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O&O RegEditor

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O&O RegEditor User Guide

Welcome to the user guide for **O&O RegEditor**, the free Windows registry editor from O&O Software. This guide shows you how to browse the Windows registry, create and edit keys and values, search efficiently, import and export data using `.reg` files, and manage registry permissions securely.

O&O RegEditor gives you full access to the Windows registry, where the operating system and many applications, drivers, and services store their configuration settings. Its interface is based on the familiar Windows Registry Editor and enhances it with powerful productivity features, including an advanced search with a results list, favourites, direct address bar navigation, and a modern user interface with dark mode and High-DPI support.

Handle the registry with care

Incorrect changes to the registry can cause serious problems that affect the entire system and may require you to reinstall Windows. Before making any changes, back up your important data - for example by creating a system image with O&O DiskImage - and export any registry keys you plan to modify. O&O Software cannot guarantee that problems resulting from the improper use of O&O RegEditor can be resolved. You use O&O RegEditor at your own risk.

What You Can Do

- **Browse the registry** using the familiar key tree and value list, or jump directly to any registry path through the address bar.
- **Create, edit, rename, and delete** keys and values of all Windows-supported data types.
- **Enter numeric values** in hexadecimal, decimal, or binary format using the value editor.
- **Search** the registry for keys, value names, and value data using options such as Match Case, Whole Word, and Regular Expression, with live search results as you type.
- **Save search results** as a `.reg` file or a tab-separated text file for later analysis.
- **Import and export** Windows-compatible `.reg` files.
- **Manage favourites** and frequently used registry keys for quick access.
- **Manage permissions** and advanced security settings for registry keys.
- **Customize your experience** with dark mode, crisp High-DPI icons, comprehensive keyboard support, and your preferred interface language.

How This Guide Is Organized

Start with **Getting Started** to become familiar with the user interface and make your first changes to the registry. The **Core Concepts** section explains the structure of the Windows registry and the different value

types you will encounter.

The remaining chapters are organized by topic: **Keys and Values**, **Navigation**, **Search**, **Import and Export**, **Permissions and Security**, and **Settings**. The **Examples** section provides practical step-by-step walkthroughs, while **Troubleshooting** and the **FAQ** help you resolve common issues and answer frequently asked questions.

System Requirements

O&O RegEditor is a lightweight application with modest requirements.

Requirement	Details
Operating system	Windows 11, Windows 10, and the corresponding Windows Server editions. Windows 7 and later are supported as well.
Architecture	64-bit (x64) and ARM64.
Dark mode	Full dark-mode support requires Windows 10 version 1809 or later. On older systems the light theme is used.
Display	Any resolution. The interface is High-DPI aware and scales crisply on high-resolution displays.
Input	Keyboard and mouse. Most editing tasks can also be completed from the keyboard alone.
Permissions	Administrator rights are required to change protected areas of the registry such as parts of <code>HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE</code> .

Installation

O&O RegEditor is distributed as a single executable. The English and German user-interface resources are embedded in the program and extracted automatically at startup, so no separate language packs need to be installed.

The application also runs in the Windows Preinstallation Environment (Windows PE), for example as part of O&O BlueCon. In that environment settings are kept in memory only and are not written to disk.

Portable use

O&O RegEditor can run portably. If a configuration file named `00RegEditor.cfg` is present in the same folder as the executable, it is used in preference to the per-user configuration. See Settings Reference for details.

Quick Start

This page gives you the shortest reliable path to your first change in O&O RegEditor.



Figure: The main window — key tree on the left, value list on the right.

Before You Start

Changing the registry can affect the stability of Windows and installed programs. Before you edit anything important:

1. Make a current backup of your data.
2. Export the key you are about to change so you can restore it later. See Export.

Make Your First Change

1. Open **O&O RegEditor**.
2. In the key tree on the left, expand a main key (for example `HKEY_CURRENT_USER`) and navigate to the key you want to edit. You can also type or paste a path into the **address bar** and press Enter.

3. Select a key. Its values appear in the value list on the right.
4. To change a value, double-click it — or select it and press **Enter** — to open the value editor.
5. Enter the new data and confirm with **OK**.
6. To add something new, right-click a key and choose **New** to create a subkey or a value of the type you need.

Recommended Habits

Habit	Why it helps
Export before you edit	Lets you re-import the original data if a change causes problems.
Use the address bar	Fastest way to reach a known path; it also remembers recent paths.
Add frequent locations to Favourites	One-click return to keys you visit often.
Search instead of scrolling	The result list finds keys, value names, and data across a whole branch.

What To Do Next

- Learn the interface in User Interface.
- Understand keys, values, and hives in Registry Structure.
- Learn the value types and how to enter data in Value Types.

User Interface

The O&O RegEditor window is divided into a small number of clearly separated areas.



Figure: The main areas of the O&O RegEditor window.

The Main Areas

Area	Purpose
Menu bar	Access to all commands: File, Edit, View, Favourites, and Help.
Toolbar	Buttons for the most frequent actions, including search. Icons scale for High-DPI displays.
Address bar	Shows the path of the selected key and lets you jump to any path by typing or pasting it. It remembers recently used paths.
Key tree	The hierarchy of keys, starting from the five main keys. Expand a key to see its subkeys.
Value list	The values stored in the currently selected key, with their name, type, and data.
Status bar	Status information and a clickable link to the O&O Software website.

Key Tree

The tree on the left mirrors the structure of the registry. Click the expand arrow (or press the arrow keys) to open a key and reveal its subkeys. Selecting a key loads its values into the value list.

You can collapse or expand the selected branch from the context menu or the **View** menu.

Value List

The value list on the right shows every value in the selected key:

- The **default value** of a key is shown with the name `(Default)`.
- Each other value has a **name**, a **type** (such as `REG_SZ` or `REG_DWORD`), and its **data**.

Double-click a value — or select it and press Enter — to edit it. Right-click for the full set of commands (New, Modify, Rename, Delete, and more).

Window Title

The window title shows an abbreviated path of the currently selected key or value, followed by the product name. This makes it easy to tell several open O&O RegEditor windows apart in the taskbar. You can adjust how the title is composed under **View > Window title**; see Appearance.

Keyboard Operation

O&O RegEditor is designed to be used from the keyboard:

- Tab switches focus between the key tree and the value list, in both directions.

- Enter on a value opens the value editor; after you close the editor, focus returns to the value you edited.
- The arrow keys move the selection; Home and End jump to the first and last item.

See [Browsing And Navigation](#) for more on moving around the registry.

Registry Structure

The Windows registry is a hierarchical database. Understanding its structure makes editing safer and faster.

Keys And Values

A **key** is a container, comparable to a folder. A key can hold **values** and further **subkeys**. Every value belongs to exactly one key.

- A **key** organizes the hierarchy and can be assigned one or more values.
- A **value** stores actual data — a piece of text, a number, or binary content — under a name inside a key.

Each key also has one unnamed **default value**, shown in the value list as (Default) .

Key vs. value

If you are looking for the folder-like structure on the left, that is the **key** tree. The named entries with data on the right are **values**. You create, edit, and delete them separately.

The Main Keys

At the top of the tree are five main keys (also called root keys or hives). Every path in the registry begins with one of them:

Main key	Abbreviation	Contains
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT	HKCR	File type associations and COM/class registration.
HKEY_CURRENT_USER	HKCU	Settings for the user who is currently signed in.
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE	HKLM	System-wide settings for the whole computer.
HKEY_USERS	HKU	Settings for all user profiles on the computer.
HKEY_CURRENT_CONFIG	HKCC	The current hardware configuration profile.

Below the main keys are many subkeys, which in turn can contain further subkeys and values.

