

## By Jack Wallen

Any long time [Microsoft Windows](#) user knows that a single corrupt registry entry can kill an entire Windows installation. And, if you do not have the skills to manually edit your Windows registry, having an application to simplify registry editing can make life so much easier. Of course there are plenty of proprietary registry cleaners, but there are also open source registry cleaners as well.

One of these open source tools is [Little Registry Cleaner](#). In this blog post we will take a look at this open source registry cleaner to see if it can handle the task

## Little Registry Cleaner features

Little Registry Cleaner (LRC) is one of the nicest and easiest of all of the registry cleaners (open source or not). This tool puts you a mere two clicks away from fixing your registry. But LRC doesn't limit you to only scanning and fixing your registry. LRC also offers the following features:

- Detects and removes unnecessary and/or inaccurate registry entries from the registry
- Offers an easy to use start up manager to control what applications are starting at boot
- Opens regedit from a menu entry
- Includes Ignore List
- Gives you Registry restore ability
- Allows you to uninstall applications with an Application Manager
- Provides a simple user interface

Judging from the feature list, one could conclude the name of the application not appropriate. Fortunately, for the user, the features all work and work well.

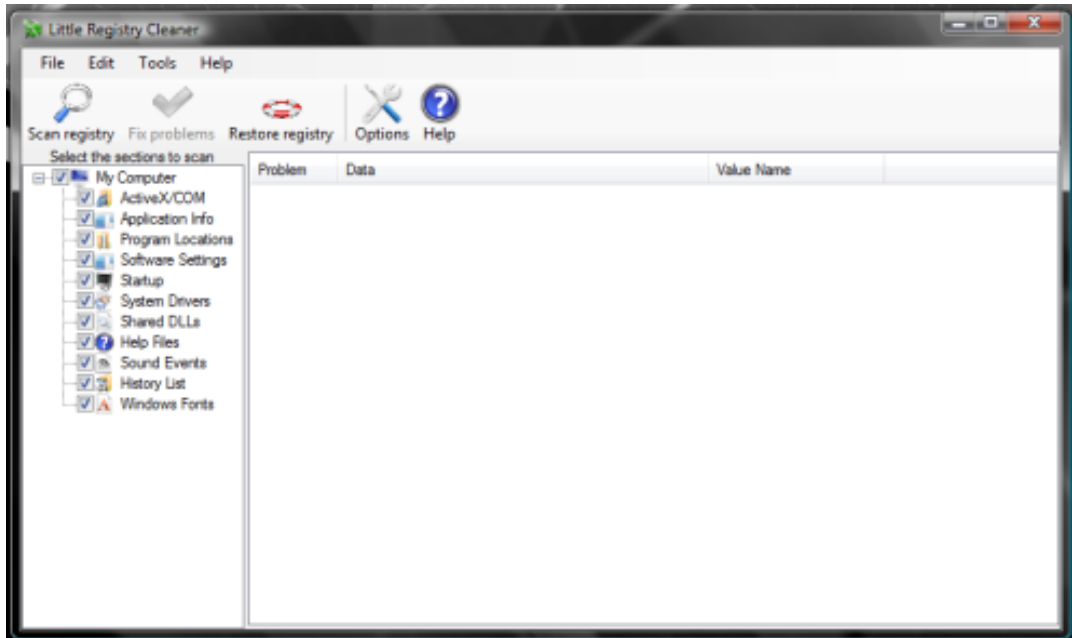
## Getting and installing

Installing Little Registry Cleaner is fairly standard. [Download the installation file](#), double-click on the file, and walk through the installation steps. Once the installation is complete you will find the entry in its own sub menu of the start menu called Little Registry Cleaner.

When you start up Little Registry Cleaner, the main window (**Figure A**) allows you to do everything you need to do (outside of making any configuration changes.)

