




USER'S MANUAL V. 1.0

KEY CONCEPTS



INVOKING DASH

To invoke Dash simply hit  (Windows key + Dash key) or the hotkey combination that you have selected, and the Dash Bar will pop-up.


You can find a list of Dash commands at the end of the document.

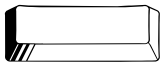
ENTERING A COMMAND

Just start typing. Dash will auto-complete your text as you type. Dash recognizes all your installed applications by name, plus a set of command keywords.






EXECUTING COMMANDS AND LAUNCHING APPLICATIONS

To execute the currently suggested text just press  and Dash will launch the appropriate application or command.



See Quick Start Section for examples.

MULTIPLE PART COMMANDS

Some commands like Email, Google, etc. require extra input, so instead of executing the command, you need to accept it. Accept a command by pressing  (Space Bar) or . The accepted command will move up so you can keep typing. Sometimes you will need to press  twice to accept the command, because Dash is trying to match your query.






BLOCK DELETE

Pressing  will erase the last text block entered. If there is no text,  will hide the Dash Bar.






SELECTING FROM THE RESULT LIST

The  and  keys will scroll through items. You can force the list to drop down by pressing .




BROWSING

When you are browsing files, the  key or pressing  will get you into the currently selected folder and the  key will get you back up one level. As usual, you can type at any time and Dash will find matches to your query.



GETTING INFO

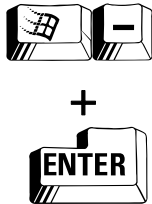
Some items from the result list will allow you to get more info. Press and hold down the  key to see the information or image preview in the result list.



QUICK START

The following examples constitute a series of mini-tutorials that will allow you to quickly learn many features of Dash.




OPEN AN APPLICATION

Let's start with the basics



1. Invoke Dash by pressing your hotkey combination ( by default).
2. Start typing "paint", and by the time you have typed 1 to 3 characters Dash will recognize that you want the MS Paint application and auto-complete the word.
3. Now just press  and Dash will launch MS Paint.




If there are several items that match your query, you can either continue typing, or use the   keys to select it. The drop down list comes down after a delay which you can adjust in the Options window, but you can force it down at any time by pressing .

You can do this with any of your installed applications. As long as there is a shortcut in the start menu or desktop for your applications, Dash will find them. If there is an application that is not found by Dash, you can easily add it yourself (see the Add Keywords section).


DO A WEB SEARCH

1. Invoke Dash and start typing "google".

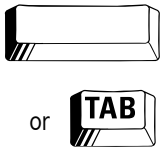







2. Once Dash is showing the "Google" keyword, press . Dash will push the word. Google up and clear the input area and ask you to enter your search query.









3. Now type "dna sample", press  and Dash will launch your Web Browser at the google page.









When you press  if there is a match in the database that includes a *space* at that position, Dash will not accept the keyword immediately because you may be typing that found word. In this case, press  once more to have it accept your keyword. Alternatively you can use the  key and this will accept the keyword under all circumstances. Some people prefer to use , but in general  is faster. Use the key that works best for you.

USING HISTORY, BLOCK DELETE AND DISMISSING DASH

1. Invoke Dash again and start typing “live search”.
2. Press  to accept the *Live Search* keyword.
3. Start typing “sample” and Dash will open the drop down list showing your previously typed “dna sample” entry. You can now keep typing or select the item from the list using the   keys.
4. Now press  and Dash will erase the whole block of text, but leave the *Live Search* keyword.
5. Press  again and *Live Search* will be erased as well.
6. Press  one more time and now Dash will vanish.







USE TEXT FROM THE CLIPBOARD

1. Select a word from a text document, web page, etc. and copy it to the clipboard (right-click copy, or  .
2. Invoke Dash, and start typing “wikipedia” and press . Dash will display the word or phrase you copied to the clipboard as shadowed text.
3. Press  and Dash will perform the wikipedia search your term.

This way you can add input to your commands without having to type it.






EMAIL

1. Invoke Dash, start typing “email”, accept the keyword by pressing .
2. Dash will ask you to enter an email address. If you have contacts in the Windows Address Book (by default used by Outlook Express and optionally synchronized with Outlook), you can start typing the name of your contact and Dash will auto-complete the name. If you don't have any contacts, you can simply enter an email address and Dash will remember it the next time.
3. Press  to accept the email address.
4. Dash will ask for the body of your message, so type your message.
5. Press  and Dash will open your default email client with the appropriate address and body already filled in.

