and Play environment. I do not recommend disabling this service, but if you want to, you are on your own. Take note: UPnP is NOT PnP. UPnP is for connectivity on networks via TCP/IP to devices, such as scanners or printers. Your sound card is PnP. Do NOT disable Plug and Play service.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Plug and Play needs to function properly:

- None

What other services require Plug and Play to function properly:

Fax Service

- Logical Disk Manager
  - Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service
- Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service
- Smart Card
- Telephony
  - Fax Service
  - Remote Access Auto Connection Manager
- Remote Access Connection Manager
  - Internet Connection Sharing
  - Remote Access Auto Connection Manager

### **Portable Media Serial Number**

Retrieves serial numbers from portable music players connected to your computer. I have not really found a good reason to keep this service always running. I am not aware of anything that actually requires it. Disable it unless something of yours ceases to function properly, such as Windows Media Player and Microsoft's integration with "Digital Rights Management" and copy protection.

Dependencies:

What service Portable Media Serial Number needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Portable Media Serial Number to function properly:

- None

### **Print Spooler**

Queues up print jobs for later printing. This service is required if you have printers, even if they are network printers. If this does not fit your needs, disable it. You will save about 3.8 MB by making this service go away. Your printers will still be "installed" if you disable this service, but not visible in the printers folder. After restarting Print Spooler, they will reappear and be available for use. I place this service into manual mode and only start it up when printing is required. In manual mode, the service will not automatically start at boot time.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Print Spooler needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other services require Print Spooler to function properly:

- Fax Service
- TCP/IP Print Server

### **Protected Storage**

Allows for the saving of local passwords or even web sites information (AutoComplete). This service is set to Automatic by default. Due to security reasons, I recommend leaving this “feature” disabled to make things all that much more difficult to steal vital information if you do not “save” it. On the other hand, you may need this service to manage private keys for encryption purposes. If so, leave this service on automatic to ensure the “higher” security settings you choose work. If you disable this service, you will no longer have any of your passwords saved, no matter how many times you click the box. If you enjoy having your passwords saved in applications like Outlook or Dial up networking or you are connecting to the internet via a domain controller/server that requires authentication, set this service to Automatic.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Protected Storage needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other services require Protected Storage to function properly:

- IIS Admin Service
  - FTP Publishing Service
  - Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP)
  - World Wide Web Publishing Service
- Message Queuing
- Wireless Configuration

### **QoS RSVP**

Provides traffic control on a network using IPSEC and applications that support QoS, and have an adapter that supports it. As far as I can tell, you also need an ACS Server (Provided with Windows 2000 Server and Advanced Server) for the QoS Packet Scheduler and Applications to request the needed bandwidth. Since my network is not straining under any load, this is rather pointless. You may require this service to be placed on Automatic if you use Windows Media Player or NetMeeting.

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service QoS RSVP needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require QoS RSVP to function properly:

- None

### **Remote Access Auto Connection Manager**

Creates a connection to a network when a program requests a remote address. This service may be required for your internet connection. If things cease to function after disabling this service, put it to automatic. Note: you may require this service for some direct cable or DSL providers and connections, depending on how they implement their logon process. If your Dial-up, cable or DSL internet access no longer functions properly with this service disabled, place this service into automatic. If you use a hardware gateway or router, this service is not required.

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What services Remote Access Auto Connection Manager needs to function properly:

- Remote Access Connection Manager
  - Telephony
    - Plug and Play
    - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Telephony
  - Plug and Play
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Remote Access Auto Connection Manager to function properly:

- None

### **Remote Access Connection Manager**

Creates a network connection. This service is required if you use Internet Connection Sharing. If things cease to function after disabling this service, put it to automatic. Note: you may require this service for some cable or DSL providers, depending on how they implement their logon process. If your Dial-up, cable or DSL internet access no longer functions properly with this service disabled, place this service into automatic. If you use a hardware gateway or router, this service is not required.