Repair your corrupted Windows registry file the easy way

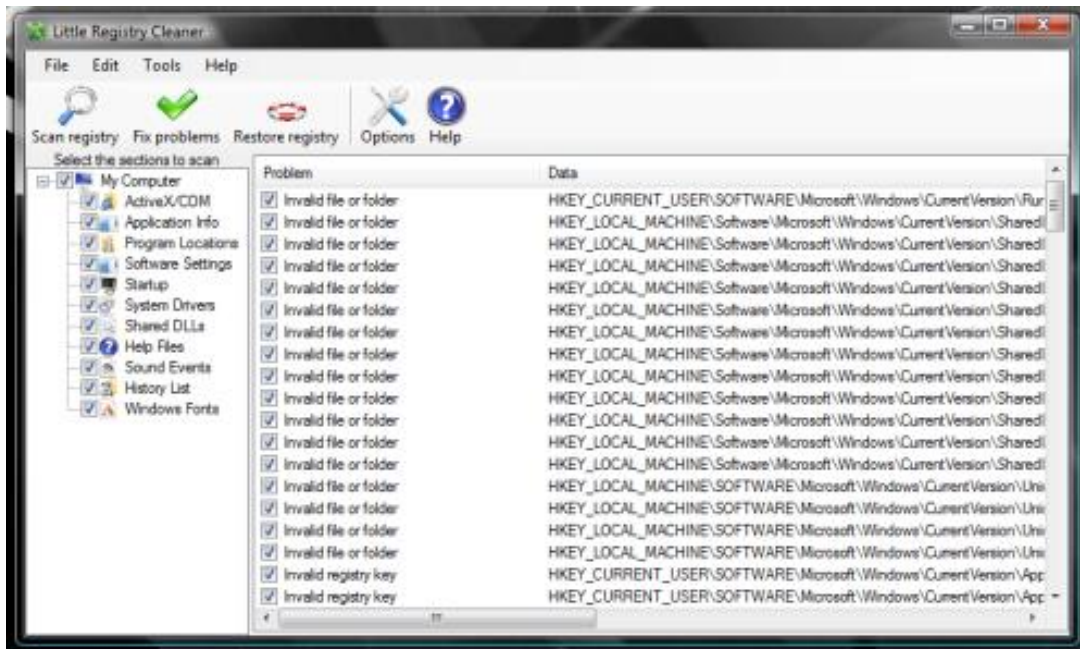
Figure A



Little Registry Cleaner's main window allows easy access to all features.

Using Little Registry Cleaner, as stated earlier, is a snap. With the main window open you can quickly run a scan of the registry by clicking "Scan registry". The scan will happen quickly and will report all errors found (**Figure B**).

Figure B



Looks like LRC found a few errors.

To repair any errors simply click the Fix problems button.

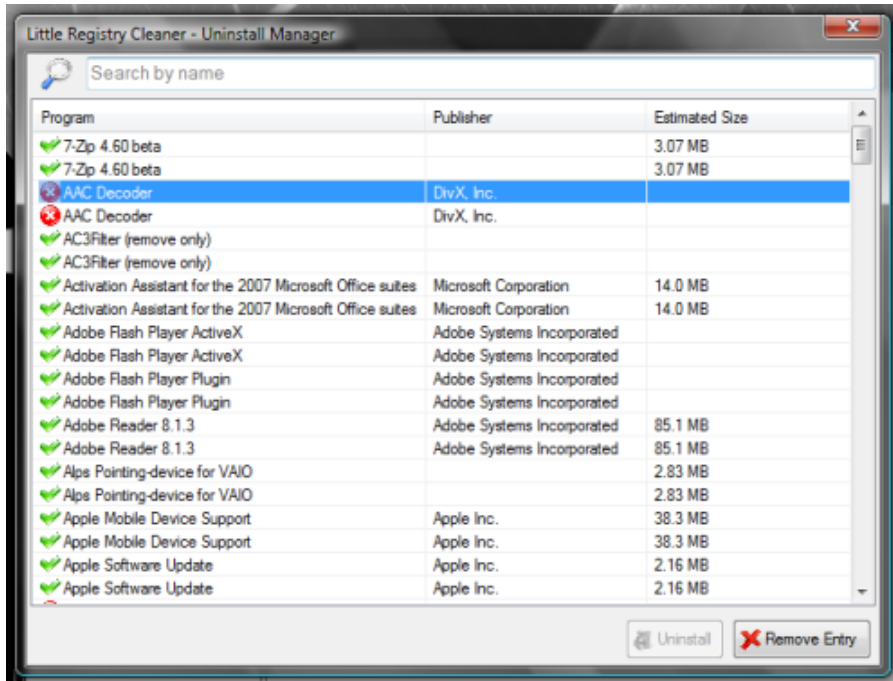
## Repair your corrupted Windows registry file the easy way

Outside of doing a marvelous job of cleaning the registry, one of the best features of this tool is the uninstall feature. Why is this so nice? Because not only does it uninstall the application, it makes sure all registry entries are taken care of as well.

