



June/July, 2022

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My turn.....



The good news—at least for me—is that I'mmm back!

Portugal was very interesting, but the overriding issue was always “will I pass the final exam and be able to fly home as scheduled?” That made it a whole lot less fun than it could have been. My group consisted of 10 knowledgeable photographers including the leader. We spent time in Lisbon, Porto, Evora, and Lagos. Eight of us managed to stay healthy for the entire trip, but people were constantly testing and we were forced to mask up when on our bus. I, like most of you probably, hate having to wear a mask. But it's important to keep me well, so I do it when and where necessary. I look forward to the day when we can put them aside for good. I hope it comes soon.

As far as Portugal itself, it's quite a nice place. The people are like almost everywhere I've been: friendly. Lisbon and Porto are very hilly and that took quite a toll on my leg muscles. A major part of that is that I was mostly carrying my camera backpack, which because it is a roller, probably weighed upwards of 25 lbs. (which is 3-5 lbs. more than my regular backpack). I haven't been that sore for a long, long time. OTOH, I haven't traveled for a long, long time.

The food was good, and if you like seafood, you'd have been in heaven. The Portuguese have mastered cooking squid and octopus (not to mention “regular” fish). Talk about “white meat”! At my age, I don't want to say that anything is *to die for*, but the **breakfasts** were really, really good.

Maybe you're wondering how many photos I took? Just under 2000 as it turned out. That's probably small by other people's count (I know one of the other folks took over 3600), but it means fewer images to edit. In the end, I expect to delete 1500 or more.

I hope to see you at some in-person events in the not-too-distant future.

Ta-ta for now!

Next printed issue: mid-August, 2022

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Right-Click Your Mouse—Best Shortcut Ever!

By Jim Cerny, Help Desk Host, Sarasota Technology Users Group
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If you are not familiar with the power of **RIGHT**-clicking your mouse, you are in for a great Windows tip to help you in almost every place on your computer. Of course, everyone should be familiar with **LEFT**-clicking the mouse to select things and options. Computer instructions say “click on” this or that, and it is understood that they mean **LEFT** click. But the **RIGHT** mouse button is also a big help, and instructions should always specify “**RIGHT**-click” when you are to use that button.

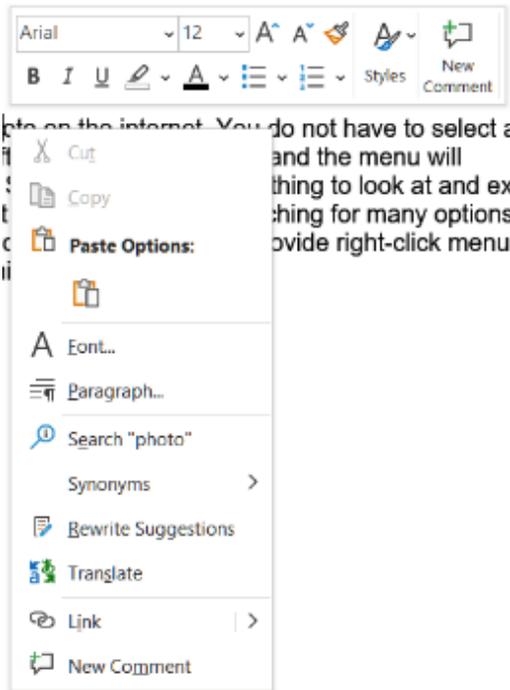
What does “**right**-clicking” your mouse do on Windows? Well, and this is the core of this article; **right**-clicking your mouse on anything makes a menu of options appear for that item. This works for almost anything you can see on your monitor. So let’s look at a few examples for you to try to show you what a helpful shortcut this can be.

Place your mouse arrow (cursor) anywhere on your desktop (on an empty area, not an icon). Now **right**-click your mouse, and a menu of choices or commands appears for what you can do. For example, you will see options such as “View,” which allows you to change how you view what is on your desktop. Or “Sort by,” which gives you options for sorting what is on your desktop. If you don’t know what a command or option does, ask your favorite search engine.