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What services Remote Access Connection Manager needs to function properly:

- Telephony
  - Plug and Play
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other services require Remote Access Connection Manager to function properly:

- Internet Connection Sharing
- Remote Access Auto Connection Manager

### **Remote Procedure Call (RPC)**

This service is rather vital. Practically everything depends on this service to be running. This is also the only service that you should not (and will not) disable via the Services MMC. If you do, your computer may (will) become unbootable AND you cannot place this service back to automatic to fix it. Leave it on Automatic and do not change it. If, for whatever reason, the service became disabled and you can no longer boot your system, please read the information here for a way to fix it: <http://www.blkviper.com/AskBV/2k4.htm>

Default 2000 Server: Automatic  
Default 2000 Pro: Automatic  
Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Remote Procedure Call (RPC) needs to function properly:

- None

What other services require Remote Access Connection Manager to function properly:

- Background Intelligent Transfer Service
- COM+ Event System
  - System Event Notification
  - Background Intelligent Transfer Service
- Distributed Link Tracking Client
- Distributed Transaction Coordinator
  - Message Queuing
- Fax Service
- IIS Admin Service
  - FTP Publishing Service
  - Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP)
  - World Wide Web Publishing Service

- Indexing Service
- IPSEC Policy Agent
- Logical Disk Manager
  - Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service
- Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service
- Message Queuing
- Messenger
- Network Connections
- Print Spooler
  - Fax Service
  - TCP/IP Print Server
- Protected Storage
  - IIS Admin Service
    - FTP Publishing Service
    - Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP)
    - World Wide Web Publishing Service
  - Message Queuing
  - Wireless Configuration
- Removable Storage
- RIP Listener
- Routing and Remote Access
- Task Scheduler
- Telephony
  - Fax Service
  - Remote Access Auto Connection Manager
- Remote Access Connection Manager
  - Internet Connection Sharing
  - Remote Access Auto Connection Manager
- Telnet
- Windows Installer
- Windows Management Instrumentation
- Wireless Configuration

### **Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator**

Manages the RPC name service database. I have not found a reason to keep this service running. However, if something on your network breaks after you disable this service, put it back to manual. About 1.2 MB of RAM is in use with this service.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator needs to function properly:

- Workstation

What other service require Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator to function properly:

- None

### **Remote Registry Service**

This is one of those not needed services. One of the first I disable. If you are paranoid about security, disable this service. Even if you are not or do not care, disable it anyway.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Remote Registry Service needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Remote Registry Service to function properly:

- None

### **Removable Storage**

Used for managing removable media. Disable this service if you do not have items like tape backup devices, etc. If your CD ROM / DVD drive starts acting funny, (no auto play, etc) place this service into automatic. Normally, this service does not need to be running and you will not miss any of its functionality.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Removable Storage needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Removable Storage to function properly:

- None

### **RIP Listener**

Not installed by default, but if you need it, you may install it later off the Windows 2000 CD. If you do not know what RIP is, you do not need this service installed. :)

Default 2000 Server: Not installed

Default 2000 Pro: Not installed

Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What service RIP Listener needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require RIP Listener to function properly:

- None

### **Routing and Remote Access**

Allows computers to dial in to the local computer through a modem (or other devices) to access the local network using a standard or VPN connection. Unless you require this functionality, disable it for security reasons. Upon enabling this service, "Incoming Connections" icon will be available in the "Network Connections" control panel.

Default 2000 Server: Disabled

Default 2000 Pro: Disabled

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What services Routing and Remote Access needs to function properly:

- NetBIOSGroup
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Routing and Remote Access to function properly:

- None

### **RunAs Service**

Enables starting processes under alternate credentials. I have never found a reason to keep this service running. I have always considered "Alternate Credentials" someone other than me! Not my idea of fun... Really, though, it allows a "limited user" account to start an application or process with higher privileges, such as the Administrator account or another user. You can also have a privileged user start an application or process with limited privileged account. If you right-click a file, the menu will display "Run As" option. If you disable this service, that function will no longer be available.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service RunAs Service needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require RunAs Service to function properly:

- None

### **Security Accounts Manager**

Like Protected Storage, it saves security information for local users. If you have ever used the Group Policy Editor (gpedit.msc) to modify your settings, you need to keep this service running; otherwise, your modifications will not apply. For “Safe” configurations, place this into automatic.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Security Accounts Manager needs to function properly:

- None

What other services require Security Accounts Manager to function properly:

- Distributed Transaction Coordinator
  - Message Queuing

### **Server**

Used for file and print sharing from your computer. For security purposes, you may disable this service if you do not require local printers and files shared across your network. Connectivity, however, still exists even on incoming shared network drives. Workstation needs to be running to connect to another computer that has the files you are looking for. Note: If you disable File and Print sharing, the Server Service may disappear from the Services listing. Just enable File and Print sharing again and the Server Service will return.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Server needs to function properly:

None

What other services require Server to function properly:

- Computer Browser
- Message Queuing

### **Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP)**

Not installed by default, but if needed, you may install it later off of the Windows 2000 CD. This service supports the use of a local (outbound) E-Mail server.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic  
Default 2000 Pro: Not installed  
Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What services Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP) needs to function properly:

- IIS Admin Service
  - Protected Storage
    - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP) to function properly:

- None

### **Simple TCP/IP Services**

Not installed by default, but if you need it, you may install it later off the Windows 2000 CD. This service supports some old school UNIX networking services.

Default 2000 Server: Not installed  
Default 2000 Pro: Not installed  
Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What service Simple TCP/IP Services needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Simple TCP/IP Services to function properly:

- None

### **Smart Card**

Supports the use of a Smart Card for local or network computer authentication. If you do not have a “Smart Card,” or you do not know what a Smart Card is, you do not need this service running. Save the 1.1 MB to 1.4 MB of RAM this service uses.

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Smart Card needs to function properly:

- Plug and Play

What other service require Smart Card to function properly:

- None

### **Smart Card Helper**

Supports the use of a Smart Card for local or network computer authentication. If you do not have a “Smart Card,” you do not need this service running.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Smart Card Helper needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Smart Card Helper to function properly:

- None

### **SNMP Service**

Not installed by default, but if you need it, you may install it later off the Windows 2000 CD. This service supports the use of networking equipment that uses SNMP as a mode of management.

Default 2000 Server: Not installed

Default 2000 Pro: Not installed

Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What service SNMP Service needs to function properly:

- Event Log

What other service require SNMP Service to function properly:

- None

### **SNMP Trap Service**

Not installed by default, but if you need it, you may install it later off the Windows 2000 CD. As above, supports the use of networking equipment that use SNMP as a mode of management.

Default 2000 Server: Not installed

Default 2000 Pro: Not installed

Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What service SNMP Trap Service needs to function properly:

- Event Log

What other service require Trap SNMP Service to function properly:

- None

### **System Event Notification**

Used in conjunction with COM+ Event System, this service notifies particular services when system events, such as logon and power events occur. I doubt the average user really cares about this. The only applications that I am aware of that uses this is Automatic Updates and Background Intelligent Transfer Service. You will receive, in the Event Log, an entry complaining about not having this service running if disabled. I have yet to find a side effect, though, unless you are using Automatic Update.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What services System Event Notification needs to function properly:

- COM+ Event System
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require System Event Notification to function properly:

- Background Intelligent Transfer Service

### **Task Scheduler**

You use this service to schedule maintenance, Microsoft Backup sessions, or maybe even Auto Update. I do everything manually, to avoid having this service running all the time. Some third party software may require this service to be active for automated functions, such as virus scanners, system maintenance tools, and automatic patch/driver lookups. If you plan to schedule tasks, ensure that Protected Storage also is running.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Task Scheduler needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Task Scheduler to function properly:

- None

### **TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper Service**

This feature provides legacy support for NetBIOS over TCP/IP. If your network does not use NetBIOS and / or WINS, disable this function.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Automatic

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper Service needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper Service to function properly:

- None

### **TCP/IP Printer Server**

Not installed by default, but if you need it, you may install it later off the Windows 2000 CD. Used for setting up a local UNIX print server. If you do not need this function, leave it uninstalled.

Default 2000 Server: Not installed

Default 2000 Pro: Not installed

Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What services TCP/IP Print Server needs to function properly:

- Print Spooler
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require TCP/IP Print Server to function properly:

- None

### **Telephony**

Controls telephony devices on the local computer. This service is required for dial-up modem connectivity. Note: you may require this service for some direct cable or DSL providers, depending on how they implement their logon process or some AOL functionality, depending on software used. If Dial-up, cable or DSL internet access no longer functions properly with this service disabled, place it into automatic. If you are connecting via a hardware router or gateway, this service is not needed.

