

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Who Should Read This Book	2
How This Book Is Organized	3
Part I: Unleashing Windows 7 Customization	3
Part II: Unleashing Windows 7 Performance and Maintenance	3
Part III: Unleashing Windows 7 Power User Tools	3
Part IV: Unleashing Windows 7 Security	3
Part V: Unleashing Windows 7 Troubleshooting	4
Part VI: Unleashing Windows 7 Networking	4
Part VII: Unleashing Windows 7 Scripting	4
Part VIII: Appendixes	4
Conventions Used in This Book	5
How to Contact Me	6
1 Customizing Windows Explorer	7
Returning the Menus to Their Rightful Place	7
Changing the View	8
Viewing More Properties	9
Turning On File Extensions	11
Stopping Delete Confirmations	13
Running Explorer in Full-Screen Mode	15
Exploring the View Options	16
Moving User Folders	19
Taking Ownership of Your Files	20
Running Custom Searches	22
Using Advanced Query Syntax to Search Properties	22
Using Natural Language Queries	25
2 Customizing Internet Explorer	27
Displaying the Internet Options	28
Controlling the Web Page Cache	28
Configuring the Page History	29
Adding More Search Engines to Internet Explorer	30
Using Any Search Engine from the Address Bar	32
Make Tabs More Efficient	34
Loading Multiple Home Pages at Startup	35
Understanding Internet Explorer's Advanced Options	37

3	Customizing the File System	45
	Understanding File Types	46
	File Types and File Extensions	46
	File Types and the Registry	47
	Working with Existing File Types	49
	Setting the Default Action	49
	Creating a New File Type Action	50
	Example: Opening the Command Prompt in the Current Folder	51
	Hiding a File Type's Extension	52
	Associating an Extension with a Different Application	53
	Associating an Application with Multiple File Types	55
	Creating a New File Type	56
	Associating Two or More Extensions with a Single File Type	57
	Customizing the New Menu	57
	Adding File Types to the New Menu	58
	Deleting File Types from the New Menu	59
	Customizing Windows 7's Open With List	59
	Opening a Document with an Unassociated Application	59
	How the Open With Feature Works	60
	Removing an Application from a File Type's Open With Menu	61
	Removing a Program from the Open With List	61
	Adding a Program to the Open With List	62
	Disabling the Open With Check Box	62
4	Customizing Startup and Shutdown	63
	Customizing Startups Using the Boot Configuration Data	63
	Using Startup and Recovery to Modify the BCD	65
	Using the System Configuration Utility to Modify the BCD	66
	Using BCDEDIT to Customize the Startup Options	69
	Customizing Startups with the Advanced Options Menu	73
	Useful Windows 7 Logon Strategies	76
	Logging On to a Domain	76
	Enabling the Administrator Account	76
	Setting Up an Automatic Logon	79
	Disabling Automatic Logon Override	80
	Setting Up One-Click Restarts and Shutdowns	81
	Create a Restart Shortcut	83
	Create a Shutdown Shortcut	84
	Turning Off Your Windows 7 Computer from Anywhere	84
	Customizing the Start Menu's Power Button	86
	Customizing Your Notebook's Power and Sleep Buttons	87