For another example, place your cursor on a *blank* area on the Taskbar (probably) at the bottom of your desktop. **Right-click**, and you will see options of what you can do with your Taskbar – such as locking or unlocking the Taskbar, arranging open windows on your screen, and more. You can even **LEFT** click on “Taskbar settings” to go directly to the Taskbar settings

options. So have fun and TRY something! (Remember to always use a LEFT click to select a menu option.)

For a third example, let's say you are editing text in a document. First, drag your mouse over some text to highlight it (aka "selecting" the text). Now **right-click** on the highlighted text, and viola, you see options of what you can do with that text. You can select "cut," "copy," or "paste," for example, or change the font or make it a new paragraph.



If you have not realized the power of **right-clicking** your mouse, then you should be saying "WOW, this is so cool!" Now you can have some fun trying **right-clicks** anywhere and everywhere. Try **right-clicking** on an icon, a cell in a spreadsheet, a file or folder name in File Explorer, or a photo on the internet. You do not have to select an option on the menu that appears; left-click somewhere else, and the menu will disappear (ED: or just hit **ESC**), and nothing will happen. So, you won't change a thing to look at and explore. **Right-clicking** is a great shortcut that will save you time searching for many options or choices. Most apps (applications, programs, etc.) will also provide **right-click** menus too. Why not give it a try?

You have nothing to lose but a click.

###

[Understanding Internet Speed](#)

By Joe Callison, Author, Convener, Senior Techies SIG,
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How fast is my internet connection? Am I getting what I am paying for? These are typical concerns for consumers, especially if they think their internet connection is too slow. We will look at this from the top-down, starting with the service from the internet provider to the residence or business, then the modem/router that provides the local network over Ethernet and Wi-Fi, and finally the adapters in the computing devices connected to the local network.

Internet service is provided under language like “speeds up to” many megabits per second (Mbps). This is the maximum speed that will be delivered with the lightest load on the providers’ distribution system. Suppose many consumers happen to be streaming movies simultaneously on the same network branch that you are connected to. In that case, you may only experience 80 or 90 percent of the maximum speed. This possibility should be considered before you decide on what speed of service you need. Do you know what speed you need? I doubt that most people do. Let’s look at some of the requirements.

Netflix recommends 3 Mbps for standard quality video (SD), 5 Mbps for high-definition video (HD), and 25 Mbps for ultra high definition video (UHD). Hulu recommends 3 Mbps for content from their streaming library, 8 Mbps for live streaming, and 16 Mbps for 4K content. Remember that if you have two people in the household or business who may be streaming videos simultaneously, these requirements will double, and for four people, would quadruple. To ensure that you always receive at least these speeds from your provider, you should increase the total simultaneous requirements by 25%. Suppose you don’t stream high-definition movies (or games) over the internet at all. In that case, you can use a rule of thumb of 5 Mbps for each simultaneous connection to the internet, which is plenty adequate for email, internet browsing, standard quality video or video conferencing, and such.

The modem/router which may be leased or purchased from your internet service provider or provided by you must be capable of handling the total simultaneous network requirements, in addition to providing each connected device with its needed speed.

Old “G” routers (802.11g) generally have either 10 or 100 Mbps for each wired connection and a maximum of 54 Mbps for Wi-Fi connections. The Wi-Fi speed will drop dramatically as the distance from the router increases. The “N” routers may have a single 2.4 GHz radio like the “G” routers or may have both a 2.4 GHz and a 5 GHz radio (dual band). The single band generally provides up to 300 Mbps, and the dual-band up to 600 Mbps (total for both bands). The wired connections may be 100 or 1000 Mbps. Newer “AC” routers are all dual-band and are often identified by a total combined Wi-Fi speed such as AC1200 for one with a 300 Mbps 2.4 GHz radio and 900 Mbps for a 5 GHz radio, or AC1900 for one with a 600 Mbps 2.4 GHz radio and 1300 Mbps for a 5 GHz radio. Wired ports are generally rated for 1000 Mbps. A modem and or router may have a total bandwidth limitation that is less than the sum of the ratings of all individual connections. In other words, a

router with four wired ports rated 1000 Mbps each may only be capable of delivering a fraction of that if all ports are active simultaneously. Unfortunately, the bandwidth rating is often a very difficult specification number to find.