To uninstall an application, click on the Tools menu and select the Uninstall Manager. This new window (**Figure C**) will allow you to do two things:

- Uninstall applications, and
- Remove stray registry entries that have remained after applications have been uninstalled

**Figure C**



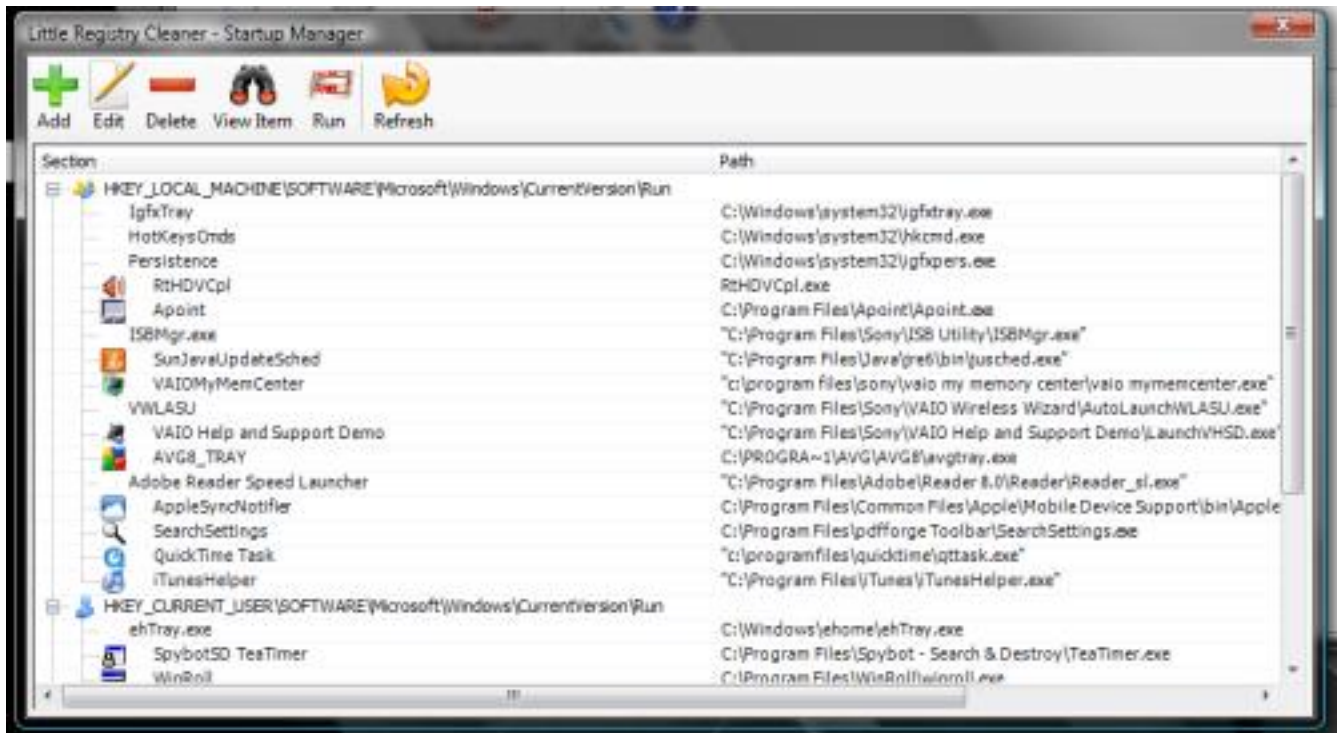
*If there is an X beside an entry it is a left-over registry entry that needs to be removed.*

To remove a registry entry, select that entry and click the Remove Entry button. To uninstall an application, select the application and click the Uninstall button.

## Startup Manager

If you look at the Startup Manager main window (**Figure D**) you will see how many systems (and sub-systems) start upon a Vista boot. With Little Registry Cleaner it's a simple matter to control all of these systems.

