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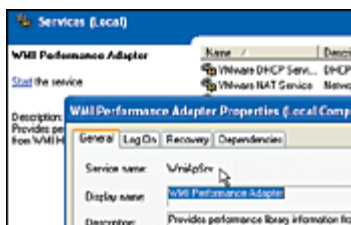
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Controlling Services at Windows Startup

By [Neil J. Rubenking](#)

May 18, 2004

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ENLARGE

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My wife's computer always has Symantec's WinFax program running in the system tray. We haven't been able to get rid of it. If we use Task Manager to stop the process from running, it's back at the next reboot. I downloaded and installed Startup Cop from PC Magazine, but WinFax doesn't appear in the list. How can I disable this program?

B. Treloar

You can prevent WinFax from launching at startup by removing it from the Startup program group. Select Start | Programs | Startup and click on the WinFax Controller icon. From the pop-up menu, select Delete and then OK.

But every time you use WinFax, by default the Controller remains running after the Message Manager has been closed. To get the Controller to exit whenever the Message Manager closes, go to Start | Programs | Symantec WinFax PRO | Program Setup. Select Call Status and Controller and click on Properties. Then select Close Automatically from the When not in use control, and click on OK.

The reason WinFax doesn't appear in Startup Cop's list is that the utility controls only applications that are launched at startup. WinFax is a service, not an application, and as such is launched in a completely different fashion.

Many services are critical to proper Windows operation; but some, including WinFax, can be disabled without destabilizing your system. Windows includes a handy application for managing services, giving you another way to handle WinFax and (if you do it carefully) other troublesome services.

Launch Services.msc from the Start menu's Run dialog. Scroll down to the WinFax service in the list and click on the Stop button. If you want to stop it

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altogether, set its Startup type to Disabled. If you want to turn it on only when you need it, set the Startup type to Manual. Carefully note the Service name at the top of the Properties page; for example, the service name of the WMI Performance Adapter is WmiApSrv. To turn on the service, enter the command net start name at a command prompt or the Start menu's Run dialog, replacing name with the service name. To turn the service off, enter net stop name in the same way.

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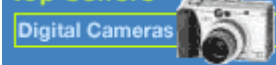
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