

## Advice on Taming Your Unruly Computer

CONTROL WHICH PROGRAMS LAUNCH AT START-UP – by Allen Stein

Almost every program that you install on your computer wants to be running all of the time. The important and essential ones should run in the background as part of Windows Services and actually this is an efficient way to protect your computer with antivirus, anti-spyware, and firewalls. Other programs such as media players, Office Suites, and picture editing programs don't need to be running all of the time and use valuable system resources which slow down your computer and make it sluggish.

We Computer Tamers recommend that you stop these unessential programs from running in the background when you startup your computer. They can be started when you want to use them.

*Windows System Configuration Utility* is one way to have these startup programs listed for you. You can stop those you want to stop with it as well. You can launch this helpful utility by clicking on START and then click on RUN and typing into the field *msconfig*. Once the program runs, click on the STARTUP tab and you can then disable the unwanted programs by taking the checkmark out of the box by clicking on it. It is safe to stop these programs listed in the window since Windows only puts in the display the nonessential ones.

We Computer Tamers also recommend a download of a free program that makes controlling your startup even easier. This program is helpful and has proven to be one of the best available. Go to <http://www.mlin.net/StartupMonitor.shtml> to download and install this program written by Mike Lin. You can then run it to maintain your startup functions.

If you stop the nonessential programs from running at startup your computer will be faster thereby making computing more fun.

A warning: be sure not to stop your antivirus, anti-spyware and firewall programs since they need to be ready to launch a defense when your computer is attacked.

Allen is one of JASAsolutions' Computer Tamers who host The Computer Club heard every Wednesday after the 5 o'clock news on WILI AM 14. You can learn more about getting your unruly computer under control by visiting [www.TheComputerTamers.com](http://www.TheComputerTamers.com) and explore the free information compiled there for you. Be sure to visit the Computer Tamers Store at 197 Trumbull Hwy. Lebanon.