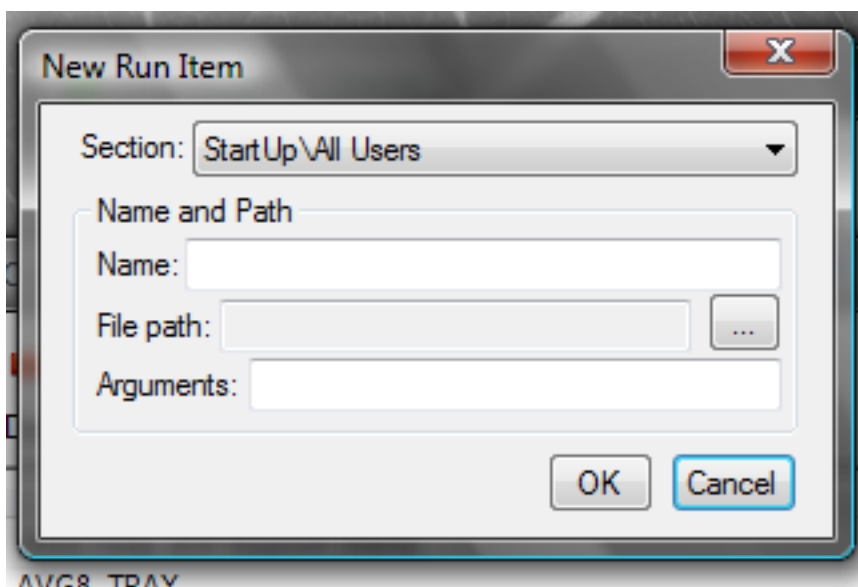
Figure D



Clicking on the View button will take you directly to that items registry entry.

To add a new run item click on the Add button to open up the New Run Item window (Figure E). In this new window you need to add a Name, File Path (this is the path to the executable), and any Arguments necessary for the executable.

Figure E

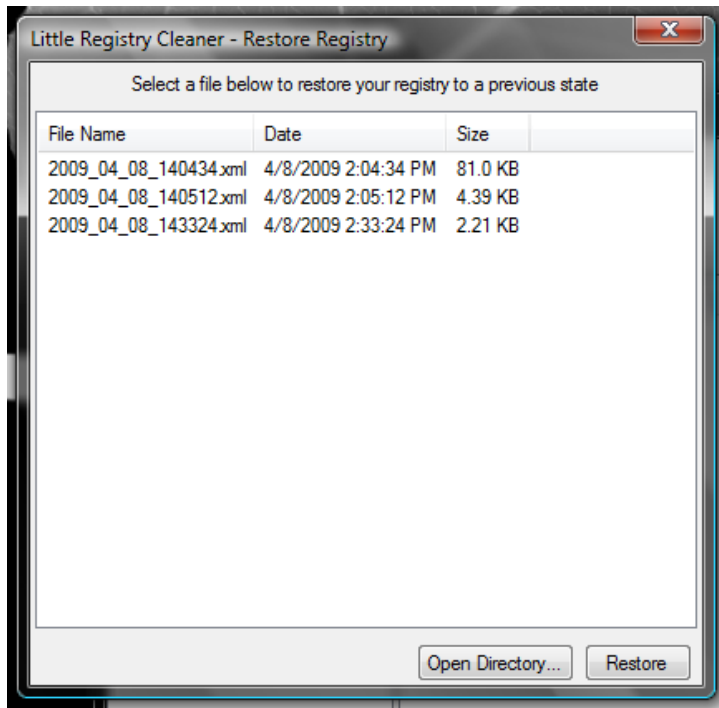


To add the File Path click the "... " button and search for the explicit path.

## Registry Restore

The final feature of Little Registry Cleaner is the Registry Restore. If you click the Restore Registry button, you will open up a list of saved entries (**Figure F**) to choose from.

**Figure F**



What you see is a list of saved registries to select from.

Each time you scan and fix your registry, Little Registry Cleaner saves a copy of your registry so you will always have a working copy. To restore to another registry select the registry you know you want and then click the Restore button. You will notice (Figure F) that the three registries all show a different size. This size differential is due to the use of Little Registry Cleaner. As you can see the first registry was quite a bit larger than that other two.

When you click the restore button you will be asked if you are sure. Of course you always want to be careful when making changes to your registry as you can cause your machine to be unusable.

## Final thoughts

If you are looking for a simple way to clean and fix your registry, but want to have a few extra bells and whistles along for the ride, Little Registry Cleaner is the way you need to go.

*TechRepublic's Windows Vista and Windows 7 Report newsletter, delivered every Friday, offers tips, news, and scuttlebutt on Vista and Windows 7, including a look at new features in the latest version of the Windows OS. [Automatically sign up today!](#)*

## Additional resources

- TechRepublic's [Downloads RSS Feed](#) 
- Sign up for TechRepublic's [Downloads Weekly Update](#) newsletter
- Check out all of TechRepublic's [free newsletters](#)

## Version history

**Version:** 1.0

**Published:** May 11, 2009

## Tell us what you think

TechRepublic downloads are designed to help you get your job done as painlessly and effectively as possible. Because we're continually looking for ways to improve the usefulness of these tools, we need your feedback. Please take a minute to [drop us a line](#) and tell us how well this download worked for you and offer your suggestions for improvement.

Thanks!

—The TechRepublic Downloads Team