

# Windows 7 Annoyances: Tips, Secrets, and Solutions

Maxey Von Senden

David Karp has been writing *Annoyances* books since 1997 for *Win95*. This is my first experience with his work. His writing is fairly easy to follow, and his use of consistent formatting also helps.

I was surprised by how big this book was for a compendium of annoyances. Over 700 pages! Pretty heavy for a paperback, but it seems to be holding up to extended use.

This book is not for the novice computer user, although it is okay to be a *Windows 7* novice. In fact, it would have been useful to have this book when I was doing my install. His own web-site describes his book as the ultimate hacking guide. Indeed, it is a book about configuring and securing *Windows* to be the way you want, one way or another, more than anything else.

The first chapter is on the differences in the *Win7* editions, and how one without Ultimate might get their “missing” functionality, sometimes via third-party alternatives. This chapter also covers various install issues.

The TOC and Chapter 1 can be downloaded from [here](#), in living color no less, even though the book is strictly B&W. Mr. Karp also has a discussion forum at <http://www.annoyances.org/exec/forum/win7> which, admittedly, I have not tried yet.

Chapters 1-9 cover in order: getting started, shell tweaks, registry in depth, multi-media, performance, troubleshooting, networking, users & security, command prompt. In using the book, I would have preferred to have the chapter on user accounts and security as Chapter 2, right after getting started. Nonetheless, that simply meant a little more flipping back and forth.

Several of his fixes are registry hacks. He does spend some time walking through the registry and how to edit, back-up, restore, etc. Hence this book is not for the newbie or the timid.

about writing scripts if you will be doing some of these more than once - not just to save time, but to reduce mistakes. He is also kind enough to provide some of the useful hacks um, I mean fixes, as downloadable executables.

When he discusses security holes and ways to block them, you may decide that *Win7* is a disaster waiting to happen. You have to decide just how much function you want to give up to make an impenetrable fortress of your computer or if that is even possible for any system attached to the internet. Some ideas I have implemented, some are just too esoteric for me to worry about, but at least I now understand they are there.

Nowhere does Mr. Karp mention SSDs (Solid State Drives) much less the differences in configuring *Windows* when one's boot device is an SSD (as in my case). I almost got the impression that so much of the book content was carried from prior versions, that he merely updates for the changes in *Windows* versions, without taking a step back and considering the product combined with other external changes such as today's environment.

Not all of my annoyances with *Windows 7* were addressed, unfortunately. For example, I do boot from an SSD, and it was important (to me) to move the entire constantly growing `C:\User` directory to the larger hard drive. I did find a solution but not through his book.

Sound has changed in *Win7*. While I used to be able to tell the driver to force quadraphonic sound, *Win7* apparently overrides this – it is either stereo or true 5.1 with nothing in between. He did provide a work around for music – don't use Windows *Media Player*. My remaining annoyances tend to be little things. For the moment, I am living with them.

Now don't get me wrong, I found this book to be useful and informative. Many of the suggested fixes and tweaks were applied. I will continue to re-read and use it. For anyone who is willing to delve deeply in *Windows*, this is an excellent reference book.

**About:** *Windows 7 Annoyances: Tips, Secrets, and Solutions*

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