

MICROSOFT WINDOWS – ENABLE OR DISABLE LAST ACCESS TIMESTAMP

The **Last Access Time** as it suggests is the time a **File** or a **Folder** is accessed the last time. This is quite useful and helps identify document age and status. This is disabled by default in **Windows Vista** and **Windows 7** by default as this can add to the overhead of **Disk I/O** and performance although with the newer hardware this can be anything close to negligible.

If you choose to enable the Last Access time in **Windows 7, 2008, Vista** or earlier versionse you can either use **FSUTIL** (*not available in Windows 2000*) or from the Windows Registry.

Using FSUTIL (not for Windows 2000)

From the command prompt as an Administrator run the following command: (In **Windows 7/Vista/2008**, click Start – search for cmd. Right-click and choose “**Run as Administrator**” to run Command Prompt with elevated privileges)

```
fsutil behavior set disablelastaccess 0
```

This enables the **Last Access Time** recording.

Later if you need to disable, run the following command:

```
fsutil behavior set disablelastaccess 1
```

From Windows Registry

1. Click **Start – search “regedit”** (Windows 2000/XP/2003 **Start – Run – regedit**) to launch Windows Registry Editor.

2. In the left-pane, navigate to the following registry key:

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\FileSystem]
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE
\SYSTEM
\CurrentControlSet
\Control
\FileSystem
```

3. In the right-pane, double-click “**NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate**” and set its value to “0”. This key doesn’t exist by default in Windows XP, 2003 and earlier, so in the right-pane right-click and select New – **DWORD** and name it as “**NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate**” and set its value as “1”.

When required to disable it, simply delete the key or set it to “0”

4. Restart the system for the changes to take effect.

This should do!