

## Desktop Icons' Text is Not Transparent

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### Re-enable icon transparency on your desktop

From TechRepublic Blog: <http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/window-on-windows/?p=591>

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#### Situation:

Have you ever changed your desktop theme or just your desktop background and discovered that the text for your desktop icons is no longer transparent? Instead you now have a colored background box behind the text. If you have experienced this situation, chances are that you searched high and low for a solution, but were unable to find one.

#### Overview:

Unfortunately, this is because the setting that allows you to control the icon transparency is very poorly named. Rather than being named something that makes sense, Microsoft chooses to name the setting "Use drop shadows for icon labels on the desktop." To make matters worse, this setting is buried in the Performance Options dialog box rather than on the Display Properties dialog box.

#### Step by Step Instructions:

1.	In any case, sometimes that act of changing a desktop theme or desktop background inadvertently disables the Use drop shadows for icon labels on the desktop setting. Fortunately, re-enabling is it easy. Here's how:
2.	Access the Control Panel and double-click System.
3.	When you see the System Properties dialog box, select the Advanced tab.
4.	Click Settings button in the Performance section.
5.	When you see the Performance Options dialog box, scroll down the list and select the "Use drop shadows for icon labels on the desktop" checkbox.
6.	Click OK twice — once to close Performance Options dialog box and once to close the System Properties dialog box.
7.	You should now have your transparent icons back.

**Note:** This tip applies to both Windows XP Home and Windows XP Professional.

#### Another thing...Undo it and Redo It

From a Tech Republic reader:

I completely forgot about this setting until I saw this article. So I went in the settings to change it, and to my surprise, it was already selected!!!

Well, I am sure most TR readers will know right away about the quirks in Windows, and what to do about it. (And you would be right.) I took the checkmark OUT of the box and clicked "Apply", put the checkmark back in the box and clicked "Apply" again, and sure enough, the operating system with no quirks that always works right out of the box corrected itself.

Sometimes it is worth reminding yourself that frequently when you find something weird like this that is "already" set, but not working, you may need to undo it and redo it. It is, after all, a very ordinary operating system...

#### Uncheck Use High Contrast

Once unchecked, the Use drop icons worked again....and I had stationery and backgrounds.