5	Customizing the Start Menu and Taskbar	89
	Customizing the Start Menu for Easier Program and Document Launching	90
	Getting More Favorite Programs on the Start Menu	90
	Pinning a Favorite Program Permanently to the Start Menu	92
	Clearing the Recent Programs List	94
	Setting Program Access and Defaults	94
	Streamlining the Start Menu by Converting Links to Menus	96
	Adding, Moving, and Removing Other Start Menu Icons	97
	Customizing the Taskbar for Easier Program and Document Launching	98
	Improving Productivity by Setting Taskbar Options	98
	Pinning a Favorite Program to the Taskbar	100
	Pinning a Destination to a Program's Jump List	101
	Using the Windows Key to Start Taskbar Programs	102
	Taking Control of the Notification Area	103
	Displaying Multiple Clocks for Different Time Zones	106
	Displaying the Built-In Taskbar Toolbars	108
	Setting Some Taskbar Toolbar Options	108
	Creating New Taskbar Toolbars	109
	Modifying the Start Menu and Taskbar with Group Policies	109
6	Tuning Windows 7's Performance	111
	Monitoring Performance	112
	Viewing Your Computer's Performance Rating	112
	Monitoring Performance with Task Manager	114
	Using the Resource Monitor	117
	Using the Performance Monitor	119
	Optimizing Startup	121
	Reducing or Eliminating BIOS Checks	121
	Reducing the OS Choices Menu Timeout	122
	Turning Off the Startup Splash Screen	122
	Upgrading Your Device Drivers	123
	Using an Automatic Logon	123
	Configuring the Prefetcher	123
	Optimizing Applications	123
	Adding More Memory	124
	Installing to the Fastest Hard Drive	124
	Optimizing Application Launching	124
	Getting the Latest Device Drivers	124
	Optimizing Windows 7 for Programs	124
	Setting the Program Priority in Task Manager	125

Optimizing the Hard Disk	126
Examining Hard Drive Performance Specifications	126
Performing Hard Drive Maintenance	127
Disabling Compression and Encryption	128
Turning Off the Content Indexing	128
Enabling Write Caching	128
Converting FAT16 and FAT32 Partitions to NTFS	129
Turning Off 8.3 Filename Creation	130
Disabling Last Access Timestamp	130
Optimizing Virtual Memory	131
Storing the Page File Optimally	131
Splitting the Page File	131
Customizing the Page File Size	131
Watching the Page File Size	132
Changing the Paging File's Location and Size	132
7 Maintaining Your Windows 7 System	135
Checking Your Hard Disk for Errors	135
Understanding Clusters	137
Understanding Cycles	138
Running the Check Disk GUI	138
Checking Free Disk Space	140
Deleting Unnecessary Files	143
Defragmenting Your Hard Disk	145
Running the Disk Defragmenter Tool	146
Changing the Disk Defragmenter Schedule	147
Changing Which Disks Get Defragmented	148
Preparing for Trouble	149
Setting System Restore Points	149
Creating a System Repair Disc	152
Backing Up Your Files	153
Configuring Automatic File Backups	155
Creating a System Image Backup	157
Checking for Updates and Security Patches	158
Reviewing Event Viewer Logs	160
Setting Up a 9-Step Maintenance Schedule	162
8 Controlling Windows 7 with Control Panel	165
Touring the Control Panel Window	166
Reviewing the Control Panel Icons	167
Understanding Control Panel Files	172
Easier Access to Control Panel	175

Alternative Methods for Opening Control Panel Icons	175
Putting Control Panel on the Start Menu	176
Removing an Icon from Control Panel	177
Showing Only Specified Control Panel Icons	178
9 Policing Windows 7 with Group Policies	181
Understanding Group Policies	181
Local Group Policy Editor and Windows Versions	182
Launching the Local Group Policy Editor	183
Working with Group Policies	184
Configuring a Policy	185
Filtering Policies	187
Group Policy Examples	189
Customizing the Windows Security Window	189
Customizing the Places Bar	191
Increasing the Size of the Recent Documents List	193
Enabling the Shutdown Event Tracker	194
10 Configuring the Microsoft Management Console	197
Reviewing the Windows 7 Snap-Ins	197
Launching the MMC	200
Adding a Snap-In	200
Saving a Console	202
Creating a Custom Taskpad View	203
Controlling Snap-Ins with Group Policies	207
11 Controlling Services	209
Controlling Services with the Services Snap-In	209
Controlling Services at the Command Prompt	212
Controlling Services with a Script	213
Disable Services for Faster Performance	217
Make Windows Shut Down Services Faster	222
Reset a Broken Service	222
12 Tweaking the Windows 7 Registry	225
Firing Up the Registry Editor	226
Getting to Know the Registry	227
Navigating the Keys Pane	227
Understanding Registry Settings	228
Getting to Know the Registry's Root Keys	229
Understanding Hives and Registry Files	231