Multi-part commands work in much the same way: You enter a command, accept it, and then enter another, etc. and finally press  to execute it. At each step of the way, Dash will tell you what you need to enter next.

BROWSE FOLDERS



Some commands may require you to browse your folders for a file. You can start browsing by entering the name of a folder keyword you may have added, or by using the standard ones: *Desktop*, *My documents* or *My computer*.

1. Invoke Dash, start typing “computer”, accept the My Computer keyword and Dash will enter browsing mode.
2. At this point you can navigate with the arrow keys, so go down to your C: drive and press . This will get you into the C: drive. Move further into folders using the  key.
3. At any point press the  key and you will move up one folder level.
4. Press  and the folder or file you have selected will be accepted and the Browsing mode will close. Press  again to launch the file or folder.



Enter Browse mode quickly by pressing



Alternatively, you can select a folder and accept it pressing  as usual instead of using . Also, at any point you can type and Dash will search for a matching folder inside the one you are at. Any file or folder that you open with Dash, will be remembered and will appear as a blue folder the next time you browse.


As a last tip, you can enter Browse mode by pressing the  key.

ADDING KEYWORDS




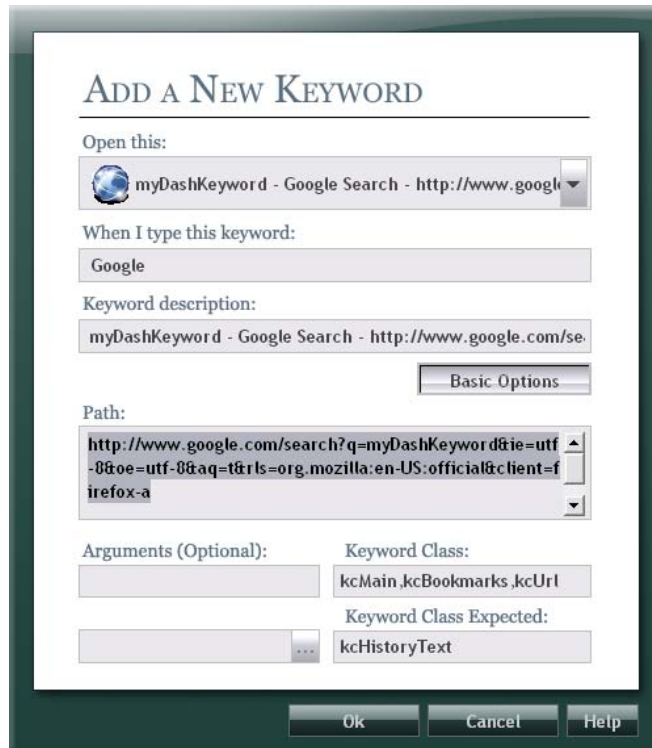
Adding new keywords for files, folders and websites is a simple procedure.

ADD A FILE, DOCUMENT, FOLDER, WEBSITE OR APPLICATION

1. Invoke Dash, start typing “add” and press .
2. In the Add New Keyword window, select the item you want from the *Open This* drop down list. If you select *Browse for File* or *Browse for Folder* you will be prompted with a dialog window where you can select a file/document or folder. The rest of the items in the list will consist of clipboard entries (a file path copied to the clipboard), currently open website, and open applications.
3. Once selected, just press *Ok*, and the new keyword will be added and be ready for use.

ADD A WEB SEARCH

1. First, go to the web search page you want to add and enter a search word you can recognize, for example *myDashKeyword* and perform the search.
2. Invoke Dash, start typing “add” and press . Then Press the *Advanced Options* button.



3. Now, locate the place where the word *myDashKeyword* appears in the *Path* box and substitute that with the term **All** (including the ***). For example if your URL is:

```
http://www.google.com/search?q=myDashKeyword&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a
```

You should change it to:

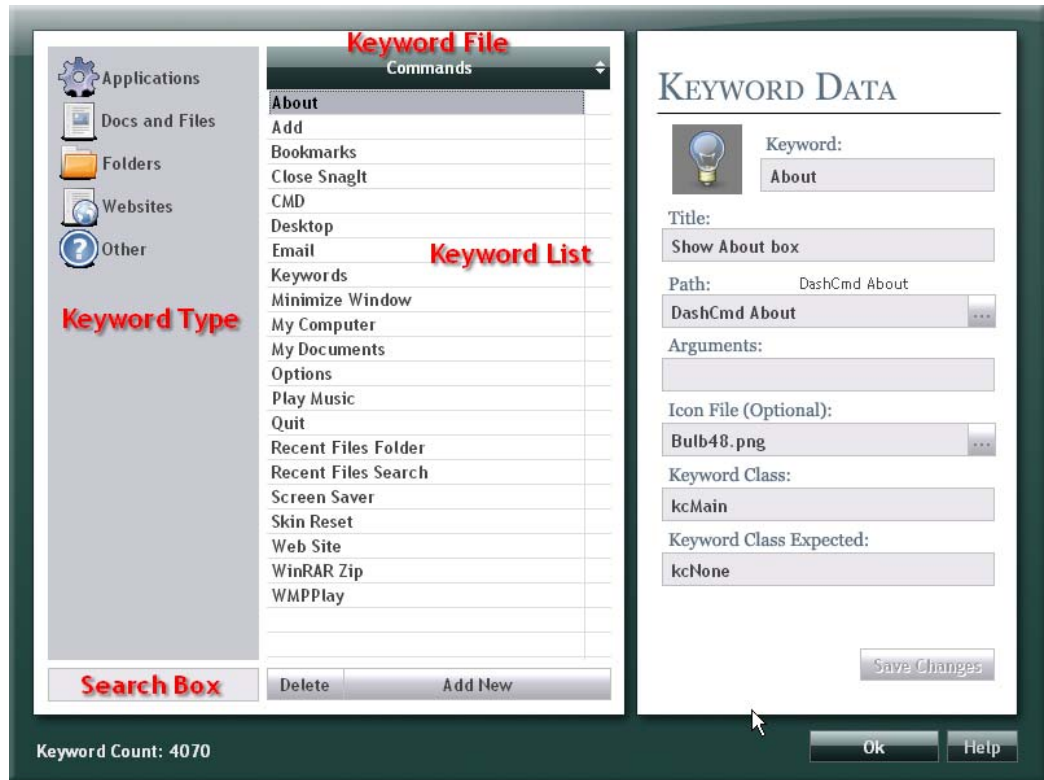
```
http://www.google.com/search?q=*All*&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a
```


4. Modify the Name and Title/Description of your keyword to your liking, and press *OK*. Now you can use this keyword as a word search. We have plans for automating this process soon.

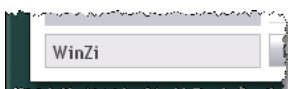
ADD A CUSTOM COMMAND

Dash allows you to enter the path and command line arguments to create commands that call other applications to perform more complex tasks. Refer to the Developer’s Manual to see how to construct such commands.

EDITING KEYWORDS



Dash organizes files by putting them in different keyword files and by designating them with different keyword types. To edit keywords, invoke Dash, start typing “keywords” and press .



FINDING A KEYWORD USING THE SEARCH BOX

Type the name in the search box. This will search the whole database in real time just like you do it in Dash. The matching keywords will appear in the list.



BROWSE KEYWORDS BY FILE

You can browse through the keyboards by selecting the **keyword file** from the drop down list (click on the keyword file bar on top). If you know this information, click and hold down to select a file name from the bar on top of the list.



BROWSE KEYWORDS BY TYPE

Additionally, the icon list in the left shows different **types of keywords**: Applications, Docs, Files, Websites, etc. By selecting one of these icons you can make the keyword list display only that type of keyword.

If you click on the empty side of the icon list you will get all the keywords in the selected file.

EDITING A KEYWORD

When you select a keyword from the list, the Keyword Data panel shows all of its properties. You can edit any property in that panel and after you are done, press the *Save Changes* button.

For more information about *Arguments* and *Keyword Classes* please refer to the Developer's Manual.

