HOW TO DELAY SYSTEM START ON WINDOWS MACHINES

In order to delay system start, you can increase the timeout value in the boot.ini file.
However, for this change to take effect the system must first display the boot menu, i.e. you must have at least two operating system entries in the boot.ini file. If you just have one, you can duplicate it.

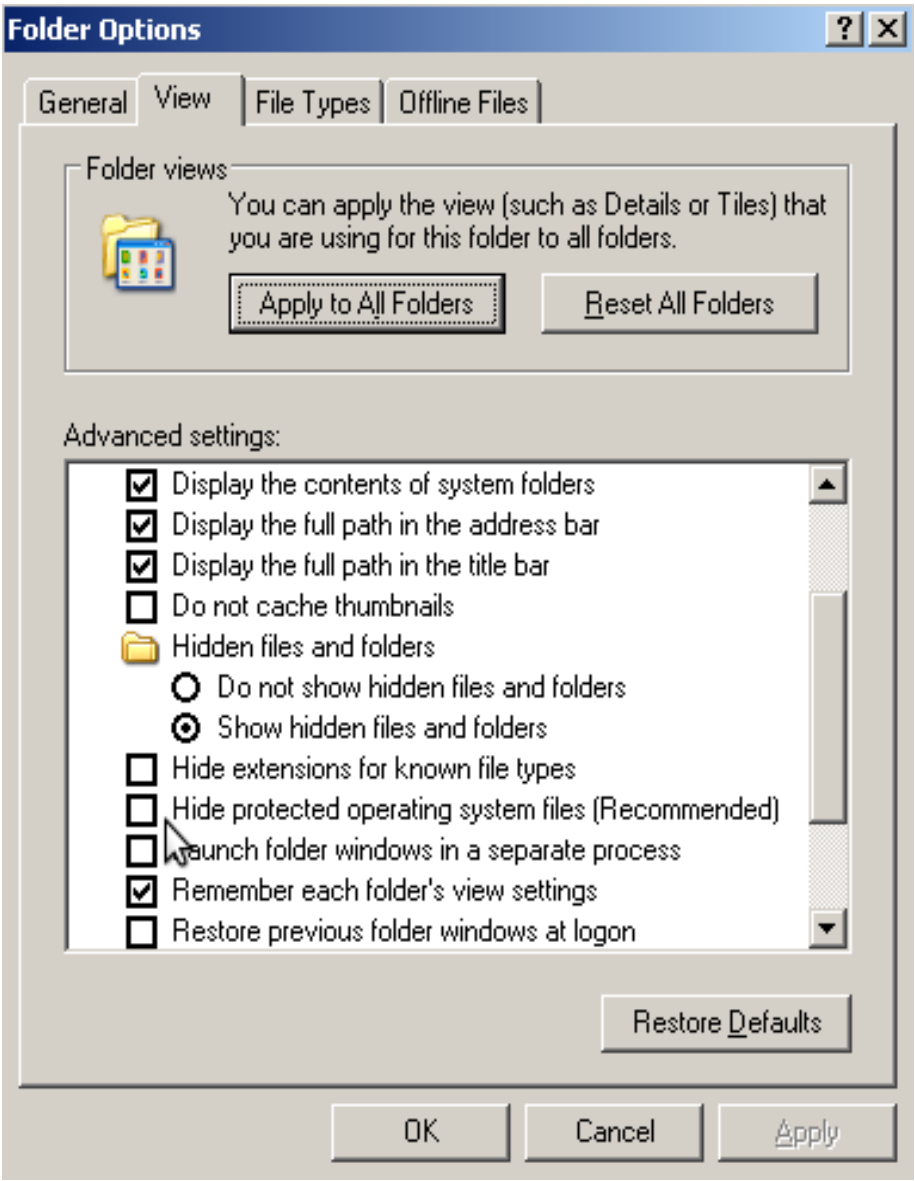
For example, this boot.ini file will ignore the timeout setting:

[boot loader]
timeout=360
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Windows Server 2003, Standard"
/noexecute=optout /fastdetect

However, this one will not:

[boot loader]
timeout=360
default=multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS
[operating systems]
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Windows Server 2003, Standard"
/noexecute=optout /fastdetect
multi(0)disk(0)rdisk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS="Windows Server 2003, Standard"
/noexecute=optout /fastdetect

Please note that in order to see the boot.ini file under Windows Explorer, you will need to uncheck Hide protected operating system files under **Tools** -> **Folder Options** -> **View** (please see the screenshot below). The boot.ini file is usually found in the root directory of the installation drive.


Folder Options
General
View
File Types
Offline Files
Folder views
You can apply the view (such as Details or Tiles) that you are using for this folder to all folders.
Apply to All Folders
Reset All Folders
Advanced settings:
Display the contents of system folders
Display the full path in the address bar
Display the full path in the title bar
Do not cache thumbnails
Hidden files and folders
Do not show hidden files and folders
Show hidden files and folders
Hide extensions for known file types
Hide protected operating system files (Recommended)
Launch folder windows in a separate process
Remember each folder's view settings
Restore previous folder windows at logon
Restore Defaults
OK
Cancel
Apply