Keeping the Registry Safe	233
Preventing Other Folks from Messing with the Registry	233
Backing Up the Registry	234
Saving the Current Registry State with System Restore	234
Protecting Keys by Exporting Them to Disk	235
Working with Registry Entries	236
Changing the Value of a Registry Entry	237
Renaming a Key or Setting	243
Creating a New Key or Setting	243
Deleting a Key or Setting	243
Finding Registry Entries	244
13 Controlling Windows 7 from the Command Line	245
Getting to the Command Line	246
Running Command Prompt as the Administrator	246
Running CMD	247
Working at the Command Line	251
Running Commands	251
Working with Long Filenames	252
Changing Folders Faster	253
Taking Advantage of DOSKEY	254
Redirecting Command Output and Input	256
Piping Commands	259
Understanding Batch File Basics	260
Creating Batch Files	260
REM: Adding Comments to a Batch File	261
ECHO: Displaying Messages from a Batch File	261
PAUSE: Temporarily Halting Batch File Execution	262
Using Batch File Parameters	263
FOR: Looping in a Batch File	264
GOTO: Jumping to a Line in a Batch File	265
IF: Handling Batch File Conditions	266
Working with the Command-Line Tools	269
Working with Disk Management Tools	269
Working with File and Folder Management Tools	276
Working with System Management Tools	288
14 Securing Windows 7	297
Thwarting Snoops and Crackers	297
First, Some Basic Precautions	298
Locking Your Computer	300
Requiring Ctrl+Alt+Delete at Startup	302

Checking Your Computer's Security Settings	303
Making Sure Windows Firewall Is Turned On	303
Making Sure Windows Defender Is Turned On	303
Making Sure User Account Control Is Turned On	307
Making Sure the Administrator Account Is Disabled	307
Managing Windows Firewall	308
Making Sure the Firewall Is Up to Snuff	309
Creating a Windows Firewall Exception	309
15 Configuring Internet Explorer Security	315
Enhancing Your Browsing Privacy	316
Deleting Your Browsing History	316
Clearing the Address Bar List	320
Enhancing Online Privacy by Managing Cookies	322
Total Privacy: InPrivate Browsing and Filtering	325
Enhancing Your Browsing Security	327
Blocking Pop-Up Windows	327
Adding and Removing Zone Sites	328
Changing a Zone's Security Level	330
Protected Mode: Reducing Internet Explorer's Privileges	331
Thwarting Phishers with the SmartScreen Filter	332
Encoding Addresses to Prevent IDN Spoofing	334
Managing Add-Ons	336
Total Security: Internet Explorer Without Add-Ons	336
Understand Internet Explorer's Advanced Security Options	337
16 Implementing Email Security	341
Protecting Yourself Against Email Viruses	341
Configuring Windows Defender to Scan Email	345
Thwarting Spam with Windows Live Mail's Junk Filter	345
Setting the Junk Email Protection Level	347
Specifying Safe Senders	348
Blocking Senders	349
Blocking Countries and Languages	349
Email Phishing Protection	350
Maintaining Your Privacy While Reading Email	351
Blocking Read Receipts	352
Squashing Web Bugs	352
Sending and Receiving Secure Email	353
Setting Up an Email Account with a Digital ID	354
Obtaining Another Person's Public Key	355

Sending a Secure Message	356
Receiving a Secure Message	356
17 Securing the File System	359
Setting Security Permissions on Files and Folders	359
Assigning a User to a Security Group	361
Assigning a User to Multiple Security Groups	362
Assigning Standard Permissions	363
Assigning Special Permissions	364
Encrypting Files and Folders	366
Encrypting a Disk with BitLocker	367
Enabling BitLocker on a System with a TPM	369
Enabling BitLocker on a System Without a TPM	369
18 Setting Up User Security	373
Understanding User Account Control (UAC)	374
Elevating Privileges	375
Configuring User Account Control	377
User Account Control Policies	379
Creating and Enforcing Bulletproof Passwords	380
Creating a Strong Password	381
User Account Password Options	381
Taking Advantage of Windows 7's Password Policies	382
Recovering from a Forgotten Password	383
Creating and Managing User Accounts	384
Working with the User Accounts Dialog Box	386
Working with the Local Users and Groups Snap-In	388
Setting Account Policies	389
Setting Account Security Policies	389
Setting User Rights Policies	391
Setting Account Lockout Policies	391
Working with Users and Groups from the Command Line	393
The NET USER Command	393
The NET LOCALGROUP Command	394
Using Parental Controls to Restrict Computer Usage	395
Activating Parental Controls	395
Example: Setting Up Parental Controls for Games	397
More User Security Tricks	400
Preventing Elevation for All Standard Users	400
Closing Off Your Computer by Disabling All Other Users	402
Hiding Usernames in the Logon Screen	403