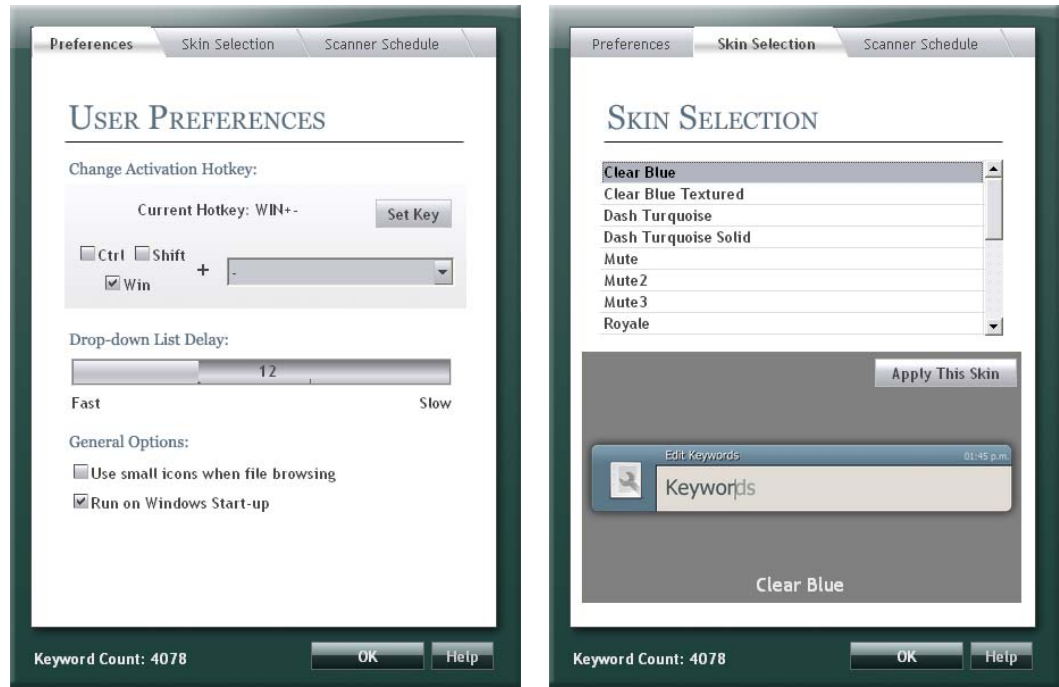
DELETING KEYWORDS


Deleting is simple, just select one or more keywords and press the *Delete* button.

ADDING NEW KEYWORDS

Pressing the *Add New Keyword* button will open the *Add Keyword* window. Please refer to the previous section for more information regarding this window.

OPTIONS: PREFERENCES AND SKINS



To open the *Options* window, invoke Dash, start typing “options” and press .

HOTKEY

If the current hotkey doesn't work for you for some reason or if you prefer a different combination, you can set a new hot key easily. Click on the special key combination that you want, for example *Win* or *Ctrl + Shift*, etc. Select a normal key from the list and press the *Set Key* button.

DELAY

The result list that drops down when you are typing a Dash command is activated on a delay. If you don't want the list to drop down that quickly set the delay to a slower setting by sliding the bar to the right. If you want it to drop down faster slide it to the left.

SMALL ICONS

When browsing folders and files, you have the option to set the icon size to small. This will allow you to see more folders in the current list, but will also eliminate the display of the full path under each item.

AUTO-RUN

Check this option if you want Dash to start every time you start your computer.

SKIN SELECTION

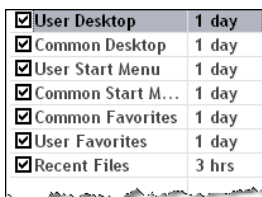
Select a skin from the list and press the *Apply This Skin* button. The preview window will show how each skin looks like.

OPTIONS: SCHEDULE SCANNERS



WHAT IS A SCANNER?

Scanners are a special kind of Dash plugins which create lists of keywords for the Dash database. For example, all your applications which are available for launching through Dash were found by the Docs and Files Scanner. This scanner looked in the Desktop and the Start Menu for shortcut files pointing to your installed applications and created a keyword for each application found. Similarly, the Firefox Bookmarks scanner looks for the Firefox bookmarks file (if installed) and creates a keyword list from this file.



WHAT IS A SCAN JOB?

A scan job is a scheduled task which will execute a given scanner with a given set of parameters at a given interval. Each scanner can have one or more scan jobs. When you select a scanner icon, and a scan job from the list, the *Scan Job Setup* panel will display the current scan job settings. Unchecking a scan job from the list will prevent it from being executed after the interval. The interval is the time between scans.

SCAN NOW

To force the execution of a scan job, select a scanner icon, then select a scan job from the list, and press Scan Selected Now. You may select more than one scan job from the list.

ADDING SCAN JOBS

To create a new Scan Job, just select the right scanner icon, and press the *New Scan Job* button. The *Scan Job Setup* panel will light up with a red frame, and a new Scan Job will be created. Just edit the settings, name, folder, interval, etc. and press Save Changes when done. See *Creating a folder search* below for an example. (Some scanners, like the Docs and Files scanner, will let you enter more than one scan job.)