Paths

A registry path is written as a chain of key names separated by backslashes, starting from a main key — for example:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\O&O\O&O RegEditor
```

O&O RegEditor also accepts paths copied from the Windows Registry Editor that begin with `Computer\` (or the localized `My Computer\`). The leading `Computer\` part is removed automatically. See [Browsing And Navigation](#).

Editing Safely

Because so much of Windows depends on the registry, keep these principles in mind:

- Export the key you are about to change before you change it.
- Change one thing at a time and note what you changed.
- Prefer to edit keys under `HKEY_CURRENT_USER` for user-specific settings; changes under `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE` affect every user and require administrator rights.

Value Types

O&O RegEditor can read, create, and edit every data type recognized by Windows. When you create a new value you choose its type; when you edit a value the correct editor opens automatically for that type.

Supported Types

Type	Meaning	Typical use
REG_SZ	A single string of text.	Paths, names, and simple text settings.
REG_EXPAND_SZ	An expandable string. Environment variables such as %SystemRoot% are replaced with their current value when the string is used.	Paths that should adapt to the system.
REG_MULTI_SZ	A list of strings, one per line.	Settings that hold several text entries.
REG_DWORD	A 32-bit number.	Flags, counts, and small numeric options.
REG_QWORD	A 64-bit number.	Large numeric values.
REG_BINARY	Raw binary data, edited as hexadecimal bytes.	Structured or opaque binary settings.
REG_NONE	A value with no defined type.	Rare; usually created by other software.

O&O RegEditor also reads the less common resource-list and full-resource-descriptor types when they appear in the registry or in imported .reg files.

Entering Numbers

When you edit a numeric value (REG_DWORD or REG_QWORD), you can enter the number in different formats:

- **Hexadecimal** — the base commonly used in the registry.
- **Decimal** — ordinary base-10 numbers.
- **Binary** — individual bits.

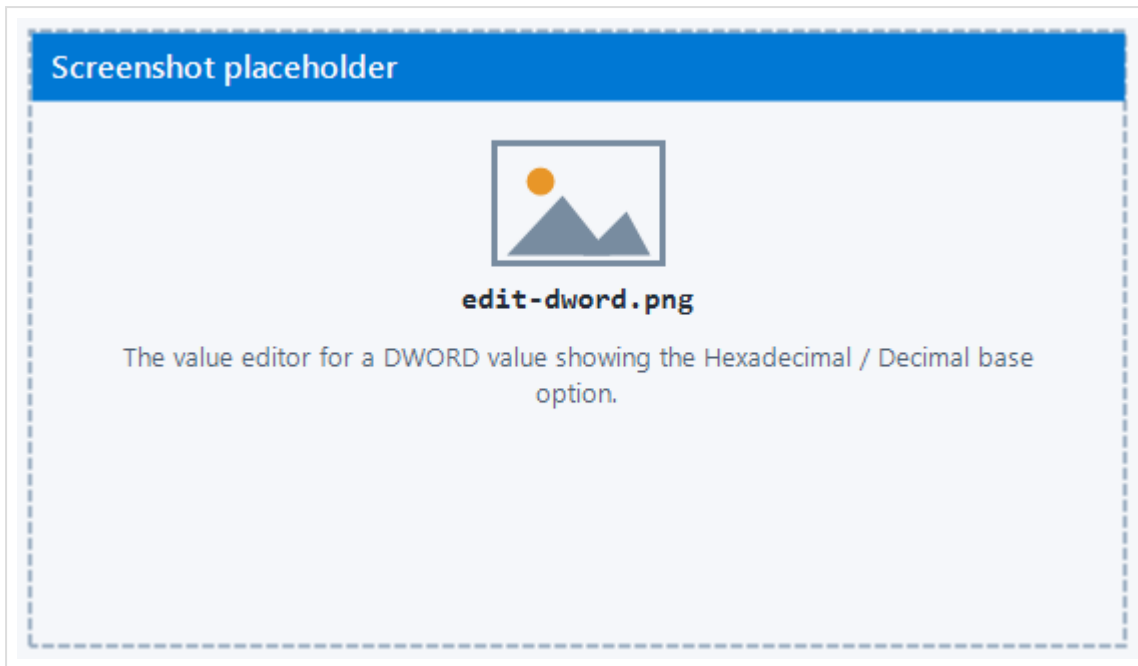


Figure: The numeric value editor lets you switch between hexadecimal and decimal.

Switch the base in the editor before typing so that O&O RegEditor interprets your input correctly. The stored value is the same number regardless of the format you use to enter it.

Strings, Lists, And Binary Data

- **Strings** (`REG_SZ` , `REG_EXPAND_SZ`) are typed directly as text.
- **Multi-strings** (`REG_MULTI_SZ`) are edited with one entry per line; see the multi-line editor below.
- **Binary data** (`REG_BINARY`) is edited as a grid of hexadecimal bytes; O&O RegEditor handles large binary values correctly.

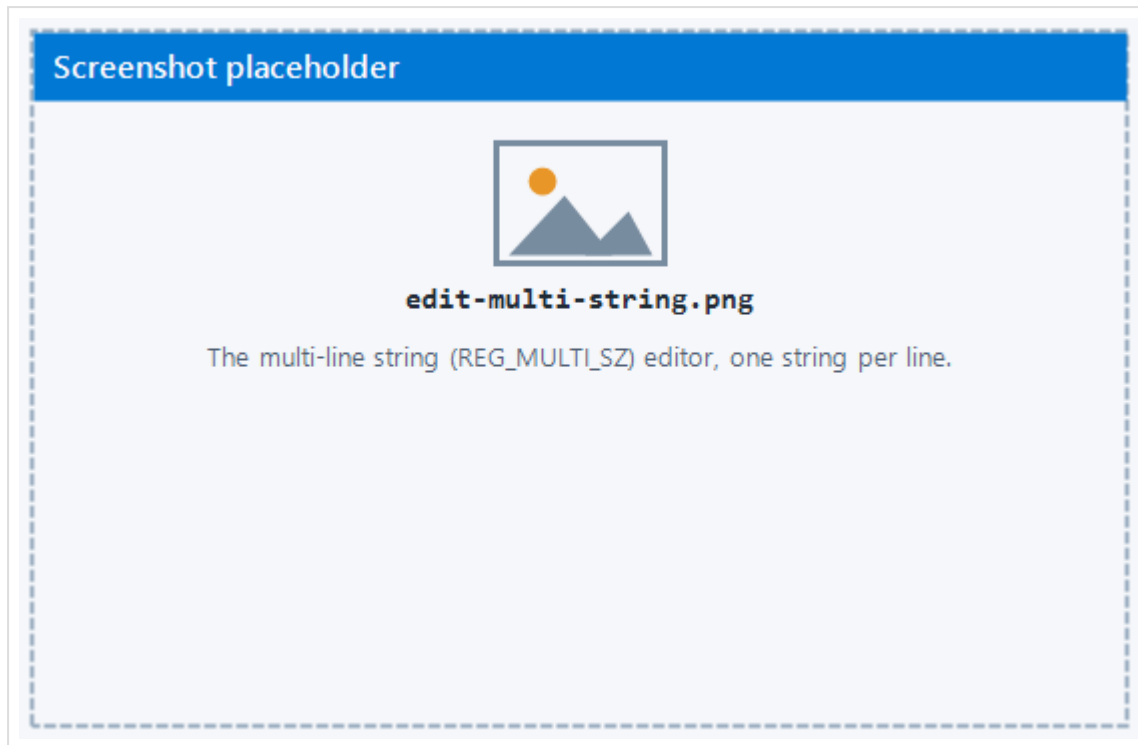


Figure: The multi-string editor — one string per line.

For step-by-step instructions on creating and changing values, see [Create Values](#) and [Edit Values](#).

Create Keys

A new key is always created as a subkey of an existing key.

Steps

1. Open O&O RegEditor.
2. In the key tree, select the key under which the new key should appear.
3. Right-click it and choose **New > Key** from the context menu.

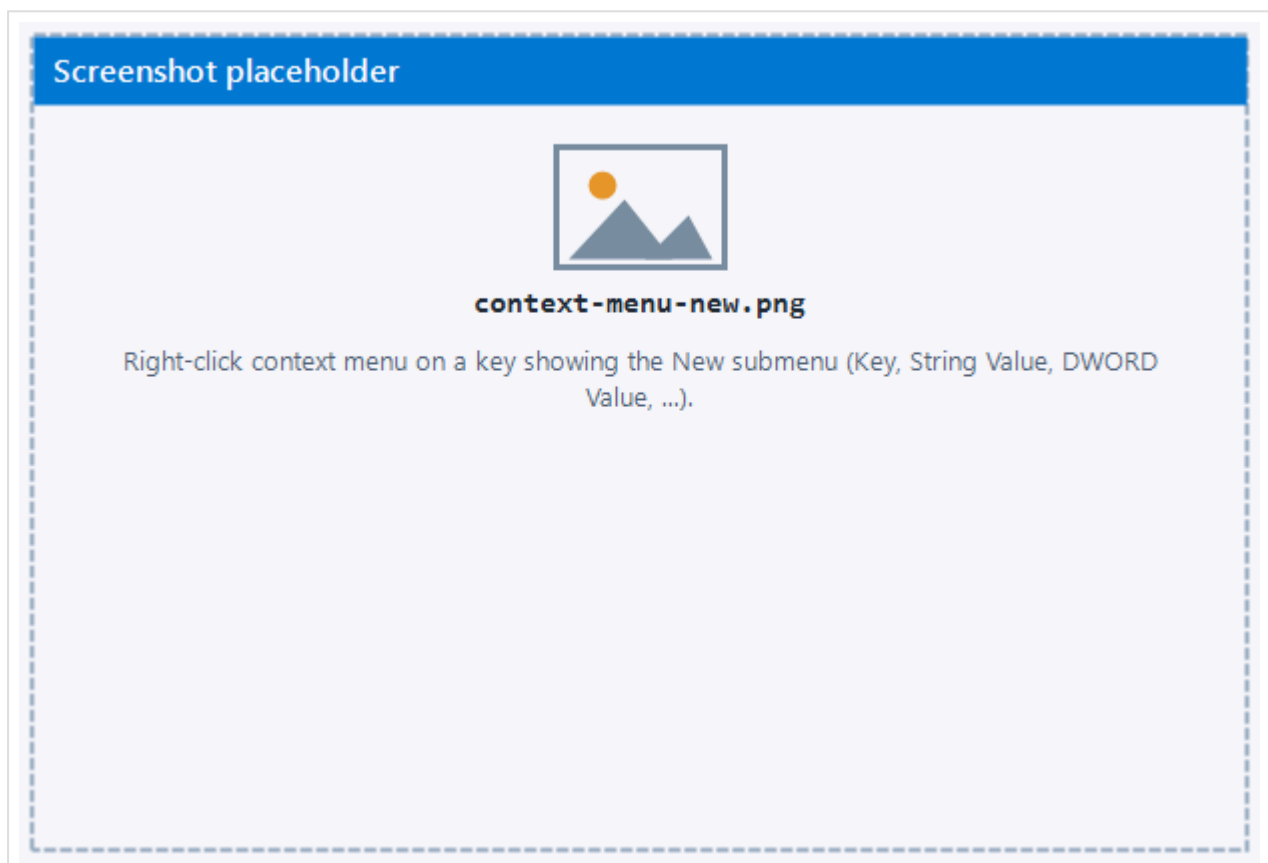


Figure: Creating a new key from the context menu of the selected key.

4. A new key is inserted as a subkey with an editable name. Type the name and press Enter to confirm.

The new key is created immediately in the registry. It starts with only an empty default value; add the values it needs as described in Create Values.

Naming Rules

- A key name must be unique among the subkeys of the same parent.
- Backslashes (\) separate keys in a path and cannot be part of a key name.
- Choose names exactly as required by the application that will read the key — key names are matched precisely.

Renaming And Removing

To rename a key you just created, select it and press F2, or use **Rename** from the context menu. To remove a key, use **Delete**. Both are covered in Rename And Delete.

Warning

Deleting a key also deletes all of its subkeys and values. Export the branch first if you might need it again.

Create Values

You can assign one or more values to any key.

Steps

1. Open O&O RegEditor.
2. Select the key that should receive the new value.
3. Right-click in the value list (or on the key) and choose **New**, then the value type you need:

- **String Value** (REG_SZ)
- **Expandable String Value** (REG_EXPAND_SZ)
- **Multi-String Value** (REG_MULTI_SZ)
- **DWORD (32-bit) Value** (REG_DWORD)
- **QWORD (64-bit) Value** (REG_QWORD)
- **Binary Value** (REG_BINARY)

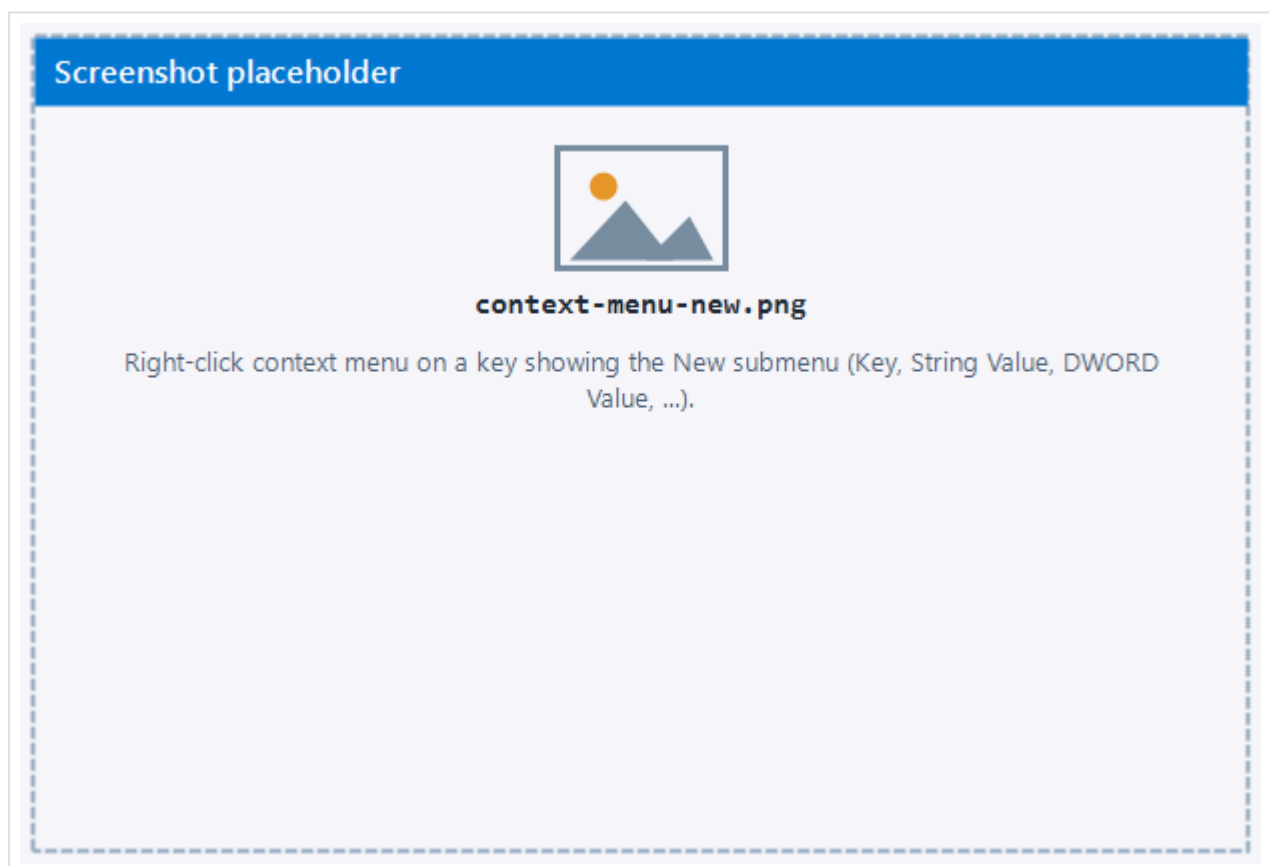


Figure: Choosing the type of the new value.

4. A new value appears in the list with an editable name. Type the name and press Enter.