	Renaming Built-In Accounts for Better Security	405
	Using the Guest Account to Give Folks Temporary Access	406
	Determining Who Is Logged On	407
19	Implementing Network Security	409
	Configuring Windows 7 for Secure Networking	410
	Making Sure Password-Protected Sharing Is Enabled	410
	Deactivating the Sharing Wizard	410
	Setting Sharing Permissions on Shared Folders	411
	Setting Security Permissions on Shared Folders	414
	Hiding Your Shared Folders	415
	Disabling the Hidden Administrative Shares	417
	Removing Stored Remote Desktop Credentials	418
	Preventing Users from Logging On at Certain Times	420
	Setting a User's Logon Hours	421
	Automatically Logging Off a User When the Logon Hours Expire	422
20	Tightening Wireless Network Security	423
	Displaying the Router's Setup Pages	424
	Entering the Router's IP Address	424
	Using the Network Window	426
	Specifying a New Administrative Password	428
	Positioning the Access Point for Maximum Security	428
	Encrypting Wireless Signals with WPA	430
	Changing the Wireless Connection Security Properties	431
	Disabling Network SSID Broadcasting	432
	Connecting to a Hidden Wireless Network	434
	Changing the Default SSID	435
	Enabling MAC Address Filtering	436
	Getting the MAC Address of Your Wireless NIC	437
21	Troubleshooting and Recovering from Problems	439
	Troubleshooting Strategies: Determining the Source of a Problem	440
	Did You Get an Error Message?	440
	Does an Error or Warning Appear in the Event Viewer Logs?	441
	Does an Error Appear in System Information?	442
	Did You Recently Edit the Registry?	442
	Did You Recently Change Any Windows Settings?	442
	Did Windows 7 "Spontaneously" Reboot?	442

Did You Recently Change Any Application Settings?	445
Did You Recently Install a New Program?	446
Did You Recently Install a New Device?	446
Did You Recently Install an Incompatible Device Driver?	447
Did You Recently Apply an Update from Windows Update?	447
General Troubleshooting Tips	447
More Troubleshooting Tools	448
Running the Windows 7 Troubleshooters	448
Understanding Disk Diagnostics	449
Understanding Resource Exhaustion Detection	450
Running the Memory Diagnostics Tool	451
Checking for Solutions to Problems	452
Troubleshooting Using Online Resources	455
Recovering from a Problem	456
Booting Using the Last Known Good Configuration	456
Recovering Using System Restore	457
22 Troubleshooting Devices	461
Managing Your Hardware with Device Manager	462
Controlling the Device Display	463
Viewing Device Properties	463
Showing Nonpresent Devices in Device Manager	464
Working with Device Drivers	464
Configuring Windows to Ignore Unsigned Device Drivers	466
Writing a Complete List of Device Drivers to a Text File	469
Uninstalling a Device	471
Working with Device Security Policies	472
Troubleshooting Device Problems	472
Troubleshooting with Device Manager	473
Displaying a List of Nonworking Devices	474
Troubleshooting Device Driver Problems	477
Tips for Downloading Device Drivers	478
Troubleshooting Resource Conflicts	479
23 Troubleshooting Startup	481
First Things First: Some Things to Try Before Anything Else	481
When to Use the Various Advanced Startup Options	482
Safe Mode	483
Safe Mode with Networking	483
Safe Mode with Command Prompt	483
Enable Boot Logging	483
Enable Low-Resolution Video (640×480)	484