EDITING AND DELETING SCAN JOBS


Select the scanner icon, then the scan job and edit the fields on the *Scan Job Setup* panel. Press the *Save Changes* button when you are done. Deleting is done similarly by selecting a scan job from the list and pressing the *Delete* button.

DISABLING SCAN JOBS



Select the scanner icon you want, and then uncheck the scan job you want to disable. This will prevent that scan job from running.

CREATING A FOLDER SEARCH USING THE DOCS AND FILES SCANNER

Eventually you will want Dash to scan a given folder in your computer so that you can access the folder and all the files inside it fast and easily. You can do this easily with the Docs and Files scanner by creating a new scan job. Here is how to do that:

1. Invoke Dash and start typing “options”, then press . The *Options* window will open.
2. Select the *Schedule Scanners* tab, select the *Docs and Files* icon and press the *New Scan Job* button. A new scan job will appear and the *Scan Job Setup* panel will be highlighted.
3. Type a new name for the scan job: “My Docs Scan”. This name will identify the scan job but more importantly **it will be the name of the keyword** you will use to access this scanned folder within Dash.
4. Set the interval to 6 hours, and click on the ... button to select a folder for scanning, like the *My Documents* folder. Make sure the *scan subfolders* option is checked.
5. Now enter the file types of the files to scan starting with a period and separated by a comma. For example: “.txt, .doc, .pdf”
6. Now just press the *Save Changes* button and the new scan job is setup.
7. Make sure the new scan job is selected from the list and then press *Scan Now* to update the database.

If all went smoothly, Dash will have scanned your folder for the appropriate files, and it will have created a new keyword with the same name as your scan job so that you can access those files. Now you should now be able to:

1. Invoke Dash and start typing “docs scan”.
2. Select the My Docs Scan item and accept it with the  key.
3. Now start typing the name of a document in your folder and open it by pressing .

DASH COMMAND KEYWORDS

DASH COMMANDS

ABOUT	Opens the Dash About box.
ADD	Add a new keyword for a given application, website, folder, document, etc.
HELP ONLINE	Opens the online help.
HELP USER'S MANUAL	Opens the Dash User's Manual.
HELP DEVELOPER'S MANUAL	Opens the Dash Developer's Manual.
KEYWORD RESET	Reloads the whole keyword database.
KEYWORDS	View and edit keywords.
OPTIONS	Set preferences, change skins, setup scheduled scanners.
QUIT	Close the Dash Command application.
SKIN RESET	Reload the current skin. Useful when editing the skin.ini files.
CLOSE APPLICATION	Closes the currently focused window.
MINIMIZE	Minimizes the currently focused window.
SCREEN SAVER	Starts the Windows screen saver.
TASK MANAGER	Opens the Windows task manager.
WINDOWS LOGOFF	Logs off the current user from Windows.
WINDOWS SHUTDOWN	Shuts down Windows.
WINDOWS REBOOT	Reboots Windows.
 OR CMD <command>	Command line. Ex. "registry", "www.cnn.com", "c:\myfolder\myfile.doc"
EMAIL <address><body>	Opens a compose window using the default Email client and fills it with the selected email address and body.
PLAY MUSIC <music file>	Plays the selected music file using the default music player.
ZIP <path>	Zip compresses the selected path. If a folder or file is selected from the windows file manager or copied into the clipboard, it will become the default option.

BROWSING COMMANDS



OR MY COMPUTER *<path>*

Starts browsing My Computer. Pressing Enter opens a windows file explorer at that location.

MY DOCUMENTS *<path>*

Starts browsing My Documents. Same as above.

DESKTOP *<path>*

Starts browsing the Desktop. Same as above.

RECENT FILES FOLDER *<file>*

Browse through the Recent Files windows folder. This can be slow depending on the number of files stored in it.

RECENT FILES SEARCH *<file>*

Search through a pre-scanned set of items from the Recent Files windows folder. This is much faster but it is only as up to date as the last scan.

GOOGLE COMMANDS

GMAIL

Opens the GMail web page. If you are logged on, it will directly open to your own account.

GOOGLE *<text>*

Performs a Google search. Accept the Google keyword and then enter your search.

GOOGLE BLOG *<text>*

Searches using Google Blog.

GOOGLE BOOKS *<text>*

Searches for books using Google Books.

GOOGLE CALC *<operation>*

Performs a calculation or unit conversion using Google.