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What services Telephony needs to function properly:

- Plug and Play
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other services require Telephony to function properly:

- Fax Service
- Remote Access Auto Connection Manager
- Remote Access Connection Manager
  - Internet Connection Sharing
  - Remote Access Auto Connection Manager

### **Telnet**

It allows remote login to the local computer via the telnet function. For security reasons, disable this unless you specifically require its functionality. You will save about 2 MB of RAM by plugging this security hole.

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Telnet needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Telnet to function properly:

- None

### **Uninterruptible Power Supply**

I have not found a need for this. My UPS that connects via USB does NOT need this service to run. However, some APC UPS install a totally different service for communication. Some UPS connected via serial port may require this service to be running

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Uninterruptible Power Supply needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Uninterruptible Power Supply to function properly:

- None

### **Utility Manager**

Provides the ability to configure accessibility tools from one window.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Utility Manager needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Utility Manager to function properly:

- None

### **Windows Installer**

This service is required for software applications that install using MSI files. If no applications that you have will install properly or you get an error that involves "RPC Service," place this service in to Automatic or Manual. Only disable this service after you have completed installation of your applications, mainly Office and such. I am not aware how many Games actually use MSI Files. In an idle state, this service uses about 3.4 MB of RAM. Put it to manual to save that amount.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service Windows Installer needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Windows Installer to function properly:

- None

## **Windows Management Instrumentation**

This service is required if you want to see the “Dependencies” tab in service configuration and you want everything to go smoothly. I do not recommend disabling this service as strange things may start to happen.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service Windows Management Instrumentation needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require Windows Management Instrumentation to function properly:

- None

## **Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension**

This service is not as vital as Windows Management Instrumentation, but I recommend leaving this service in manual.

Default 2000 Server: Manual

Default 2000 Pro: Manual

Safe Setting: Manual

Dependencies:

What service Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension needs to function properly:

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other services require Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension to function properly:

- Background Intelligent Transfer Service
- Wireless Configuration

## **Windows Time**

Automatically sets your clock by contacting a server (Microsoft’s server by default) on the internet. Great idea if your network connects to the internet 24/7. The Event Log fills up with “cannot find server” messages on a non-dedicated setup, though. After successful synchronizing, this service will not attempt to do it again for 7 days, meanwhile, taking up resources. You may also need Task Scheduler running. You may choose to set your clock manually on a dial up connection, but with a 24/7 broadband setup, this could keep you on time for work. Note: as mentioned, “time.windows.com” is the default server for synchronization. For those privacy conscious people that prefer to connect to a government site rather than MS, use “time.nist.gov.”

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What service Windows Time needs to function properly:

- None

What other service require Windows Time to function properly:

- None

### **Wireless Configuration**

Provides access control using 802.1x for authentication and automatic configuration for wireless network devices. If you do not have any wireless network devices in use on the local system, disable this service. You may require this service for connectivity with some “hot sync” software for a PDA, laptop or other portable computer

Default 2000 Server: Manual  
Default 2000 Pro: Manual  
Safe Setting: Disabled

Dependencies:

What services Wireless Configuration needs to function properly:

- Protected Storage
  - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension

What other service require Wireless Configuration to function properly:

- None

### **Workstation**

Used to connect local computer to remote computers. Examples may include local network connectivity and File and Print sharing. Many services depend on Workstation to be functioning. Leave it on automatic for safe configurations.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic  
Default 2000 Pro: Automatic  
Safe Setting: Automatic

Dependencies:

What service Workstation needs to function properly:

- None

What other services require Workstation to function properly:

- Alerter
- Background Intelligent Transfer Service
- Computer Browser
- Messenger
- Net Logon
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator

### **World Wide Web Publishing Service**

Not installed by default, but if you need it, you may install it later off the Windows 2000 CD. Used for setting up a local web server. If you do not need this function, leave it uninstalled, mainly because this service requires IIS Admin to be running and IIS has been “popular” for crackers to break.

Default 2000 Server: Automatic

Default 2000 Pro: Not installed

Safe Setting: Not installed

Dependencies:

What services World Wide Web Publishing Service needs to function properly:

- IIS Admin Service
  - Protected Storage
    - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

What other service require World Wide Web Publishing Service to function properly:

- None

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## Strange Processes

These are not really “Services,” but are applications or processes running at different times:

### **csrss.exe**

This is “Client Server Runtime Process” is part of the core of Windows. You cannot kill it and I am not sure why you would even want to. It is a 4 k process that sucks up about 3 MB to 6 MB or so, but I do not support making it go away. Usually, if it is “difficult” to get rid of, it is needed.