	Last Known Good Configuration	484
	Directory Services Restore Mode	484
	Debugging Mode	484
	Disable Automatic Restart on System Failure	484
	Disable Driver Signature Enforcement	485
	What to Do If Windows 7 Won't Start in Safe Mode	485
	Recovering Using the System Recovery Options	485
	Troubleshooting Startup Using the System Configuration Utility	487
24	Troubleshooting Networking	491
	Repairing a Network Connection	491
	Checking the Connection Status	493
	General Solutions to Network Problems	494
	Turning On Network Discovery	495
	Updating the Router Firmware	497
	Troubleshooting from the Command Line	499
	A Basic Command-Line Troubleshooting Procedure	501
	Checking Connectivity with the PING Command	502
	Tracking Packets with the TRACERT Command	504
	Troubleshooting Cables	506
	Troubleshooting the NIC	507
	Troubleshooting Wireless Network Problems	508
25	Setting Up a Small Network	511
	Setting Up a Peer-to-Peer Network	512
	Changing the Computer and Workgroup Name	513
	Connecting to a Wireless Network	514
	Working with Windows 7's Basic Network Tools and Tasks	516
	Accessing the Network and Sharing Center	516
	Setting Up a Homegroup	518
	Turning Off Homegroup Connections	522
	Viewing Network Computers and Devices	523
	Displaying a Network Map	524
	Viewing Network Status Details	525
	Customizing Your Network	528
	Managing Network Connections	529
	Opening the Network Connections Window	530
	Renaming a Network Connection	530
	Enabling Automatic IP Addressing	531
	Setting Up a Static IP Address	534
	Finding a Connection's MAC Address	537

Using a Network Connection to Wake Up a Sleeping Computer	539
Disabling a Network Connection	541
Managing Wireless Network Connections	542
Opening the Manage Wireless Networks Window	542
Creating an Ad Hoc Wireless Network	543
Working with Wireless Connection Properties	545
Renaming Wireless Connections	548
Reordering Wireless Connections	548
Creating User-Specific Wireless Connections	549
Removing Wireless Connections	551
26 Accessing and Using Your Network	553
Accessing Shared Network Resources	554
Viewing a Computer's Shared Resources	554
Working with Network Addresses	556
Mapping a Network Folder to a Local Drive Letter	558
Creating the Mapped Network Folder	559
Mapping Folders at the Command Line	561
Disconnecting a Mapped Network Folder	561
Creating a Network Location for a Remote Folder	562
Accessing a Shared Printer	563
Sharing Resources with the Network	565
Setting Sharing Options	566
Creating User Accounts for Sharing	567
Monitoring Your Shared Resources	568
Working with Network Files Offline	571
Activating the Offline Files Feature	572
Making a File or Folder Available for Offline Use	572
Changing the Amount of Disk Space Used by Offline Files	574
Prohibiting a Network Folder from Being Made Available Offline	575
Encrypting Offline Files	577
Working with Network Files While You're Offline	577
Synchronizing Your Offline Files	579
Dealing with Synchronization Conflicts	582
27 Making Remote Network Connections	585
Setting Up the Remote Computer as a Host	586
Windows Versions That Can Act as Hosts	586
Setting Up User Accounts on the Host	586