5. The value is created with an empty or zero default. Open it (double-click or Enter) to enter its data — see Edit Values.

Choosing The Right Type

Pick the type expected by the software that reads the value. Creating a value with the wrong type is a common cause of a setting being ignored. If you are unsure, check the type of a comparable existing value, or the documentation of the application. For an overview of the types, see Value Types.

The Default Value

Every key already has an unnamed default value shown as (Default) . You do not create it; you simply edit it when a key needs a value with no name — for example the command associated with a shell verb. See the Context Menu Example.

Edit Values

Editing a value opens an editor tailored to that value's type.

Steps

1. Open O&O RegEditor.
2. Select the key that contains the value.
3. In the value list, open the value:
 - **Double-click** it, or
 - select it and press **Enter**, or
 - choose **Modify** from the context menu.
4. Enter the new data and confirm with **OK**. To discard your changes, choose **Cancel** or press **Esc**.

After you close the editor, focus returns to the value you edited, so you can continue with the keyboard.

Editors By Type

Strings

String and expandable-string values are edited as plain text.

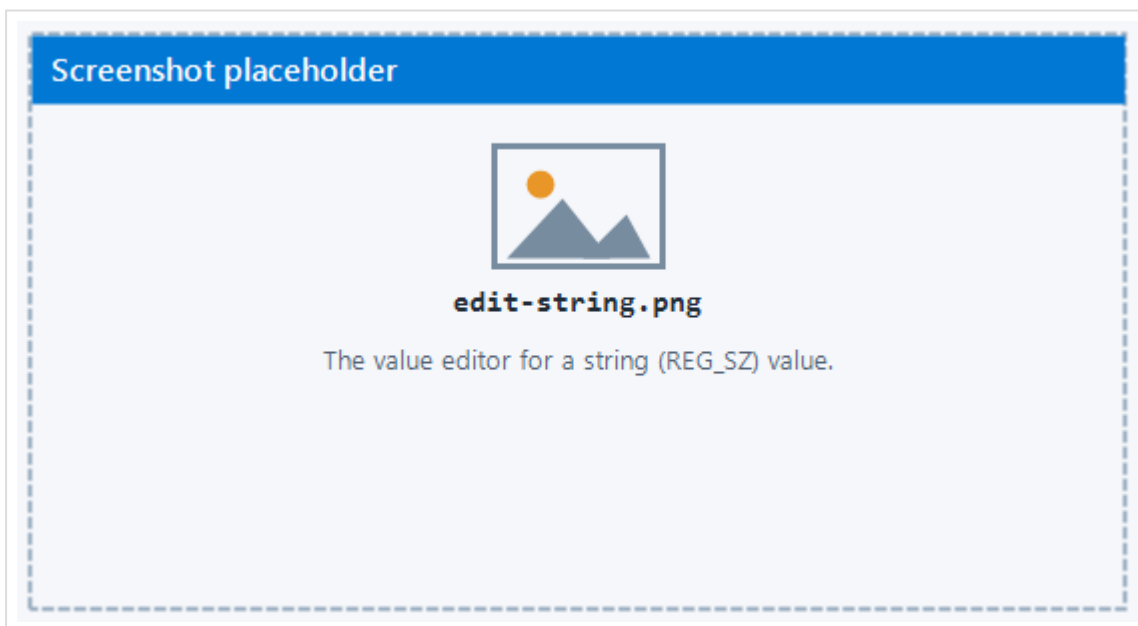


Figure: Editing a string value.

Numbers

For `REG_DWORD` and `REG_QWORD` values, choose the base — **hexadecimal**, **decimal**, or **binary** — before typing, so the number is interpreted correctly.

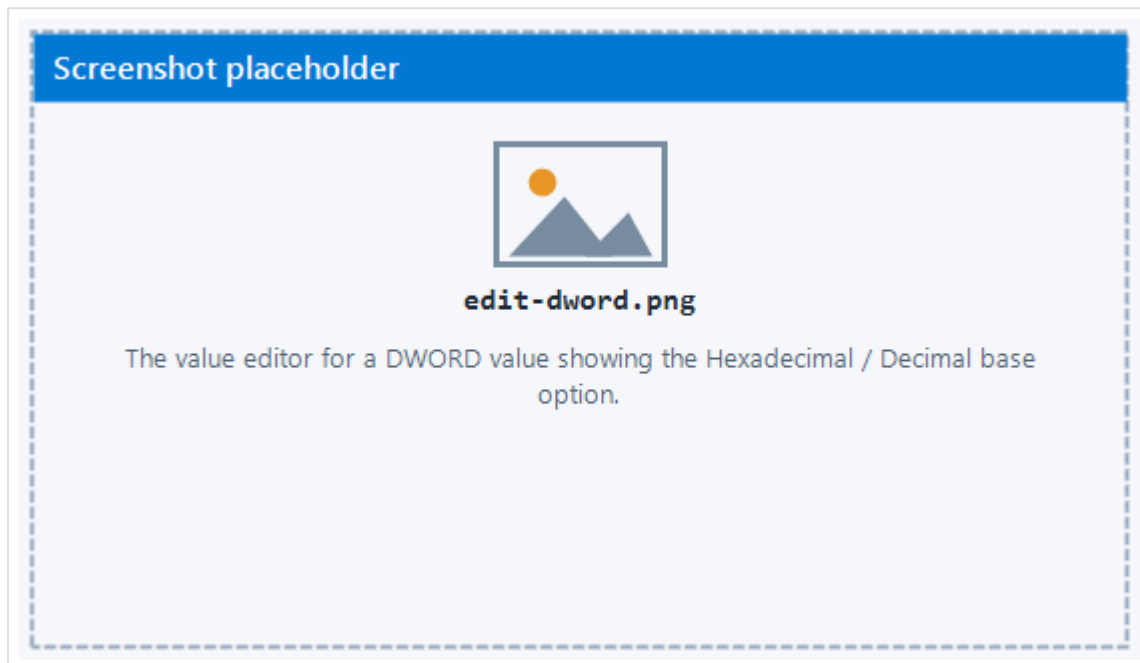


Figure: Editing a numeric value with a selectable base.

Multi-line strings

A `REG_MULTI_SZ` value is edited with one string per line. Add, change, or remove lines and confirm.

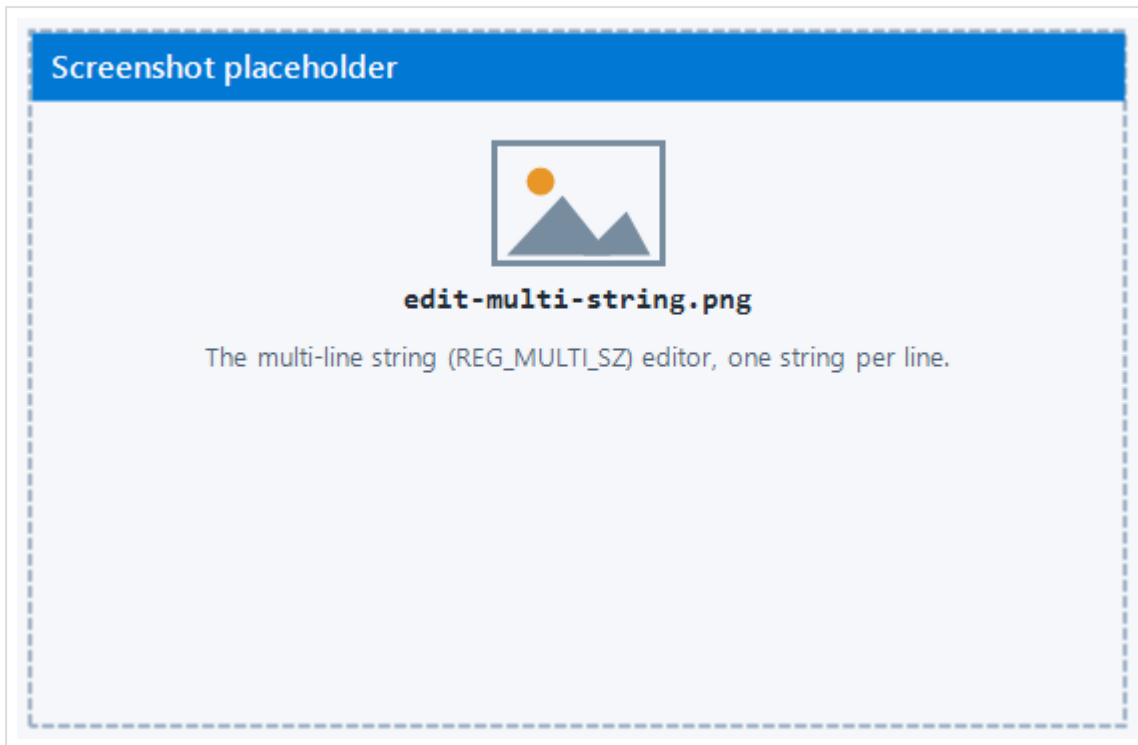


Figure: Editing a multi-string value.

Binary data

`REG_BINARY` values are edited as a grid of hexadecimal bytes. Large binary values are supported.

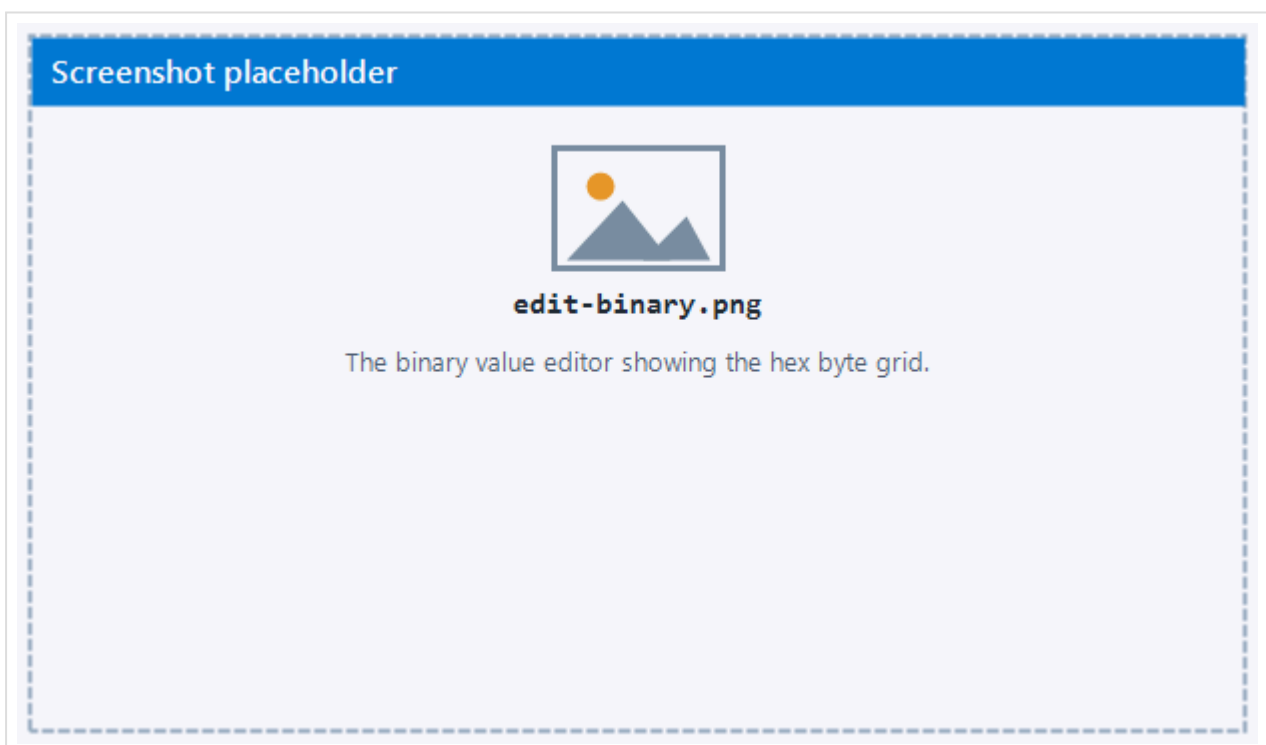


Figure: Editing a binary value as hexadecimal bytes.

Tips

- Only the value data is changed here; to change a value's **name**, use **Rename** instead (see [Rename And Delete](#)).
- Export the key first if the value is important, so you can restore the previous data.
- The stored number of a numeric value is independent of the input base you used.

Rename And Delete

You can rename or delete both keys and values.

Rename

1. Select the key (in the tree) or value (in the value list) you want to rename.
2. Press F2, or choose **Rename** from the context menu.
3. Type the new name and press Enter.

Renaming a key keeps all of its subkeys and values. Renaming a value keeps its type and data.

The default value cannot be renamed

The unnamed (Default) value of a key always exists and cannot be renamed or removed. You can only change its data.

Delete

1. Select the key or value to remove.
2. Choose **Delete** from the context menu, or press Delete.
3. Confirm the prompt.

Before You Delete

Deletion takes effect immediately in the registry.

Deleting a key removes everything inside it

When you delete a key, all of its subkeys and values are deleted as well. If you might need the data again, export the key branch to a `.reg` file first — you can re-import it later to restore the data.

If a delete or rename fails, you may not have sufficient permission on that key. See Manage Permissions.

Copy And Move

O&O RegEditor can copy and move keys and values from one location to another, which is useful when you want to duplicate a configuration or reorganize entries. This goes beyond the standard Windows Registry Editor, which cannot move keys directly.

Copy Or Move A Key Or Value

1. Select the key or value you want to copy or move.
2. Use the context-menu commands to **copy** (duplicate) or **move** (relocate) the selection.
3. Select the destination key.
4. Paste the selection into the destination.

When you copy a key, its subkeys and values are copied with it. When you move a key or value, it is removed from the original location after it has been placed in the destination.

Verify before you rely on it

After a copy or move, check both the source and the destination in the value list to confirm the result before you delete anything or restart affected software.

Copy A Path To The Clipboard

To copy the full path of the selected key as text — for example to paste it into a document, a script, or the address bar — use the **Copy Key Name** command from the context menu. This copies the path only; it does not copy the key's contents.

Related

- To copy data out of the product entirely, export it to a `.reg` file.
- To bring data in from a file, use import.

Browsing And Navigation

There are several ways to move through the registry in O&O RegEditor. Use whichever is fastest for the task at hand.

The Key Tree