The wired Ethernet adapter or Wi-Fi adapter in your computer or other internet-connected devices may also be a G, N, or AC capable type with its own specifications for speed. For the last several years, computers have included wired adapters rated 1000 Mbps. The ratings for Wi-Fi adapters vary greatly, as does their antenna's capability to send and receive signals over distance. For example, the 5 GHz adapter in the laptop I am using connects to the router at 390 Mbps at a distance of about 20 feet. An external USB 3.0 Wi-Fi adapter I recently tested connects at over 700 Mbps from the same distance. For those with 1000 Mbps internet service, the Ethernet cable used for wired connections can limit achievable speeds. It will generally be necessary for cables over a few feet in length to use CAT 5e or CAT 6 cables to obtain maximum speeds.

Ultimately, the most interesting number is the speed we can actually get at our computer or device. The [speedtest.net](https://www.speedtest.net) site is often used to test the speed between your device and a selected server on the internet. For the most accurate test, other background tasks that could be connected to the internet should be temporarily halted. Also, note that the site recommends using their app for testing connections rated 100 Mbps or more instead of the browser version. I have tested both ways on my 1000 Mbps capable internet service, and the browser version showed 394 Mbps compared to over 900 Mbps with the app. Real-world connections can be much slower than the test speeds because of the load on the servers for a particular website you are connecting to. Using a VPN service also generally results in slower speeds.

###

[Tech in Unexpected Places](#)

by Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group

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We all know that technology is almost everywhere and plays a significant role in our lives. Because most of us use the Internet, the media, and social networks, we expect specific tech in certain places. We all recognize it in our smartphones, laptops, computers, and pads—the devices we use every day to connect to information and others. Some of us may be able to recognize it in

some less obvious devices and systems that power our modern lives, such as automobiles, e-bikes, smart TVs, smart appliances, and smart homes, which are now often full of new capabilities provided by technology. But, if you look even closer, you may find technology in more unexpected places, where it is enhancing our lives while changing them to some degree as well.

Musical Tech

We all use technology to play music; we can now have our personal soundtrack wherever we go. Home music systems have been around for at least a hundred years: first radio, then phonographs, tape players, and now streaming. Car radios were first introduced in the 1930s; now, you can stream to your vehicle. Music became more portable and personal in the 1950s with the introduction of small transistor radios and then progressed further with tape players like the Sony Walkman in the 1980s and portable MP3 players in the 1990s. Today joggers often stream music or listen to podcasts on their smartphones while they exercise.

While technology has moved heavily into music delivery and the recording and mastering of audio, the actual making of music has not changed much. Although some high-tech instruments have electronic keyboards and synthesizers, most music is still made in old-fashioned ways. Just as it was a thousand years ago, most humans' methods cause pressure waves in the air (sound) to involve a mechanical vibration. These pressure waves can be produced by plucking, striking, or rubbing a bow across a string (guitar, piano, or violin), blowing on a reed (saxophone), or vibrating our lips (trumpet) or vocal cords (singing). While the instruments are often the same, it is in musical accessories where technology has taken hold. One such accessory is the electronic tuning aid.

Though I very much enjoy music, I've never felt musical. I grew up without any training on a musical instrument. I learned a little keyboard in an introduction to music class in junior college, but it never felt natural or easy. I'm an electrical engineer and feel I'm inherently more analytical and logical than artistic or creative. I can create accurate mechanical drawings with rulers and graph paper but have always envied my daughter's ability to draw wonderful pictures freehand, as my attempts appear stuck in kindergarten. Most young males of my generation had dreams of playing guitar in a rock band; I was no different, just realistic. However, I liked Hawaiian music and thought perhaps playing the ukulele might be more of a possibility. Since it

was smaller and had only four strings, it had to be more accessible, right? However, the prudent and conservative engineer in me never let on to this interest until my wife and I were on a Hawaiian vacation about six years ago. We wandered into a ukulele store in a seaside shopping center, and I mentioned that I was interested in playing the ukulele. My wise and sensitive wife remembered this and bought me a ukulele for a birthday present.

Even though I now had the instrument, it took me several years to even start to play. I initially tried to go through the training book I received but found I needed more personalized instruction. Poway Adult School offered a "Ukulele for Beginners" class that met for six weekly sessions for a modest cost; this seemed just what I needed. Unfortunately, this class was only offered on Wednesday nights for several school terms, which meant abandoning our group for about two months. I couldn't do that, so I put the ukulele on a shelf.