Configuring Windows 7 or Vista to Act as a Remote Desktop Host	587
Configuring XP to Act as a Remote Desktop Host	590
Installing Remote Desktop on an XP Client Computer	591
Connecting to the Remote Desktop	592
Making a Basic Connection	592
Making an Advanced Connection	593
Working with the Connection Bar	598
Disconnecting from the Remote Desktop	599
Connecting to a Remote Desktop via the Internet	599
Changing the Listening Port	600
Configuring Windows Firewall	601
Determining the Host IP Address	602
Setting Up Port Forwarding	602
Connecting Using the IP Address and New Port	603
Using Dynamic DNS to Access Your Network	604
Configuring a Network Computer for Remote Administration	605
Using Virtual Private Network Connections	605
Configuring a Network Gateway for VPN	606
Configuring the VPN Client	608
Making the VPN Connection	609
28 Turning Windows 7 into a Web Server	611
Understanding Internet Information Services	612
Installing Internet Information Services	613
Accessing Your Website	614
Creating a Windows Firewall Exception for the Web Server	614
Accessing Your Website over the Network	615
Accessing Your Website over the Internet	617
Understanding the Default Website	617
Viewing the Default Website Folder	618
Viewing the Default Website with IIS Manager	619
Adding Folders and Files to the Default Website	621
Setting Permissions on the Default Website Folder	621
Adding a File to the Default Website	622
Changing the Default Website Home Page	624
Adding a Folder to the Default Website	626
Controlling and Customizing Your Website	628
Stopping Your Website	628
Restarting Your Website	629

Renaming the Default Website	629
Changing the Website Location	630
Setting the Website's Default Document	631
Working Without a Default Document	632
Disabling Anonymous Access	635
Viewing the Server Logs	637
29 Adding Macs to Your Windows 7 Network	641
Making Sure That SMB Support Is Activated in Mac OS X Tiger	641
Connecting to the Windows Network	643
Connecting to a Windows Shared Folder	644
Connecting to a Seen Windows PC	644
Connecting to an Unseen Windows PC	645
Working with the Windows PC's Shared Folders	647
Unmounting a Windows Shared Folder	648
Backing Up Mac Data to a Windows Shared Folder	648
Using a Mac to Make a Remote Desktop Connection to Windows 7	649
Letting Windows Computers See Your Mac Shares	652
30 Scripting Windows 7 with WSH	657
Understanding Windows Script Host	657
Scripts and Script Execution	659
Running Script Files Directly	660
Using WScript for Windows-Based Scripts	660
Using CScript for Command-Line Scripts	661
Script Properties and .wsh Files	662
Running a Script as the Administrator	664
Programming Objects	665
Working with Object Properties	666
Working with Object Methods	667
Assigning an Object to a Variable	668
Working with Object Collections	669
Programming the WScript Object	670
Displaying Text to the User	671
Shutting Down a Script	671
Scripting and Automation	671
Programming the WshShell Object	677
Referencing the WshShell Object	677
Displaying Information to the User	677
Running Applications	681

Working with Shortcuts	682
Working with Registry Entries	685
Working with Environment Variables	687
Programming the WshNetwork Object	689
Referencing the WshNetwork Object	689
WshNetwork Object Properties	689
Mapping Network Printers	689
Mapping Network Drives	690
Example: Scripting Internet Explorer	691
Displaying a Web Page	691
Navigating Pages	692
Using the InternetExplorer Object's Properties	693
Running Through a Sample Script	693
Programming the Windows Management Instrumentation Service	695
Referencing the WMI Service Object	695
Returning Class Instances	696
Scripting a Remote Computer	700
31 Scripting Windows with PowerShell	703
Getting Started with PowerShell	704
Starting a PowerShell Session	704
Understanding PowerShell Cmdlets	705
Running PowerShell Cmdlets	709
Scripting Objects	714
Returning Object Members	714
Selecting Object Members	715
A Brief Aside About Formatting Output	717
Filtering Object Instances	719
Sorting Object Instances	720
Assigning an Object to a Variable	722
Working with Object Properties	723
Returning the Value of a Property	723
Setting the Value of a Property	723
Working with Object Methods	724
Working with Object Collections	724
Creating PowerShell Scripts	726
Setting the Script Execution Policy	726
Working with the PowerShell Integrated Scripting Environment	726
Running PowerShell Scripts	728

A	Windows 7 Keyboard Shortcuts	731
B	Understanding TCP/IP	741
	What Is TCP/IP?	742
	Understanding IP	743
	The Structure of an IP Datagram	743
	The Structure of an IP Address	745
	IP Routing	748
	Dynamic IP Addressing	751
	Domain Name Resolution	751
	Understanding TCP	755
	TCP Sockets	755
	The Structure of a TCP Segment	756
	TCP Features	758
	Index	759