### **ctfmon.exe**

This is your “Language Bar.” Don't know what it is? I bet you do not need it. Head to Control Panel -> Regional and Language Options -> Languages TAB -> Details BUTTON -> Language Bar BUTTON (under “Preferences”) -> select the “Turn off advanced text services” check box. This little detail will save you between 1.5 MB and 4 MB of RAM. If you are using a “non-US” version, you may be required to install the English localization to remove this “feature.”

### **CTHELPER.EXE**

This is installed with the SoundBlaster Audigy2 drivers. It takes about 4 MB of RAM.

### **CTDVDEET.exe**

This is also installed with the SoundBlaster Audigy2 drivers. A “DVD Detection” application. It sucks up about 2.2 MB of memory. You can disable it by heading to the MediaSource DVD Audio Player, selecting Tools, then uncheck the “Auto Start” box. It should not start up automatically again.

### **CTSysVol.exe**

Yet another that is installed with the SoundBlaster Audigy2 Card. A “Volume Control” application that, by default, sits in the system tray. It takes about 3.8 to 5 MB of RAM doing nothing. Right click the tray icon and select “Close,” then disable it via msconfig.

### **devldr32.exe**

This is installed if you have a Creative Sound Card (SBLive Series that I am aware of). It sucks up 2.3 MB to 2.6 MB, but I have not completed extensive testing with this NOT being there... After manually killing the process (this is not a service, it is listed as a driver in the hardware properties of the sound card) I loaded up a game of Dungeon Siege and all EAX features and 5.1 positional sound worked (with EAX on or off). Also, all Direct Sound tests completed without errors. Do not get excited, though. After renaming the process, the Windows File Protection dialog pops up. Upon reboot, devldr32.exe is not displayed in the active processes in Task Manager, but the Creative Mixer and AudioHQ applications fail to load. I also searched for a reference in the registry and found little to nothing... Kill it if you want to recover some memory, but I do not support such “drastic” measures... so you are on your own with it. Do not E-Mail me asking for help if you killed this process. :)

### **explorer.exe**

This is NOT related to Internet Explorer. There will ALWAYS be an explorer.exe running in the background. It is the user interface process/desktop/shell, etc. This is one of the many ways how Bill got away with “integrating” IE with Windows... If you load up “Windows Explorer” to rummage through files, you will see an additional explorer.exe in the background. This will fluctuate depending on what you have (fonts, background pics, active desktop) going at any given time. Usage of between 5.8 MB and 36 MB RAM is typical.

### **Idle**

This is a generic process that is used when no other program or process is requiring CPU resources. It is not a bad thing if it is using 99% of your CPU! This process is a 16 k loop that the CPU processes while it is not doing “anything” else. If your computer is called upon to do any other task than “nothing,” the idle process allows that to happen and the % used will decrease accordingly. You can not disable the idle process. If it is using 97% CPU, which only means that the other 3% is used by real programs. If your idle process is constantly at a low rate (for example, 3%) something else, an application or process is using the CPU.

### **IEXPLORE.EXE**

This is the IE browser. Pops up only when you want to suck up 7.3 MB to ?? MB of memory to surf the web. I say ?? MB because every time you open an additional browser, you also start another one of these processes. If you close “all” browser windows, a IEXPLORE.EXE process will still be running. This is a “feature” to allow faster startup the next time you open IE. Unlike Mozilla, you cannot disable this “feature” other than directly killing the offending process.

### **iTouch.exe**

This process is installed with Logitech software for the “internet” key functions on keyboards and iTouch features on compatible mice. Plenty of functions remain with this software disabled, but some of the more “cool” stuff will not. This process takes from 3.6 MB to 12 MB of memory.

### **“Generic Host Process for Win32 Services”**

This is what ZoneAlarm complains about while connected to the internet. “SVCHOST.EXE” is “Generic Service Host.” What that means is it is a “host” for other processes or services. Check this document starting on Page 4 to see “all” of the services that use SVCHOST.EXE as a front for something else.