This spring, the beginning ukulele class was finally offered on a non-Wednesday. Even though my life was hectic at the time, my wife pushed me to sign up, and I'm glad I did. I took the class, and though I still can't play much (or well), I needed to get started and feel more comfortable with the instrument.

One thing my wife bought to go with the ukulele that proved to be very beneficial was a Snark tuner. This small electronic device helps tune stringed instruments. It identifies the note being played by the sound frequency and displays where your instrument is tuned relative to the standard notes. The class instructor used his Snark to tune our instruments before each class, so I was pleased to use mine to arrive already tuned. It clips on the instrument and makes tuning, which should be performed before each playing session, quick and easy. Without it, I don't know what I would do. I would have never expected the role that technology played in my musical interests.

The Snark is reasonably priced at \$12-\$30, depending on the model. However, it is powered by a small CR2032 coin cell battery, which I've found only lasts a few months in regular use. Because of this, the Costco pack of 12 batteries is a great value.

Electronic Traps

High-tech has come to pest control. The Victor electronic rat trap is indeed a better mousetrap, killing pests with a high-voltage shock. It allows for simple

disposal, is easy to clean (I've found so far that cleaning is unnecessary), and the Wi-Fi model I have sends a kill alert to my smartphone. Since installing one in my garage three months ago, it killed three mice right away and has been at the ready for more. In addition, it will alert me if it loses Wi-Fi or the battery gets low, so all I need to do is wait.

Remote Camera Control

Today when you think of a camera, it is a digital electronic camera. No one takes pictures with photographic film anymore (ED: au contraire—"purists" still do). Stand-alone cameras are becoming less prevalent as more and more people use their phone cameras for all their photography.

I grew up with 35mm film single-lens reflex cameras and prefer using a different camera to the lower-quality camera in my smartphone. My primary camera is a Panasonic Lumix "bridge" camera. This type of camera has the large body and lens of a DSLR (Digital Single-Lens Reflex) but with the smaller sensor (and lower price) of a point-and-shoot camera (it is a bridge between the point-and-shoot and DSLRs). It also has a fixed (non-removable) lens like a point-and-shoot camera. I like this camera a lot, but it lacks one thing I miss—bulb mode. This is a shutter setting that allows the shutter to stay open as long as I want. My camera shutter can be set for as short a duration as 1/16000 of a second, but the longest duration is only 4 seconds.

I've searched the camera manual and on the web for a way to make longer exposures. With some limitations, I found a camera setting that can make a 60-second exposure, but no luck on a bulb mode. However, I found an unexpected capability in a Panasonic camera app in one of the web posts I read. The **Panasonic Image App** works with Panasonic cameras with Wi-Fi capabilities, which mine has. It can link to the camera and control it remotely. It can remotely change camera settings, take a picture, and even display what the camera is seeing on the phone. I installed the app on my phone but have not used it much so far. While I had hoped to find a solution to my problem, I was not expecting to be able to control my digital camera with my phone (which some would also consider a digital camera).

Temperature Camera for COVID

The COVID restrictions at my place of work have now been lifted for those employees that can prove full vaccination. Before that, I had to fill out an

online health assessment before going to my workplace each day. When I arrived, I had to wear a mask and have my temperature checked in the building lobby. My employer had installed an electronic device on a tripod that each employee had to use. It looked like a large tablet, with the camera set to selfie mode. You first had to line your face up with a head silhouette on the screen, while a synthesized female voice said, "Please face the detector frame." It then measured your temperature with an infrared sensor.

Unfortunately, it did not display the actual temperature measured. Instead, it spoke out "Normal temperature" and illuminated a green bar on the top of the device if your temperature was in the normal range. Fortunately, I never got to find out what it did when my temperature was not normal.

After over a year of using this device each workday, I can still hear that synthesized voice say, "Please face the detector frame" and "Normal temperature" in my mind. Another unexpected tech encounter that had a lasting impact.

###

[Enable Alt-Tab In Windows 11](#)

If you used **ALT-TAB** in previous versions of Windows to see and switch among running applications, you will need to *enable* ALT-TAB in Windows 11.