GOOGLE CATALOGS *<product or name>*

Search product catalogs using Google Catalogs.

GOOGLE FINANCE *<text>*

Searches for Financial data and articles using Google Finance.

GOOGLE IMAGE *<text>*

Searches images using Google Images.

GOOGLE MAPS *<location>*

Searches using Google Maps by entering a location or address.

GOOGLE NEWS *<text>*

Searches for news using Google News.

GOOGLE PATENTS *<text>*

Searches for patents using Google Patents.

GOOGLE SCHOLAR *<text>*

Searches for academic papers using Google Scholar.

GOOGLE VIDEO *<text>*

Searches for videos using Google Video.

FROOGLE OR GOOGLE PRODUCTS
<product>

Google product and shopping search, previously known as Froogle.

GOOGLE CALENDAR *<optional day><calendar event>*

Enter a new Google Calendar event.

INTERNET COMMANDS

BOOKMARKS < <i>web bookmark</i> >	Search through your bookmarked web pages. Currently only supports Internet Explorer and Firefox.
A9 < <i>text</i> >	Search the web using A9.
A9 ENTERTAINMENT	Search for entertainment using A9.
A9 IMAGES	Search for images using A9.
A9 NEWS	Search for news using A9.
A9 REFERENCE	Search reference materials using A9.
AMAZON < <i>product</i> >	Searches for products within Amazon.com
ASK.COM < <i>text</i> >	Search the web using Ask.com
BABELFISH	Opens Babelfish translation pages.
BRAINBOOST < <i>question</i> >	Type a question and ask The Brain.
DEFINE < <i>word</i> >	Defines a word in the English language using the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.
EBAY < <i>auction</i> >	Searches for auctions in Ebay.
ENCYCLOPEDIA < <i>text</i> >	Searches for articles using Encyclopedia Encarta.
FRINK < <i>computation</i> >	Performs a unit computation using Frink. See Frink documentation for more information.
IMDB < <i>text</i> >	Performs a search for movie, TV series, actor, actress, director, etc. using the Internet Movie Database.
LIVE SEARCH < <i>text</i> >	Search using MS Live Search.
MSDN < <i>text</i> >	Search the Microsoft Developer's Network.
THESAURUS < <i>word</i> >	Search using Roget's Thesaurus.
WEATHER < <i>city</i> >	Searches for weather conditions at your location using The Weather Network.
WIKIPEDIA < <i>text</i> >	Searches for an article within Wikipedia.
YAHOO < <i>text</i> >	Search the web using Yahoo
YOUTUBE < <i>text</i> >	Search for videos within YouTube.
YUBNUB < <i>text</i> >	YubNub online command line. Press Enter for details.

CONTROL PANEL COMMANDS

CONTROL PANEL < <i>optional applet</i> >	Open the Windows Control Panel by pressing Enter. Accept the keyword to search for a specific Control Panel applet.
ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS	Open the Windows accessibility options.
ADD NEW HARDWARE WIZARD	Open the Windows Wizard for adding new hardware.
ADD/REMOVE PROGRAMS	Install or Uninstall Windows programs.
ADMIN TOOLS	Open the Windows administration tools.
DATE AND TIME PROPERTIES	Change Date and Time properties.
DISPLAY PROPERTIES	Open the Windows Display properties.
FAX PROPERTIES	Open the Windows Fax properties.
FOLDER PROPERTIES	Open the Windows File properties.
FONTS	Open the installed fonts folders.
INTERNET OPTIONS	Change the internet connection properties.
JOYSTICK AND GAMEPAD OPTIONS	Change the joystick and gamepad options.
KEYBOARD PROPERTIES	Change the keyboard properties.
MOUSE PROPERTIES	Change the mouse properties.
MULTIMEDIA OPTIONS	Open the Windows multimedia options, for audio, sounds, CODECS, etc.
NETWORK CONNECTIONS	View and change the network connections.
NETWORK OPTIONS	Open the Windows network options.
PHONE AND MODEM OPTIONS	Open the Windows phone and modem options.
POWER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS	Set the power management options.
PRINTER OPTIONS	Show installed printers and change their properties.
REGIONAL SETTINGS	Open the Windows regional settings.
SCANNERS AND CAMERAS	Show installed imaging devices and set their options.
SCHEDULED TASKS	View and edit scheduled tasks.

SYSTEM PROPERTIES

Open the Windows system properties.

USER AND PASSWORD OPTIONS

Options for user accounts.