REMOVE THE BLUE HIGHLIGHT FROM DESKTOP ICON TEXT IN "WINDOWS XP"

**Objective and Desired Result:**
Here are some simple steps to get rid of the annoying blue highlight that sometimes develops for desktop icon text in "Windows XP".

**THE PROBLEM:**
If you make some changes to your "Windows XP" computer, sometimes your desktop icons will develop a blue highlight for icon text, as follows:

Some computer users like this highlight. Others hate it. If you want to get rid of the blue rectangle that surrounds the icon text, please perform the following steps:
STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE

Step 1:
Close any windows that are running so that you have a clean Windows "Desktop":

![Windows Desktop](image-url)
Step 2:
Click on the Windows "Start" button:
Step 3:
The Windows "Start menu" will be displayed:

![Windows Start Menu]

Step 4:
Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on "My Computer".
Step 5:
A pop-up context menu will be displayed:

Step 6:
Click on "Properties".
Step 7:
A "System Properties" box will be displayed:

Step 8:
Click on the "Advanced" tab.
Step 9:
Click on the "Settings" button in the "Performance" section of the "Advanced" tab:
Step 10: A "Performance Options" box will be displayed:

![Performance Options dialog box](image)
Step 11:
Scroll to the bottom and check "Use drop shadows for icon labels on the desktop":

- Performance Options dialog showing the Visual Effects tab with various options for visual effects.
Here is a closer view:

- Smooth-scroll list boxes
- Use a background image for each folder type
- Use common tasks in folders
- Use drop shadows for icon labels on the desktop
- Use visual styles on windows and buttons
Step 12: Click on the "Apply" button:

Step 13: Click on the "OK" button.
Step 14: The "Performance Options" box will disappear.

Step 15: Click on the "OK" button of the "System Properties" box:

Step 16: The "System Properties" box will disappear.
Step 17:
Click anywhere in the "background" the Windows "Desktop".

Step 18:
If the blue highlight for desktop icon text is now gone (as shown below), do not go to the remaining steps in this procedure.
Step 19:  
If your desktop icons still have a blue highlight for icon text (as shown below), go to "Step 20".

Step 20:  
Close any windows that are running so that you have a clean Windows "Desktop":
Step 21:
Use your RIGHT mouse button to click on the Desktop.

Step 22:
A pop-up context menu will be displayed:

Step 23:
Click on Properties.
Step 24: A "Display Properties" box will be shown:

Step 25: Click on the "Desktop" tab.
Step 26:
Click on the "Customize Desktop" button:
Step 27:
A "Desktop Items" box will be displayed:

Step 28:
Click on the "Web" tab.
Step 29:
Remove the checkmark from "Lock Desktop Items"

Step 30:
Click on the "OK" button of the "Desktop Items" box.

Step 31:
The "Desktop Items" box will disappear.
Step 32: 
Click on the "OK" button of the "Desktop Properties" box:

Step 33: 
The "Desktop Properties" box will disappear.

Step 34: 
Click anywhere in the "background" the Windows "Desktop".
Step 35:
If the blue highlight for desktop icon text is now gone, do not complete the remaining steps in this procedure:
Step 36: If your desktop icons still have a blue highlight for icon text (as shown below), go to "Step 37".

![Microsoft Outlook icon with blue highlight](image)

Step 37
Complete the steps in "Solution 2" at
http://www.proposedsolution.com/solutions/desktop-icons-all-have-blue-highlight-box-around-text/

References:

http://www.proposedsolution.com/solutions/desktop-icons-all-have-blue-highlight-box-around-text/
and
http://icrontic.com/discussion/39256/how-do-i-de-highlight-desktop-icon-words
and