By John Krout

Introduction

I bought a new Windows 11 desktop computer in June 2022. My Windows 10 desktop which was my primary Zoom presentation computer for several years, had died. A new computer was needed to assume that role since I had a scheduled presentation just 3 days later.

I had installed all the necessary applications on the new computer, moved the presentation data files to the new computer, and even tested my webcam and microphones.

But I did not test everything.

For almost 5 years, I had been using a Windows keystroke combination, ALT-TAB, as part of my Zoom presentation startup. After joining the Zoom

meeting, and confirming that I had been authorized to share my screen, I used LibreOffice's *Impress* (ED: PowerPoint equivalent) to start a full-screen slide show presentation. Then I used ALT-TAB to display superimposed icons of running applications, and in those icons, I selected the Zoom meeting window. In that window, I used the Screen Share button to share that full-screen slide show presentation.

In Windows 11, ALT-TAB did not work in the full-screen slide show window.

So, for that one user-group meeting, I had to show the slide deck using Impress's *editor*, surrounding the slides with the unwanted distractions of the editor's features.

After the meeting, I set out to diagnose and resolve the problems. It turned out there are two problems in Windows 11. One of the two is specific to Impress.

First, **Google quickly revealed that, by default in Windows 11, ALT-TAB is not enabled.** After that revelation, I found out from another Windows 11 user that her new computer did come with ALT-TAB *enabled*, so it appears that not everyone has the same experience I did. Nonetheless, if you are accustomed to using ALT-TAB, and you find that ALT-TAB doesn't work for you in Windows 11, then you will need this info.

Second, after enabling and testing ALT-TAB successfully, I found that the keystroke combo still did not produce the expected superimposed set of icons when I started the full-screen slide show presentation. So I still could not move to the Zoom meeting window, which had been my consistent tactic in Windows 10.

I found a workaround for that problem.

How to enable ALT-TAB in Windows 11

This fix requires adding an entry to the Windows registry.

Doing so is not especially difficult, but any change to the registry has the potential for unintended consequences. So the important first step before any registry change is to export the current working registry to a file. If

unintended consequences do result from the change, you can then *import* that exported file to roll the registry change back.

Export, import, and change are all done using the Windows **Registry Editor** application.

Make a registry export file

In the Windows 11 Start menu, there is a search field at the top. In that field, type REG. The Registry Editor icon will appear immediately in the Start menu, as you can see in **illustration 1**. Click that Registry Editor icon, which is circled to the right.

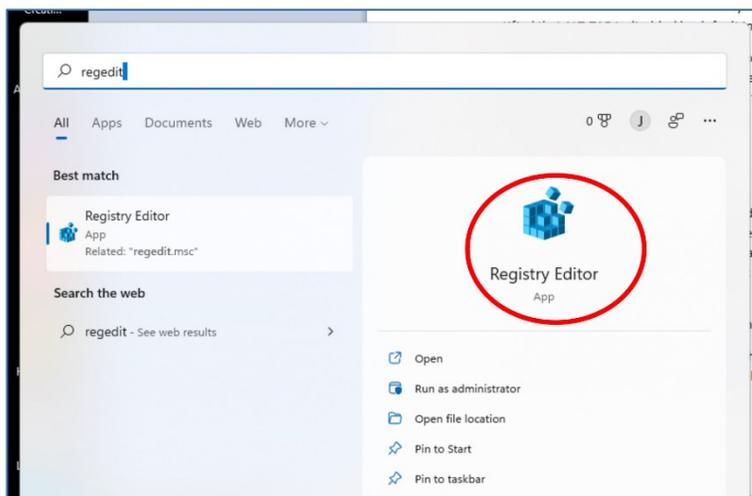


Illustration 1

The **Registry Editor** application opens. Its window will look something like that shown in **illustration 2**. If you think the Registry Editor resembles File Explorer, you are correct. The registry is organized like file folders, with various folders each holding registry keys that serve some set of related purposes.

Your first task is to export a **backup of the entire registry**. Here is how to do that.