If your internet connection seems to “no longer work,” it is due to you disallowing various “required” functions to no longer access the internet. A big one is “DNS Lookups.” If you do not allow this to get through, you will no longer be able to type in “blkviper.com” but you will always be able to type in the IP address of the systems. The internet connection is still working, but you are blocking a “vital” part of the process for surfing web pages.

### **mozilla.exe**

This is the Mozilla browser executable. It uses between 14 MB and ?? MB of memory. Optionally, you can disable the system tray icon and not allow the “Quick Launch” feature to tell

Mozilla to completely unload from memory when the final browser window is closed. This will, of course, increase the startup time when you fire up the browser window, again.

#### **msmsgs.exe**

This is Microsoft Windows Messenger that comes with Windows XP Home and Pro. With some applications, namely, Outlook and MSN Explorer, this process will still run in the background to get all of those .NET alerts, etc, that Microsoft is saying will be so cool.

#### **msn6.exe**

This is the Microsoft “MSN Explorer” bundled with Windows XP Home and Pro. While running this application, you will also have the previous process running. See **msmsgs.exe** for more information.

#### **Navapw32.exe**

This is installed with Norton AntiVirus 2002 Software. Unless you want your Virus Scanner to no longer function, keep this process running. Do not “end” it. This process is also responsible for automatically updating the virus definitions and displaying that cute little icon in the system tray.

#### **point32.exe**

This is installed with Microsoft Mouse Software, Intellimouse and the like. Most functions (if not all) are built into XP, so there is NO need to suck up 1.1 MB to 1.6 MB for a useless program also running in the background/system tray unless you require “specially mapped” key configurations for your buttons.

#### **promon.exe**

This is installed with Intel Pro family graphics adapters. It controls the application that displays in your system tray. It uses about 656K to 1.1 MB just sitting there. I hate icons in the system tray... I have none.

#### **smss.exe**

Dubbed “Windows NT Session Manager.” Another process (see **csrss.exe** above) that is part of the core of Windows. It is a 45 KB process that uses about 300 KB to 2 MB. You cannot kill this process manually and I do not recommend trying other ways to get rid of it. Usually, if it is “difficult” to get rid of, it is needed.

#### **svchost.exe**

A generic process that is “Service Host” for other processes. Yes, this is actually a service, but I am placing it here because I have no where else to put it. You may have 3 or 4 copies running in task manager (system, network, user, and ?) If you use my tweaking tips in this document, you can rid yourself of a couple of them.

#### **SWTrayV4.EXE**

This is installed with the Microsoft SideWinder Version 4 Software. It takes between 4 MB and 5 MB of RAM.

### **System IDLE Process**

This is a generic process that is used when no other program or process is requiring CPU resources. It is not a bad thing if it is using 99% of your CPU! This process is a 16 k loop that the CPU processes while it is not doing “anything” else. If your computer is called upon to do any other task than “nothing,” the idle process allows that to happen and the % used will decrease accordingly. You can not disable the idle process. If it is using 97% CPU, which only means that the other 3% is used by real programs. If your idle process is constantly at a low rate (for example, 3%) something else, an application or process is using the CPU.

### **taskmgr.exe**

If you are looking at the processes running, this is the application that you are using to do it. “Windows Task Manager” is the full name. It uses about 3.2 MB of RAM, so take that into account when you are tweaking your system.

### **TaskSwitch.exe**

This is installed with PowerToys for XP. It uses 1.4 MB to 2 MB to display those cute icons when you hit Alt+tab. I can do without.

### **vptray.exe**

This is the cute Norton AV Tray application that displays in your system tray. It uses about 2.9 MB just sitting there. You may recover SOME memory by making the icon go away, but it is STILL running in the background.

### **winlogon.exe**

This takes care of login and logoff tasks. Really, you cannot get rid of this process. It is required as long as you are “logged in.” I have seen this process fluctuate between 1.2 MB to 8.5 MB on a system that has been up for only an hour and 1.7 MB and 17 MB on a system that has been up for 40+ days.

### **wowexec.exe**

This is a process that is fired off to help “translate” interrupts, etc for 16 bit applications. If you see this process running, you are doing just that, running old applications or a DOS/command line/console window applications. Try and seek out “updated” software. :)

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