The tree on the left shows the registry hierarchy. Expand a main key to reveal its subkeys, and continue down to the key you need. Selecting a key shows its values on the right.

You can expand or collapse the selected branch from the context menu or the **View** menu, and move through the tree with the arrow keys.

The Address Bar

The address bar is the quickest way to reach a path you already know.



Figure: The address bar with its recently used paths.

1. Click in the address bar (or focus it from the menu).
2. Type or paste a registry path.
3. Press Enter to go there.

The address bar accepts paths in O&O RegEditor's own form as well as paths copied from the Windows Registry Editor that begin with `Computer\` or the localized `My Computer\` — the leading part is removed automatically.

Recently Used Paths

The address bar remembers the paths you visit and offers them from its drop-down list, so returning to a recent location takes one click. The number of remembered paths can be configured; see [Settings Reference](#).

Favourites And Frequently Used Keys

For locations you return to often, add them to your **Favourites** or use the built-in list of **frequently used keys**. Both are described in [Favourites](#).

Restoring Your Last Location

When you close O&O RegEditor, it remembers the key you had selected. The next time you start the program, that location is restored so you can continue where you left off.

Favourites

Favourites give you one-click access to the keys you use most.

Add A Favourite

1. Navigate to the key you want to remember.
2. Open the **Favourites** menu and choose **Add**.
3. Confirm or adjust the name. The favourite is added to the bottom of the **Favourites** menu.

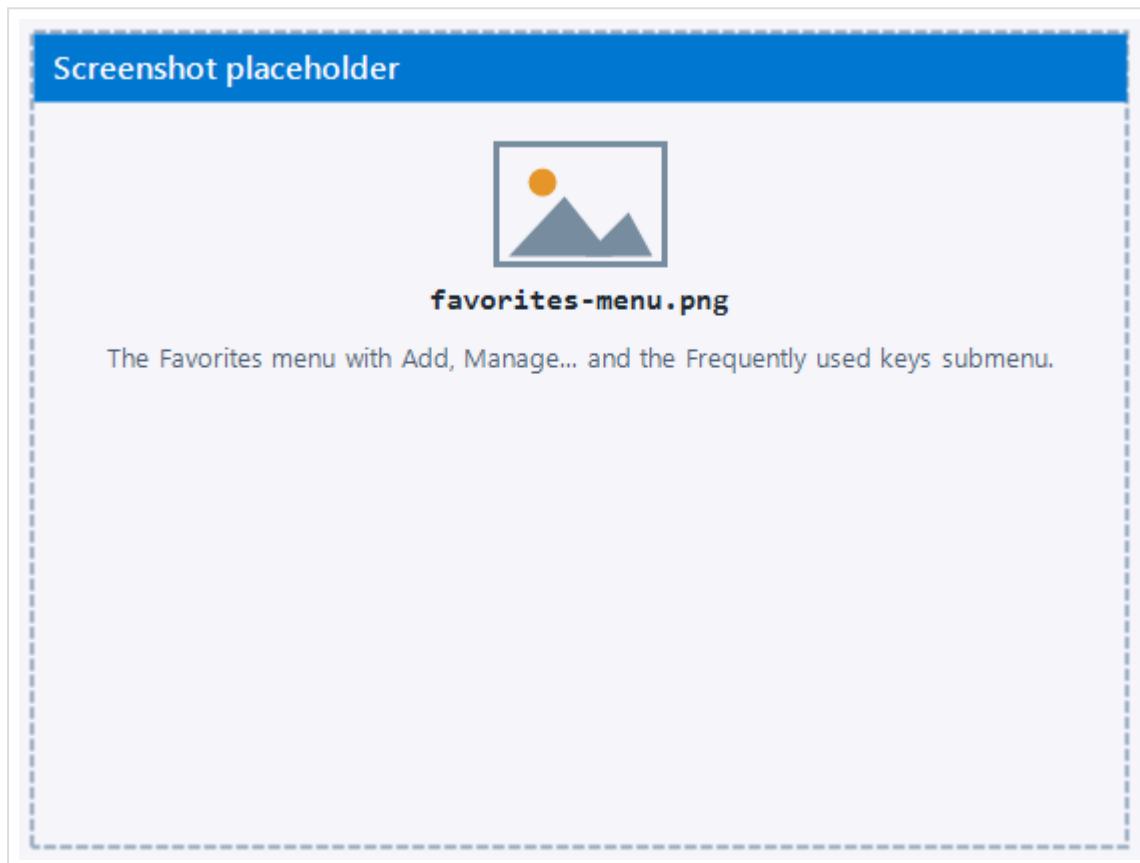


Figure: The Favourites menu with the frequently used keys submenu.

Selecting a favourite from the menu jumps straight to that key. A favourite can point to a key, or to a specific value within a key.

Frequently Used Keys

O&O RegEditor also provides a built-in **frequently used keys** submenu in the **Favourites** menu. It groups commonly needed registry locations so you can reach them without typing a path.

Manage Favourites

Choose **Favourites > Manage...** to open the Manage Favourites dialog.

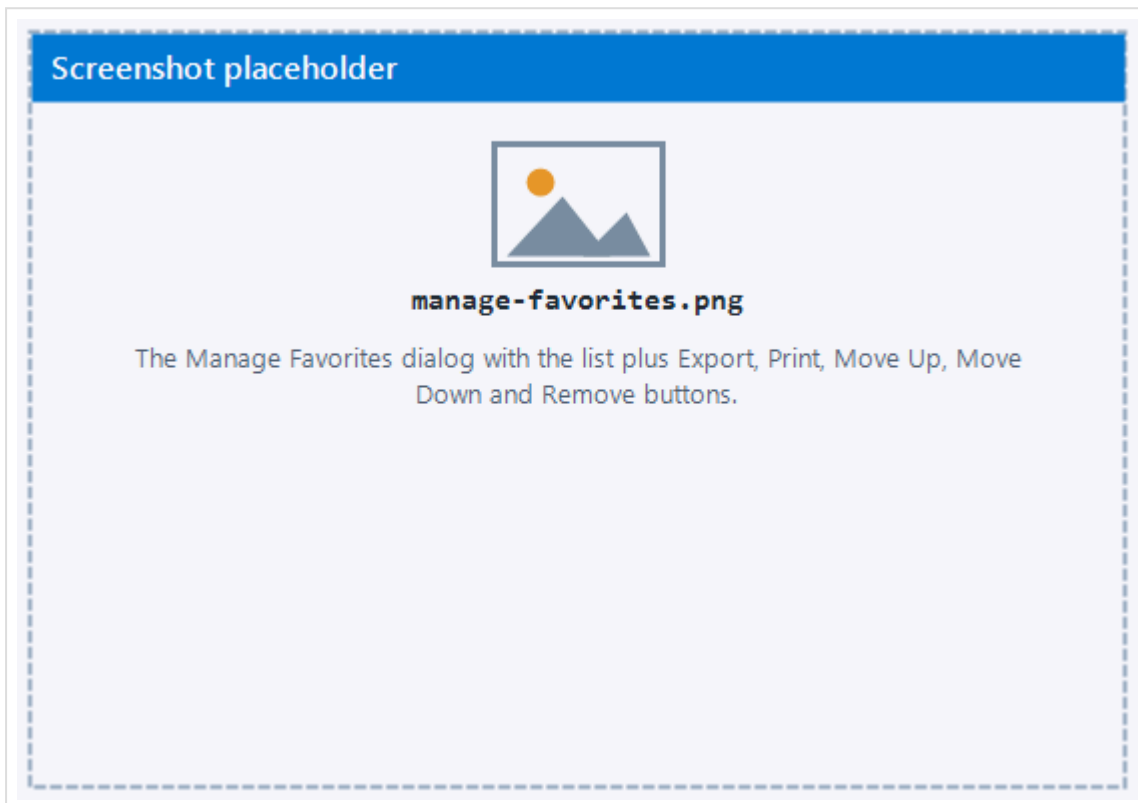


Figure: The Manage Favourites dialog.

In this dialog you can:

Action	Description
Select	Select one or several favourites (multi-selection is supported).
Move Up / Move Down	Reorder a selected favourite. The menu follows the new order.
Remove	Delete the selected favourites.
Export	Export the selected favourites' keys to a <code>.reg</code> file.
Print	Print the selected favourites' keys.

Move Up and **Move Down** are available when exactly one favourite is selected; **Export**, **Print**, and **Remove** work on any number of selected favourites.

Export multiple branches at once

Selecting several favourites and choosing **Export** writes all of their key branches into a single `.reg` file — a quick way to back up a set of related keys.

Finding Data

The enhanced search is one of the biggest advantages of O&O RegEditor over the standard Windows Registry Editor. It searches key names, value names, and value data, and collects everything it finds into a result list.

Start A Search

1. In the key tree, select the key or branch you want to search. The search covers the selected key and everything beneath it.
2. Click **Search** on the toolbar (or use the corresponding menu command) to open the Find pane.
3. Type what you are looking for.
4. Choose where to look and how to match (see below).
5. Start the search.

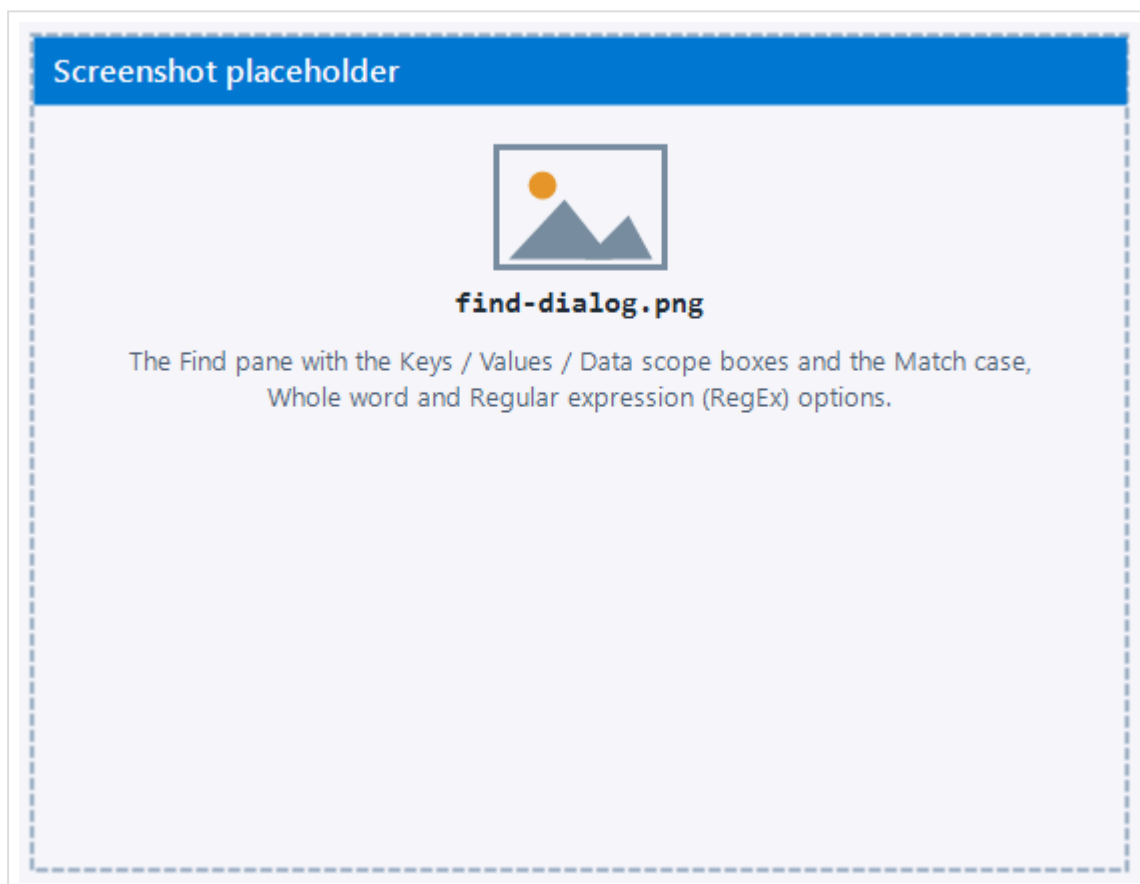


Figure: The Find pane with its scope and matching options.

Choose Where To Search

Enable the boxes for the parts of the registry you want to include:

Scope	Matches against
Keys	Key (folder) names.
Values	Value names.
Data	The data stored in values.

You can combine them freely — for example, search value names and data but not key names.

Matching Options

Option	Effect
Match case	Distinguishes uppercase and lowercase letters.
Whole word	Matches only complete words, not substrings.
Regular expression (RegEx)	Interprets the search text as a regular expression. See Regular Expressions.

When **Regular expression** is enabled, the **Whole word** option does not apply and is disabled.

Live Results

O&O RegEditor shows results as you type, so you can refine your search text and immediately see the effect without starting over.

Search Scope Note

Selecting a specific key restricts the search to that branch, which is faster and easier to review. Selecting a main key such as `HKEY_CURRENT_USER` searches that entire hive.

Next

- Fine-tune matching with Regular Expressions.
- Work with the Search Results, including saving them to a file.

Regular Expressions

For advanced searches, enable **Regular expression (RegEx)** in the Find pane. Your search text is then interpreted as a pattern rather than as literal text.

