

HUMANIZING YOUR DESKTOP/WINDOWS DISPLAY: MAC & PC

By Frank, *Your Computer Tutor*

At this very moment, there are a lot of changes going on in the computing world. Please do not be lured by media hype to jump in to the latest pool of programs coming from Microsoft or Apple. MSWindows browser E7 and VISTA are no exception. In a rush for profit, both Microsoft & Apple are notorious for experimenting on folks - and fixing *their* problems later - at our cost.

HOW TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR MAC

In Mac OS, click on the **APPLE** menu, choose **SYSTEM PREFERENCES**> Click the **DESKTOP/SCREEN SAVER BUTTON** to display its **PREFERENCES**. Go online for more specific information to tailor your MAC to your needs: <http://www.apple.com/support/mac101/customize/>

Here's what you'll find:

Lesson 1: Change My Desktop — Layout, taskbar, etc.

Lesson 2: Change My Screen Saver—Your Mac comes with a few screen savers. Change the default one, create your own from your photo collection, and add third-party savers.

Lesson 3: Modify My MAC Windows — Add your own stuff to the sidebar or more commands to the toolbar, and add some color to your files.

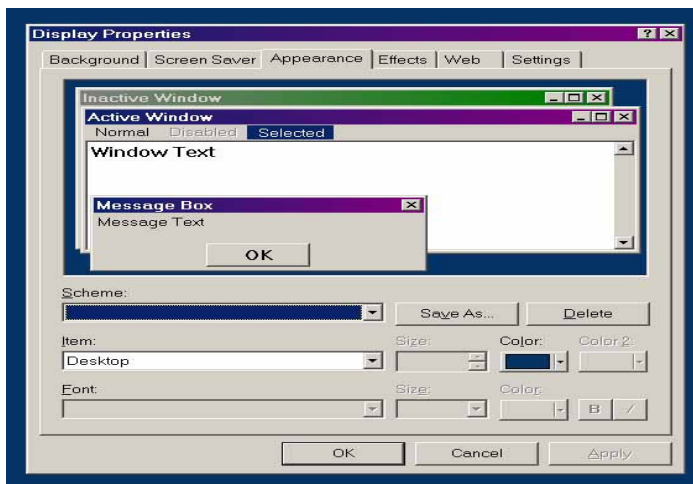
Lesson 4: Set My Preferences —Learn to set over-all Mac preferences.

Lesson 5: Customize the Dock— Change where the DOCK appears, alter how it looks, reacts, and modify its contents.

CUSTOMIZING MSWINDOWS

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/content/factsheets/pdfs/XP-Display-Properties.pdf>

Microsoft Windows has a built in feature called the **DISPLAY PROPERTIES PANEL** that allows a wide range of control over the visual display of your monitor. In the Display Properties Panel, you'll be able to shrink or enlarge text, modify system colors and fonts, or even change the resolution of the display itself.



To open the **PANEL**, right-click in any empty portion of the desktop> a pop-up menu will appear> choose **PROPERTIES**> a window appears showing a variety of option tabs: **APPEARANCE**, **BACKGROUND**, **SCREEN SAVER**, **EFFECTS**, **WEB/SETTINGS**.

APPEARANCE

The **APPEARANCE** tab provides large text, high contrast or other accessibility fixes; choose from a large number of pre-defined schemes or change the size and color of individual windows' features.

The **ITEM** menu allows customizable appearance features of the desktop. These are the individual features that can be modified for each desktop item: Size, Color, Font, Font Size, Font

Color and Bold, Italic. Each of these features can be modified through a drop-down menu, by typing in a new value.

Tweak the items as much as you want, and when you are content, click> **APPLY**.

Note: you can always revert to the original settings by clicking>**CANCEL**. And, if you ever feel that you've gotten in over your, remember that you can always re-call the "**WINDOWS STANDARD**" scheme to get out of trouble.

Happy Computing!!

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Hundreds of Happy Clients 303-575-1774 **frank@beyondtechnology.net**