Pull down the Registry Editor **File** menu. Select *Export*, which is the second choice. *Export* opens a standard **Save File**

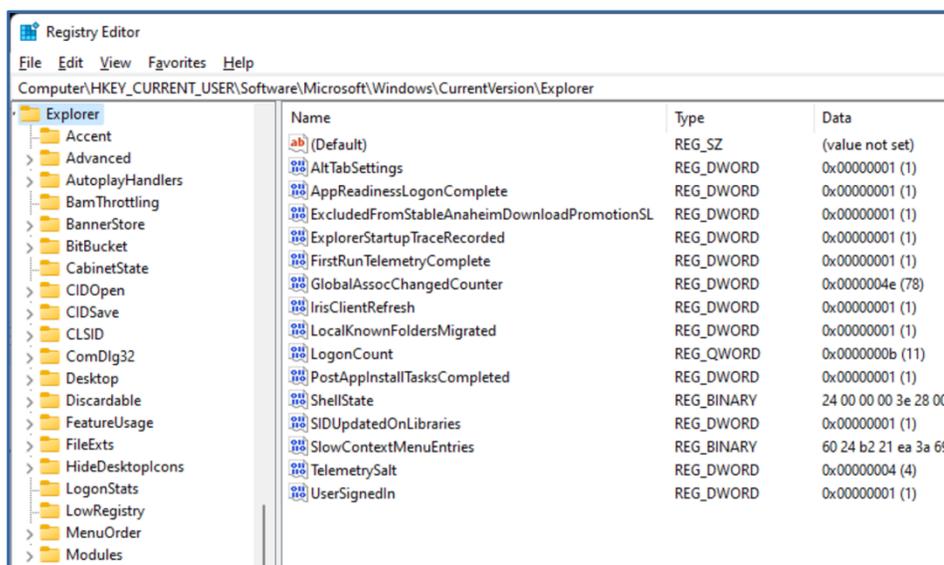


Illustration 2

dialog window. Keep in mind that the export file can be quite big, so pick a storage location that has a gigabyte or more of available space.

Just in case you do find it necessary to restore the exported registry, give the file to be exported a meaningful name, and tap the *Save* button. The file extension is always **.REG**. To restore that exported file, use the **IMPORT** choice in the Registry Editor File menu.

Move to the required registry folder path for the new Registry key

The folder in which you will add a registry key is:

Computer\HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current Version\Explorer

You can copy and paste that folder path into the top of the Registry Editor window. That is a quick way to move directly to the folder.

In the folder, notice that each key is described by **Name**, **Type**, and **Data**. There are several different types. We need to create a new key with the Name **AltTabSettings**, the Type **DWORD**, with a value of 1.

Create and name the new registry key

In the right-hand pane where existing keys are listed, right-click. A menu containing only the word **NEW** appears. A sub-menu shows various types of new keys. You can see that menu in **illustration 3**. Select the Type **DWORD**.

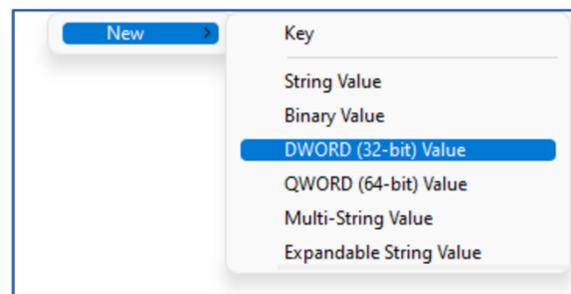


Illustration 3

That selection creates a new key, with the name **New Value #1**. Change that name to **AltTabSettings**. Use the techniques for name-changing that work in File Explorer; those same techniques work in Registry Editor.

Set the value of the new registry key

The default value of a new key of type **DWORD** is zero. We will change that value to 1. Right-click the new **AltTabSettings** key. In the popup menu, select **Modify**.

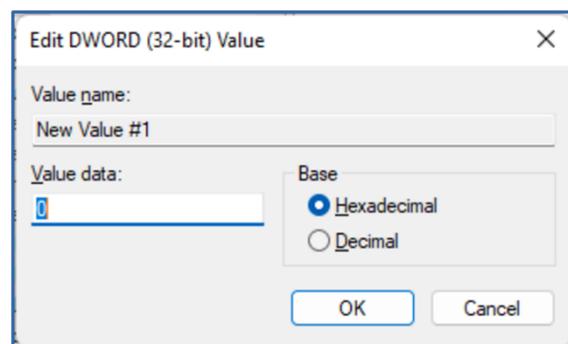


Illustration 4

A registry key value dialog window appears, like that shown in **illustration 4** (above). The initial value is zero. Change that value to 1, and tap the OK button.