Enabling RegEx

1. Open the Find pane and type your pattern.
2. Enable the **Regular expression (RegEx)** option.
3. Start the search.

When RegEx is enabled, the **Whole word** option is disabled because it does not apply to patterns. The **Match case** option still applies: with it off, the pattern matches case-insensitively.

Syntax

O&O RegEditor uses the ECMAScript regular-expression syntax. A few useful elements:

Pattern	Matches
<code>.</code>	Any single character.
<code>^ / \$</code>	The start / end of the text.
<code>a b</code>	Either <code>a</code> or <code>b</code> .
<code>[0-9]</code>	Any digit.
<code>\d , \w , \s</code>	A digit, a word character, or whitespace.
<code>*</code> , <code>+</code> , <code>?</code>	Zero-or-more, one-or-more, zero-or-one of the preceding element.
<code>{2,4}</code>	Between two and four repetitions.

Examples

Goal	Pattern
Find <code>Dword</code> or <code>Bin</code>	<code>Dword Bin</code>
Find a value whose data is exactly <code>StrVal</code>	<code>^StrVal\$</code>
Find entries ending in <code>.exe</code>	<code>\.exe\$</code>
Find a GUID-like value	<code>\{[0-9A-Fa-f-]+\}</code>

Invalid Patterns

If a pattern cannot be compiled — for example an unbalanced bracket such as `[invalid` — O&O RegEditor shows an error message and does not start the search. Correct the pattern and try again.

Test on a narrow branch first

Regular-expression searches can match a lot. Select a specific key before searching so the result list stays manageable while you refine the pattern.

Search Results

When a search finishes, its matches are collected in the search result list.

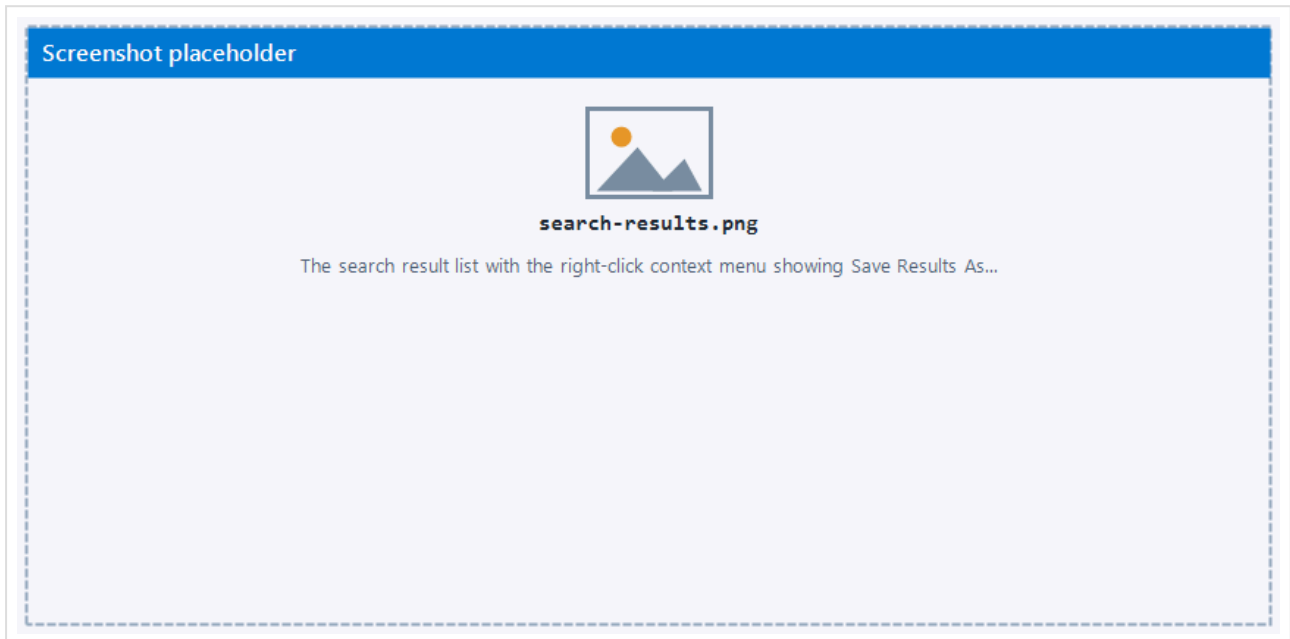


Figure: The result list with the Save Results As... command.

The Result List

Each row shows where the match was found and what matched, including the key path, the value name, its type, and its data. Double-click a row to jump to that location in the key tree and value list, so you can inspect or edit it in context.

Result Limit

By default the number of results is not limited. If you prefer to cap very large searches, you can set a maximum in the configuration file (`SearchMaxResults`); a value of `0` means unlimited. See Settings Reference.

Save Results As A File

You can save the results for offline review or documentation before you make any changes to the live registry.

1. In the result list, select the rows you want to save. If you select nothing, all rows are saved.
2. Right-click and choose **Save Results As....**

3. Choose a location, a file name, and a format.

Formats

Format	Extension	Use
Registry file	.reg	Re-importable. The values are re-read from the registry so the file is complete and valid, and can be imported again later.
Text file	.txt	A tab-separated, human-readable dump of the result columns. For review and searching, not for re-import.

The format is chosen from the extension you type, or from the selected file-type filter.

Review before you change

Saving results to a .reg file first gives you a reviewable snapshot. You can open it in a text editor, confirm exactly what would change, and keep it as a backup before editing the live registry.

Export

Exporting writes a key and its contents to a `.reg` file. The exported files are compatible with the Windows Registry Editor, so they can be shared, archived, or re-imported later.

Export A Key

1. Select the key (branch) you want to export.
2. Open the **File** menu and choose **Export**.
3. Choose a location and a file name and confirm.

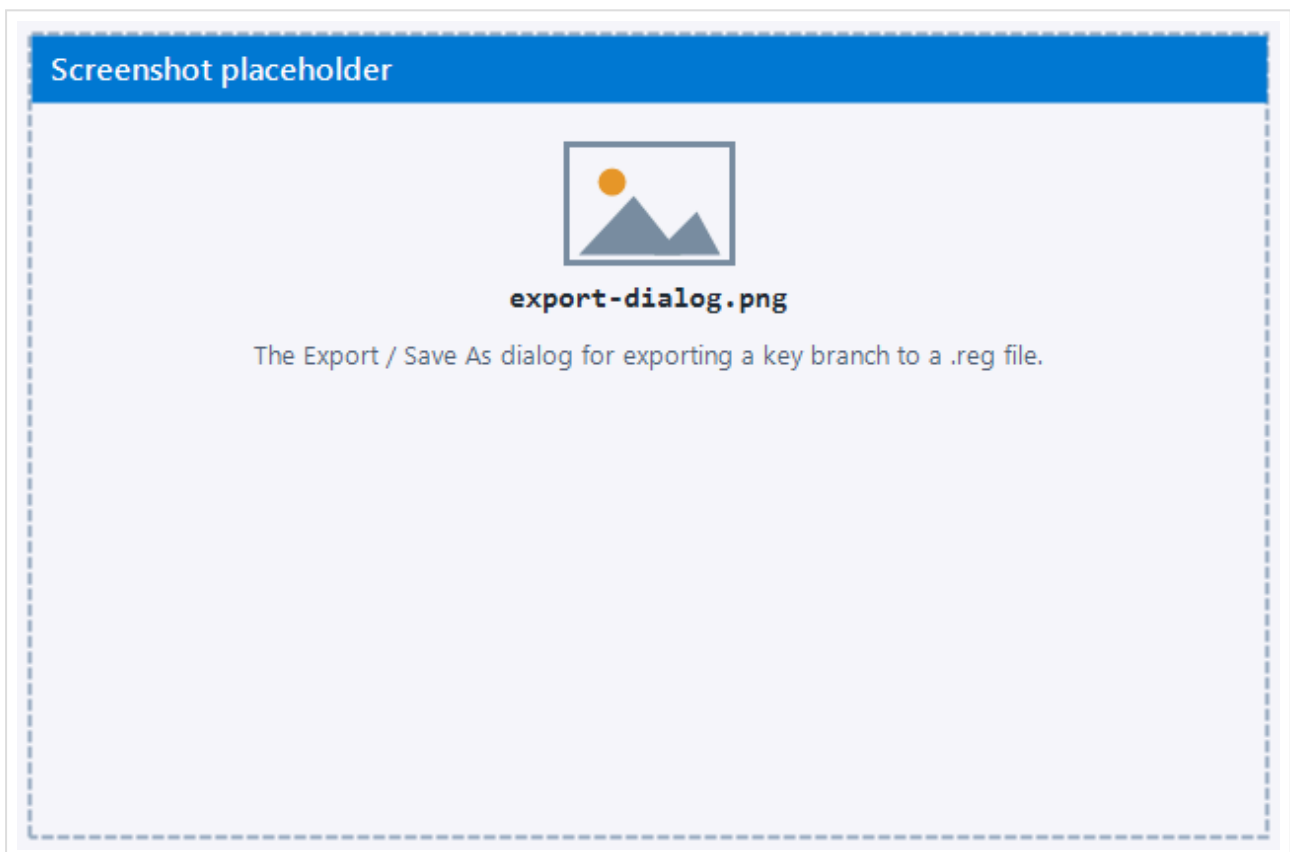


Figure: Exporting a key branch to a .reg file.

The exported file contains the selected key, all of its subkeys, and all of their values, in the standard `.reg` text format.

Why Export Before Editing

Exporting is the simplest way to protect yourself before a change:

- Export the key you are about to edit.
- Make your change.
- If the result is wrong, import the exported file to restore the original data.

Other Ways To Export

- **Favourites:** the Manage Favourites dialog can export the branches of several selected favourites into one file.
- **Search results:** the search result list can save selected matches to a `.reg` file with **Save Results As....**

Note

Exporting reads data from the registry and writes it to a file; it never changes the registry itself.

Import

Importing reads a `.reg` file and writes its keys and values into the registry. This is how you restore an exported branch or apply a `.reg` file supplied by someone else.

Import A File

1. Open the **File** menu and choose **Import**.
2. Select the `.reg` file you want to import and confirm.

The keys and values in the file are created or updated in the registry. Existing values with the same name are overwritten with the data from the file.

Import From The Command Line

You can also import a file by starting O&O RegEditor with the path of a `.reg` file as an argument. O&O RegEditor asks for confirmation before it applies the file.

Importing changes the registry

An import writes directly to the registry and can overwrite existing values. Only import files whose contents you trust and understand. When in doubt, open the `.reg` file in a text editor first to see exactly which keys and values it changes.

Compatibility

O&O RegEditor reads standard Windows `.reg` files, including:

- **All value types**, including binary-encoded types such as `REG_NONE`.
- **Comment lines** that begin with a semicolon (`;`), which are ignored.
- **Quoted strings** with escaped quotes (`\"`) and escaped backslashes (`\\`), which are decoded correctly — including paths that end in a backslash.

The file must be a valid Windows registry file. If a line cannot be interpreted, the import reports an error identifying the line so you can correct the file.

Restoring After A Mistake

If a change causes a problem and you exported the key beforehand, import that exported file to put the original data back. See Export.

Manage Permissions

Registry keys are protected by permissions, just like files and folders. O&O RegEditor lets you review and change which users and groups may read or modify a key.

Assign Permissions For A Key

1. Select the key whose permissions you want to change.
2. Open the **Edit** menu and choose **Permissions**.
3. Under **Group or user names**, select the user or group you want to configure.
4. In the permissions list below, set the access level:

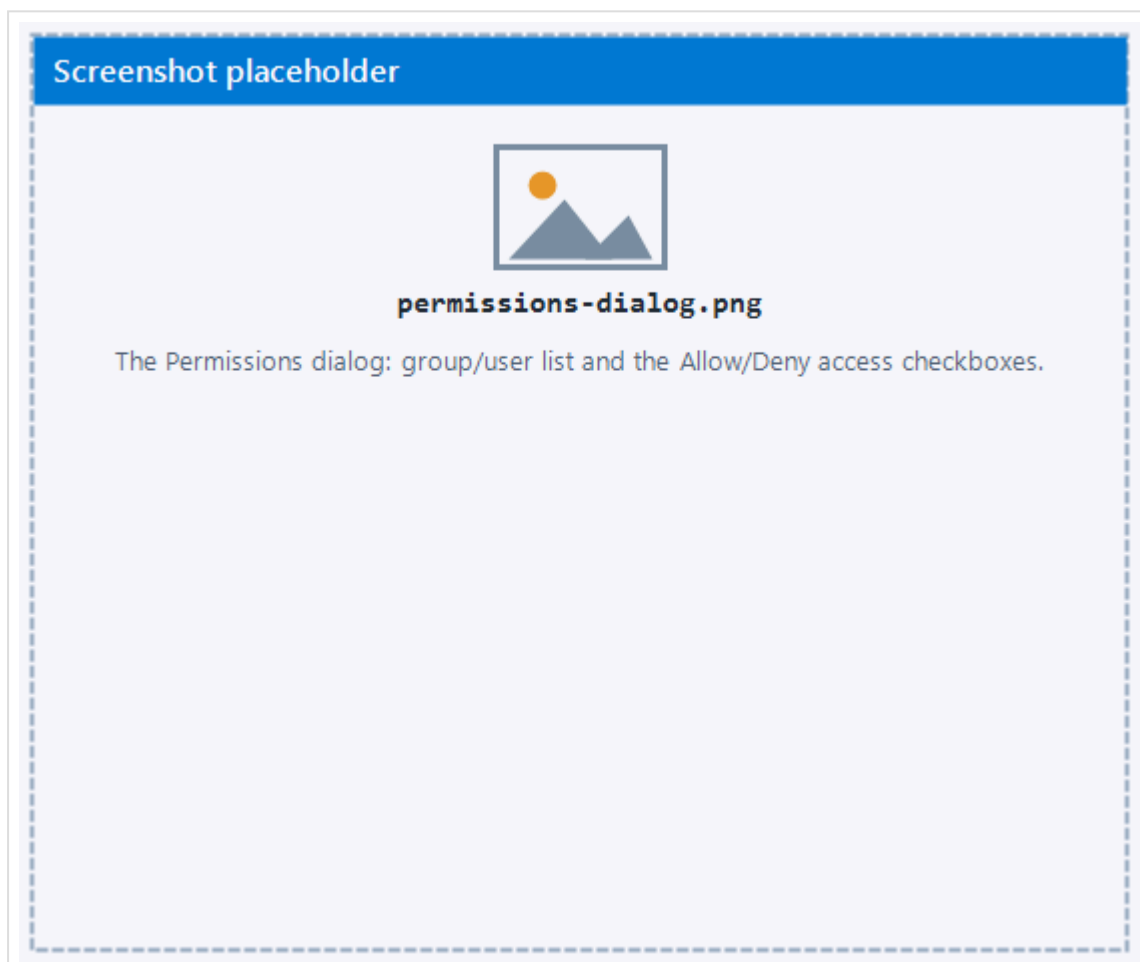


Figure: The Permissions dialog for a key.

To allow the user to...	Enable Allow for...
open, edit, and take ownership of the key	Full Control
read the contents of the key but not change or save it	Read
use special, fine-grained privileges	click Advanced (see Advanced Security Settings)

5. Apply the change.

Inheritance

Permissions can be inherited from a parent key. If you assign permissions on a subkey and want the permissions of a main key to apply to that subkey as well, enable the option to **inherit** the parent's permission entries that apply to child objects, then apply.

Permissions affect access, not just editing

Removing your own access to a key can lock you out of it. Changing permissions on system keys can prevent Windows or applications from working correctly. Change permissions deliberately, and note what you changed.

Administrator Rights

Changing permissions — especially on keys under `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE` — generally requires administrator rights. If a change is refused, start O&O RegEditor with the necessary privileges.

Advanced Security Settings

For fine-grained control beyond the basic Allow/Deny levels, open the advanced security settings of a key.

Open Advanced Settings

1. Select the key for which you want to assign privileges.
2. Open the **Edit** menu and choose **Permissions**.
3. Under **Group or user names**, select the desired user, and assign an access level as described in Manage Permissions.
4. Click **Advanced** to open the advanced security settings.

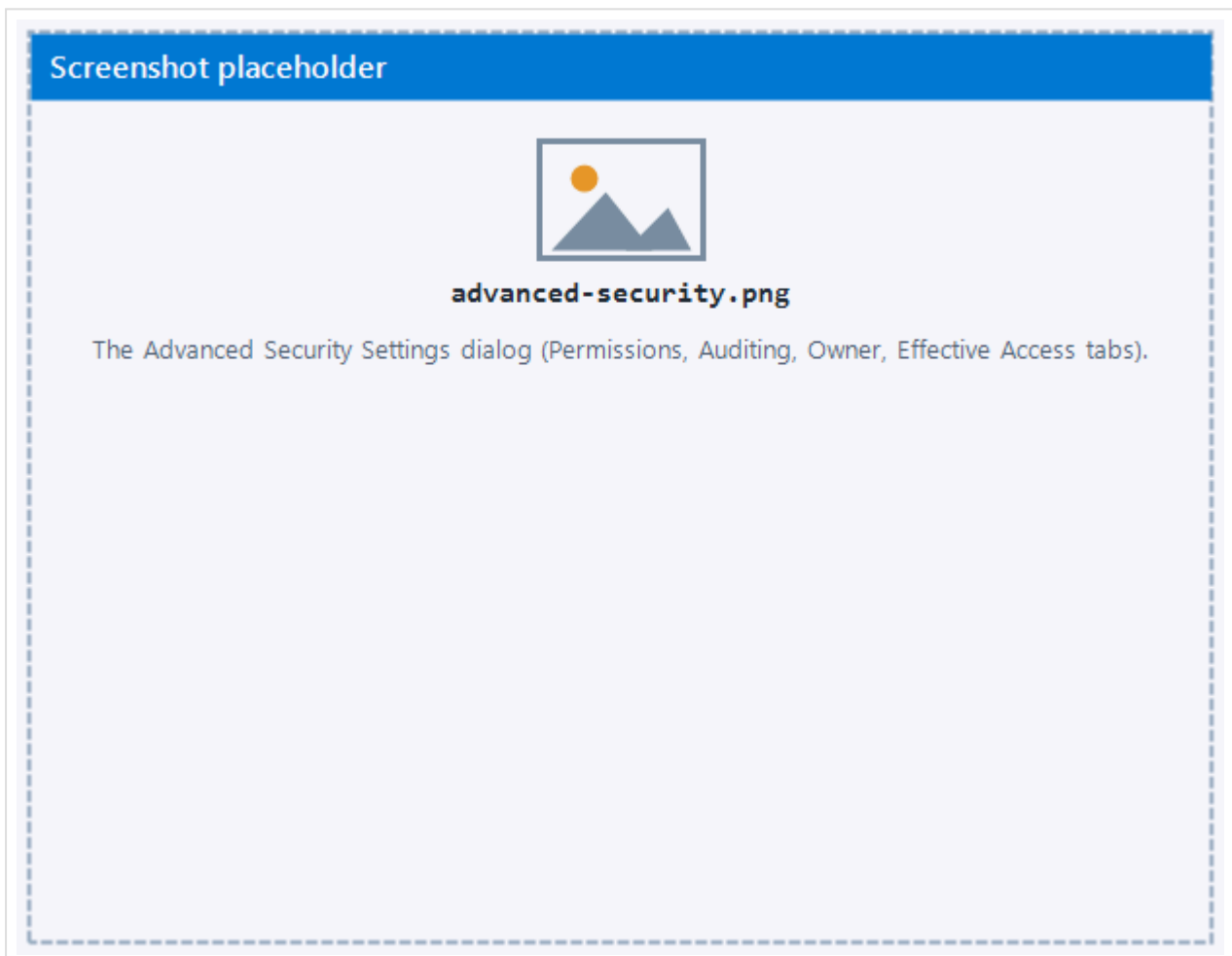


Figure: The Advanced Security Settings dialog.

What You Can Do

Task	Description
Permissions	Add, edit, or remove detailed permission entries for users and groups.
Auditing	Add a user or group to the auditing list to record activity on the key.
Owner	View and take ownership of the key.
Effective Access	Determine the effective permissions that a user or group actually has on the key, taking inheritance into account.

Ownership

Taking ownership of a key can be necessary before you can change its permissions when access has been restricted. Because it changes who ultimately controls the key, use it deliberately and only where required.

Warning

Advanced security changes, and especially ownership and auditing changes on system keys, can have wide effects. Make these changes only when you understand their consequences, and prefer to test on a non-critical key first.

Appearance

O&O RegEditor has a modern interface with dark-mode and High-DPI support.

Dark Mode

Choose the theme under **View > Appearance**:

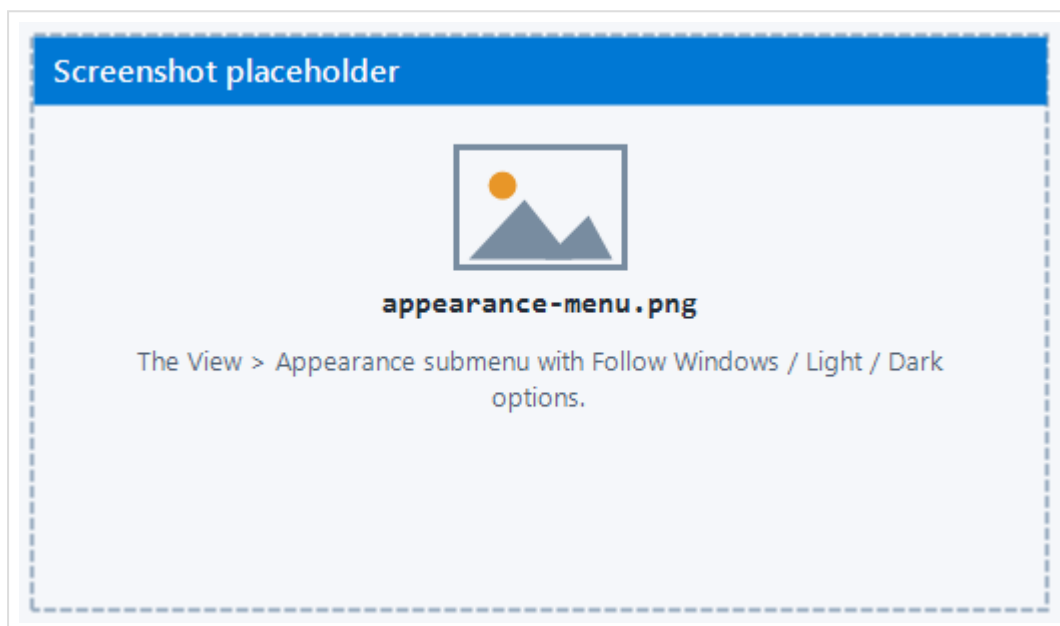


Figure: The Appearance submenu.

Option	Effect
Follow Windows	Uses whatever light or dark setting Windows is configured for, and follows it when it changes.
Light	Always uses the light theme.
Dark	Always uses the dark theme.

The theme switches immediately; you do not need to restart the program.

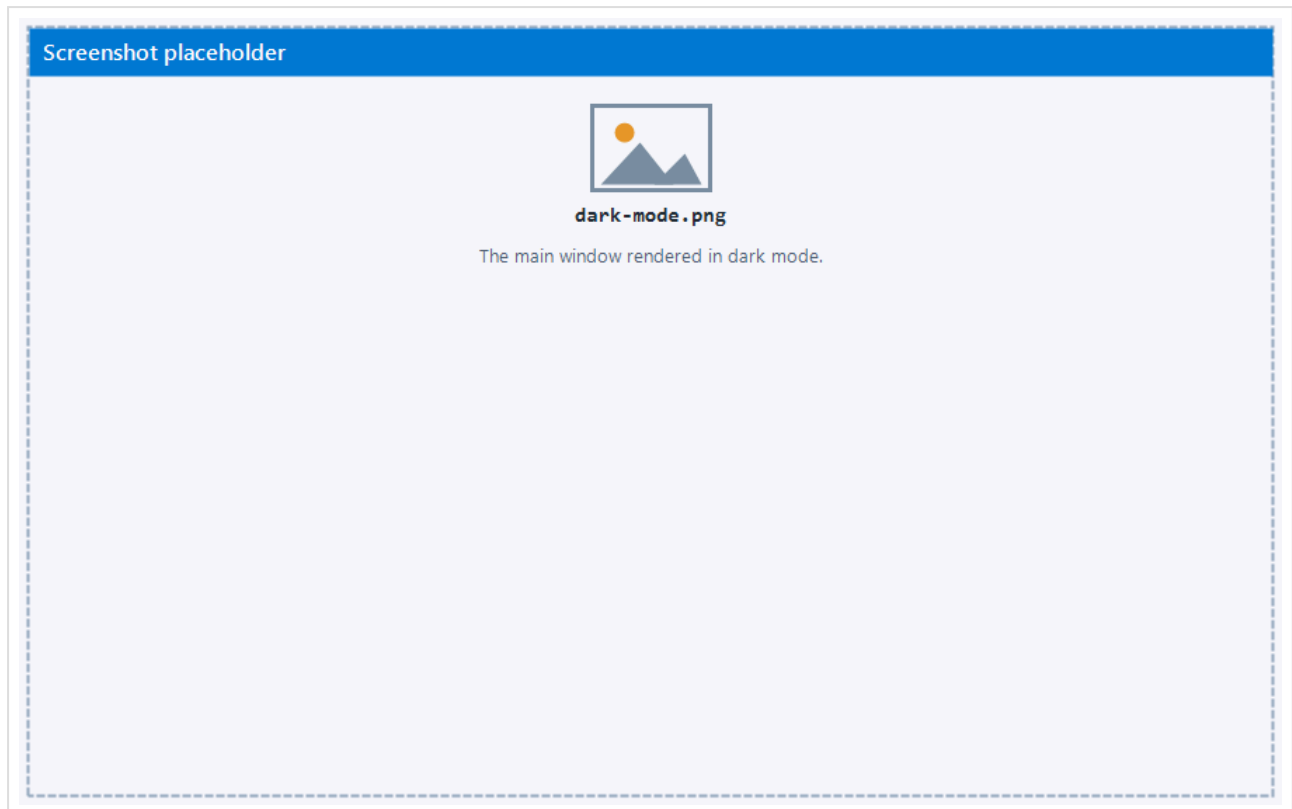


Figure: O&O RegEditor in dark mode.

Full dark-mode support requires Windows 10 version 1809 or later. On earlier versions the light theme is used.

High-DPI Display Support