Done! Close the Registry Editor.

Next Steps

On the Web, I found various recommendations for the next steps, but I believe the best choice is to reboot your computer.

After doing that, I found that ALT-TAB worked as desired for all running applications except my full-screen slide show process launched by Impress.

A workaround for Impress full-screen slide shows

So I found myself unable to switch from the slide show to a Zoom meeting window, or any other window. The problem is not specific to Zoom. I experienced the same issue in a full-screen slide show when Zoom was not running.

In frustration, I tapped CTRL-ALT-DEL and found that Windows 11 presented the usual list of options for that keystroke combo. I chose Task Manager. That caused the Taskbar and the normal Windows 11 screen to appear, including windows of Impress and other open applications.

In the taskbar, I found an icon for the new full-screen slide show, identical to the Impress icon.

As of that point, I found that ALT-TAB produces a super-imposed set of running application icons including the new full-screen slide show. You can see an example in **illustration 5**. I can use ALT-TAB to switch to the full-screen slide show, and then use ALT-TAB to switch to the Zoom meeting window or any other running application window.

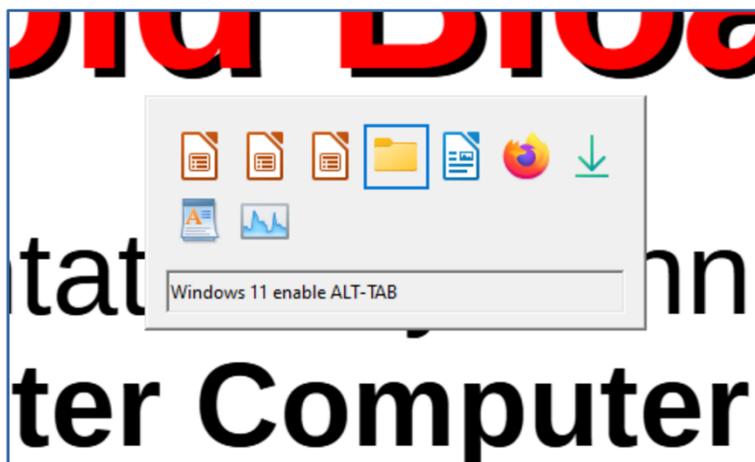


Illustration 5

The ALT-TAB display is more compact in Windows 11 than in Windows 10. Each running application is shown as an icon; when you tab to an icon, its name appears in the field below the icons.

I tried two workarounds. I started Task Manager before I started Impress. When I started an Impress full-screen slide show, ALT-TAB worked immediately. After that, I shut down both Task Manager and Impress. Then I started Impress again and launched another full-screen slide show. Again, ALT-TAB worked immediately.

I also tested ALT-TAB with a full-screen slide show launched by PowerPoint 365. There is no difficulty accessing ALT-TAB immediately from a newly launched PowerPoint full-screen slide show.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: John Krout has been writing about creative uses of personal computers since the early 1980s. He is a now-retired software engineer and he now writes about technology in general but specializes in creative uses of smartphones, tablets, and digital cameras. He is a member of the APCUG Speakers Bureau.

###



Editor's image of Great Falls, taken on 12/31/19 from Overlook #3 on the Virginia side, using a Canon 5D Mark IV. Exposure info: 1/2", f/16, ISO 50, 300mm (Canon EF 70-300 f/4-5.6 IS USM). The

image was shot in color and converted to monochrome when processed.

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Monthly Circulation: 100

Posts is an official publication of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), a Virginia membership corporation and a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are gratefully received and tax-deductible.

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3 rd Monday	7:00 - 9 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Zoom	
3 rd Saturday	12:45 - 3:30 PM	Fairfax General Meeting	Hybrid	
4 th Wednesday	7:00 - 9 PM	Technology & PC Help Desk	Hybrid	

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