The interface is High-DPI aware. Icons and toolbars are provided in several sizes and are shown crisply on high-resolution displays, so the program stays sharp on modern monitors and at higher scaling settings.

Window Title

The window title shows an abbreviated path of the selected key or value, which helps you tell several open windows apart. Under **View > Window title** you can adjust how the title is composed:

Option	Effect
Value before key	When a value is selected, show the value name before the key path.
Reverse key order	Show the key path with its segments in reverse order.

Additional fine-tuning of the title (such as how many characters of each key segment are shown) is available through the configuration file; see Settings Reference.

Language

O&O RegEditor is available in English and German. Both language resources are built into the program, so you can switch without installing anything.

Change The Interface Language

Choose the language under **View > Language**:

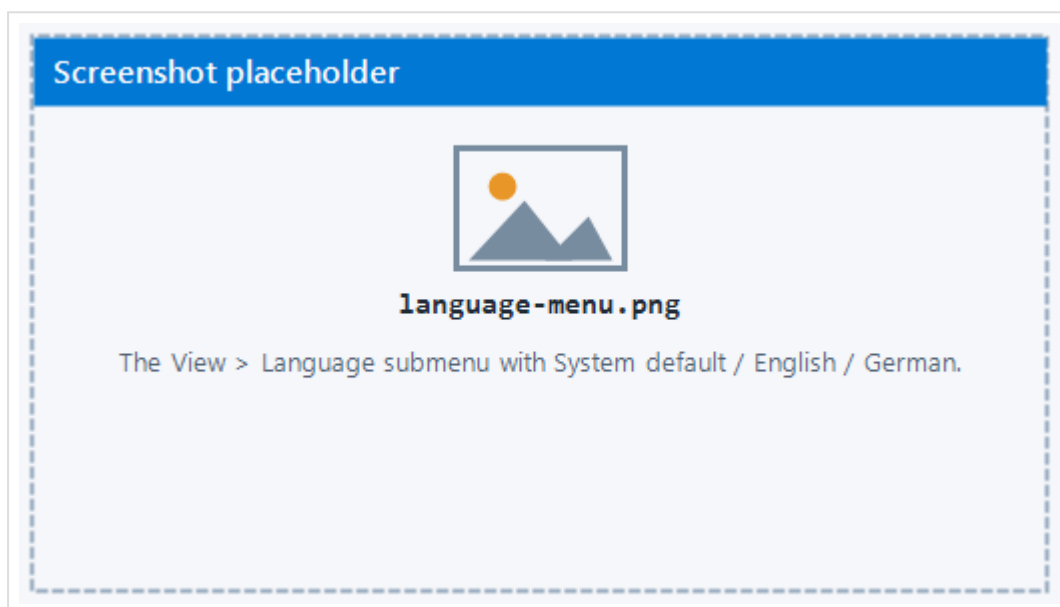


Figure: The Language submenu.

Option	Effect
System default	Uses the language of your Windows user interface (English or German), falling back to a default when the system language is neither.
English	Always uses English.
German	Always uses German.

Restart Required

Changing the language takes full effect after a restart of the program. O&O RegEditor saves your choice, then offers to restart so the new language is loaded everywhere in the interface. Your selected key location and other settings are preserved across the restart.

The chosen language is remembered and applied automatically the next time you start O&O RegEditor.

Settings Reference

Most settings are changed directly from the menus — see Appearance and Language. This page documents where settings are stored and the options that can be adjusted in the configuration file.

Where Settings Are Stored

O&O RegEditor stores its settings in a portable configuration file rather than in the registry.

Location	When it is used
<code>00RegEditor.cfg</code> in the program folder	Preferred when present — lets you carry your settings with the program (portable use).
<code>%LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 RegEditor\00RegEditor.cfg</code>	The per-user location, used when no portable file is present.

The file is a UTF-8 text file in an INI-like format with sections and entries. When you first run this version, existing settings from earlier versions are migrated automatically from the registry; the original registry entries are left untouched.

Windows PE / Fortress environments

When O&O RegEditor runs inside the Windows Preinstallation Environment (for example as part of O&O BlueCon), settings are kept in memory only and are not written to disk.

Adjustable Options

These entries live in the `[Settings]` section. Most have a menu equivalent; a few can only be set by editing the file while the program is closed.

Entry	Meaning	Default	Menu equivalent
Language	Interface language: 0 = Windows default, 1 = English, 2 = German.	0	View > Language
ThemeMode	Appearance: follow Windows, light, or dark.	Follow Windows	View > Appearance
AddrListMaxItems	Maximum number of paths kept in the address-bar history.	100	— (file only)
SearchMaxResults	Maximum number of search results; 0 means unlimited.	0 (unlimited)	— (file only)
TitleValueBeforeKey	Show the value name before the key path in the window title.	On	View > Window title
TitleReverseKeyOrder	Reverse the order of the key path segments in the window title.	Off	View > Window title
TitleKeyCharLength	Number of characters shown for the selected key segment in the title.	9	— (file only)
TitleMiddleKeyCharLength	Number of characters shown for the intermediate key segments in the title.	2	— (file only)

Other Stored Data

The configuration file also keeps items such as the last opened path, the address-bar and computer history lists, your favourites, and the window and toolbar layout. These are managed by the program as you use it; there is normally no reason to edit them by hand.

Edit the file only when the program is closed

O&O RegEditor writes the configuration file as it runs and when it exits. If you edit the file by hand, close the program first, or your changes may be overwritten.

Example: Add A Command To The Folder Context Menu

This worked example shows a complete edit from start to finish. It adds an **Open command prompt here** entry to the right-click menu of folders, which opens a command prompt already pointed at the selected folder.

It uses the skills from the rest of this guide: navigating, creating keys, and editing the default value.

Back up first

This example changes `HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT`, which affects all users. Export the `HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Folder\shell` key before you start, so you can restore it. See Export.

Steps

1. In the key tree, navigate to:

```
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Folder\shell
```

2. Create a new key under `shell` and name it, for example, `OpenCmd`. Its name is internal; see the next step for the visible label. See Create Keys.
3. Select the new `OpenCmd` key and edit its **default value** (`(Default)`) to the text you want to appear in the context menu, for example:

```
Open command prompt here
```

4. Under `OpenCmd`, create another key named `command`.
5. Select `command` and set its **default value** to the command line to run:

```
"C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe" /k pushd "%V"
```

`%V` is replaced with the path of the folder you right-clicked.

6. Test it: right-click a folder in Windows Explorer. The **Open command prompt here** entry now appears, and choosing it opens a command prompt in that folder.

The Same Change As A `.reg` File

You can achieve the same result by importing this file:

```
Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00
```

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Folder\shell\OpenCmd]
```

```
@="Open command prompt here"
```

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Folder\shell\OpenCmd\command]
```

```
@="\"C:\\Windows\\System32\\cmd.exe\" /k pushd \"%V\""
```

Note how the quotation marks and backslashes inside the command line are escaped in the `.reg` file (`\` and `\\`). O&O RegEditor decodes these correctly on import.

Undoing The Change

To remove the entry, delete the `HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Folder\shell\OpenCmd` key (which also removes its `command` subkey), or re-import the branch you exported before you started.

Common Issues

Solutions to the situations users run into most often.

A Change Or Delete Is Refused

You likely do not have permission to modify that key. This is common under `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE` and other protected areas.

- Start O&O RegEditor with administrator rights.
- Check the key's permissions and adjust them if appropriate — see Manage Permissions.

A Setting Has No Effect

- Confirm the value has the **exact name and type** the application expects. A setting stored as the wrong type is often ignored. See Value Types.
- Some settings are read only when the application or Windows starts. Restart the affected program, sign out and back in, or restart the computer.

Importing A `.reg` File Reports An Error

- The file must be a valid Windows registry file. The error message names the line that could not be interpreted; open the file in a text editor and check that line.
- Make sure the file really is a `.reg` file and has not been altered so that its structure is broken.

See Import.

Dark Mode Does Not Apply

Full dark-mode support requires Windows 10 version 1809 or later. On earlier versions the light theme is always used. See Appearance.

The Interface Language Did Not Change

Changing the language takes full effect only after the program restarts. Accept the restart prompt, or close and reopen O&O RegEditor. See Language.

Search Returns Too Many Or Too Few Results

- **Too many:** select a more specific key before searching so the scope is smaller, and enable **Whole word** or **Match case** to narrow matches. See Finding Data.
- **Too few:** make sure the right scope boxes (**Keys**, **Values**, **Data**) are enabled, and that **Match case** is not excluding results you expected.

A Setting In The Configuration File Did Not Stick

Edit the configuration file only while O&O RegEditor is closed. The program writes the file as it runs and on exit, so changes made while it is open can be overwritten. See Settings Reference.

Still Stuck?

Contact O&O Software support — see Technical Support.

Frequently Asked Questions

General

What is O&O RegEditor?

O&O RegEditor is a free registry editor for Windows. It provides full access to the Windows registry database, with a familiar key tree and value list plus productivity features such as an enhanced search, favourites, address-bar navigation, and a modern interface with dark mode and High-DPI support.

How is it different from the Windows Registry Editor?

O&O RegEditor keeps the familiar layout but adds an enhanced search with a result list and live results, regular-expression and whole-word matching, the ability to save search results to a file, copying and moving of keys and values, favourites management, an address bar with history, dark mode, High-DPI-crisp icons, and a choice of interface language.

Is it safe to edit the registry?

Editing the registry is powerful and can affect the stability of Windows. It is safe when done carefully: back up first, export the key you are changing, change one thing at a time, and know what each change does.

Keys And Values

What is the difference between a key and a value?

A **key** is a container, like a folder, and can hold values and further subkeys. A **value** stores actual data (text, a number, or binary content) under a name inside a key. See Registry Structure.

Which value type should I use?

Use the type the software expects. Text is usually `REG_SZ`, small numbers `REG_DWORD`, larger numbers `REG_QWORD`, lists of strings `REG_MULTI_SZ`, and raw data `REG_BINARY`. See Value Types.

Can I enter a number in decimal instead of hexadecimal?

Yes. The numeric value editor lets you switch between hexadecimal, decimal, and binary. The stored number is the same regardless of the input format.

Search

Where does a search look?

A search covers the key you selected in the tree and everything beneath it, across the parts you enable (**Keys**, **Values**, **Data**). Select a specific key to keep the scope small.

Can I use regular expressions?

Yes. Enable **Regular expression (RegEx)** in the Find pane. O&O RegEditor uses ECMAScript syntax. See Regular Expressions.

Can I save what a search found?

Yes. In the result list, choose **Save Results As...** to write the results to a re-importable `.reg` file or a tab-separated `.txt` file. See Search Results.

Files

Are the exported files compatible with Windows?

Yes. Exported `.reg` files use the standard Windows registry-file format and can be imported by the Windows Registry Editor and by O&O RegEditor.

How do I undo a change?

If you exported the key before editing, import that file to restore the previous data. See Import.

Settings

Where are the settings stored?

In a portable configuration file (`00RegEditor.cfg`), either next to the program or under `%LocalAppData%` . Settings from earlier versions are migrated automatically. See Settings Reference.

Can I run O&O RegEditor portably?

Yes. Place an `00RegEditor.cfg` file next to the executable and it is used in preference to the per-user configuration.

Troubleshooting

A change was refused. What should I check?

You may lack permission on that key. Start the program with administrator rights and check the key's permissions. See [Common Issues](#).

Dark mode is not available. Why?

Full dark-mode support requires Windows 10 version 1809 or later. On older systems the light theme is used.

Technical Support

We are happy to help if you have questions about O&O RegEditor or any other O&O Software product.

Before You Contact Us

To help us help you quickly, please have the following ready:

- The version of O&O RegEditor you are using.
- Your Windows version and edition.
- A clear description of what you did, what you expected, and what happened instead.
- The exact text of any error message.

Contact

Channel	Address
Support	https://www.oo-software.com/en/support
Website	https://www.oo-software.com

Documentation

This online documentation is the primary user's guide for O&O RegEditor. Start with the Introduction, or use the search box at the top of the page to find a specific topic.

Online Documentation

This documentation is built with Docusaurus and lives in the `ooregedit-help` submodule of the O&O RegEditor repository, in the `src` folder.

Structure

Folder	Purpose
<code>docs/getting-started</code>	System requirements, quick start, and the user interface.
<code>docs/core-concepts</code>	Registry structure and value types.
<code>docs/keys-values</code>	Creating, editing, renaming, deleting, copying, and moving keys and values.
<code>docs/navigation</code>	Browsing, the address bar, and favourites.
<code>docs/search</code>	Finding data, regular expressions, and search results.
<code>docs/import-export</code>	Importing and exporting <code>.reg</code> files.
<code>docs/permissions</code>	Permissions and advanced security settings.
<code>docs/settings</code>	Appearance, language, and the settings reference.
<code>docs/examples</code>	Complete worked examples.
<code>docs/troubleshooting</code>	Common issues and their solutions.
<code>docs/support</code>	Technical support and contact.

Terminology

Use the same terms as the application:

- **Key** for a container in the tree (like a folder).
- **Value** for a named data entry inside a key.
- **Default value** for the unnamed value of a key, shown as `(Default)`.
- **Main key** (or root key / hive) for one of the five top-level keys.
- **Path** for the backslash-separated chain of keys.
- **Result list** for the list of search matches.

Screenshots

Screenshots referenced by the documentation live in `static/img/screenshots/`. Any image that has not yet been captured is shown as a labelled placeholder. The list of screenshots still to be produced, with the exact window or dialog to capture, is maintained in `SCREENSHOTS.md` at the root of the `ooregedit-help` submodule.

Local Development

From the `src` folder of the `ooregedit-help` submodule:

```
npm install
npm start
```

Build the static site with:

```
npm run build
```

Generate the PDF manual with:

```
npm run build:pdf
```