Configure your ChemStation Computer
Configure and Maintain your Agilent ChemStation

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**Manual Part Number**

M8301-90090

**Edition**

Edition 2/13

Printed in Germany

Agilent Technologies
Hewlett-Packard-Strasse 8
76337 Waldbronn

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In This Guide...

Agilent-delivered ChemStation PC Bundle systems are delivered with the supported Windows operating system pre-installed and are configured for optimum ChemStation performance. Non-Agilent PC Bundle systems require some manual configuration changes in order to provide optimum performance. This manual describes how to configure a non-Agilent PC Bundle system.

The ChemStation system needs to be installed using an operating system Administrator user account. To run the system with the configured options outlined in this document, all Users and PowerUsers should use the same settings.

1 How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

This chapter identifies and describes all parameters necessary to configure a non-Agilent Windows XP SP 3 system for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher. It also covers important settings like Internet Security.

2 How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

This chapter identifies and describes all parameters necessary to configure a non-Agilent Windows 7 system for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher.

3 Security Settings

This chapter summarizes all security settings required for LC/MSD, CE/MSD, LC/MSD Trap. All other security settings are set automatically by the OpenLAB CDS Master Installer.
Contents

1 How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher 5
   Install Windows XP 6
   Configure Windows XP Settings 7

2 How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher 23
   Install Windows 7 24
   Configure Windows 7 Settings 25

3 Security Settings 45
   Security Settings for LC-MSD and CE-MSD Systems 46
   Security Settings for LC-MSD Trap Systems 50
1

How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Install Windows XP  6
Configure Windows XP Settings  7

This chapter identifies and describes all parameters necessary to configure a non-Agilent Windows XP SP 3 system for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher. It also covers important settings like Internet Security.
1 Install Windows XP

NOTE Keep your PC disconnected from the internet until you have installed the appropriate security patches and hot fixes. It is strongly recommended to install the latest security fixes as supported from Agilent and virus definitions prior to connecting to a network.

1 Install Windows XP from recovery CD or Windows XP Professional CD-ROM. During the setup of Windows XP provide the Computer Name, Administrator password and network settings. Select to either join an existing domain or set up the system in workgroup mode.

2 Check the Windows version by typing `winver` at the Start > Run command prompt: If necessary, install Service Pack 3 for XP. Ignore the option to archive current files and reboot the system.

3 To secure your system against viruses please install an AntiVirus program. Running AntiVirus programs might influence the behavior and performance of your computer. Agilent ChemStation was tested to run with Symantecs Norton Antivirus.
Configure Windows XP Settings

Some changes within this document are mandatory for the ChemStation to work properly on a Windows XP system. Some changes will optimize application performance. Other changes will have a graphical or minor impact.

**NOTE**

To indicate the relative importance of individual settings, each item is categorized as:

- **MUST**: These changes must be applied.
- **PERFORMANCE**: These changes will improve system performance.
- **OPTIONAL**: Most of these changes will affect the graphical display of the application.

**[OPTIONAL]**

1. **General Layout**: (Start Menu, right-click > Properties)
   
   a. **Start Menu** Tab: Select **Classic Start Menu**
Configure and Maintain your Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation

Configure Windows XP Settings

- Start Menu > Customize button (See Figure 1 on page 8): In Advanced Start menu options:
  - Use Personalized Menus

- Enable in the following options:
  - Display Administrative Tools
  - Display Favorites
  - Display Log Off (for Workgroup Systems, this option is only available after configuration step 6)
  - Display Run
  - Enable dragging and dropping
  - Expand Control Panel
  - Expand Network Connections
  - Expand Printers
  - Scroll Programs
  - Show Small Icons in Start menu

Figure 1 Customized Classic Start Menu Dialog
How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows XP Settings

[MUST] 2 Folder Options: (right-click Start > Explore)
   a Set View to Details
   b Choose Tools > Folder Options
   c General tab: for Tasks select Use Windows classic folders
   d View tab: Disable the following options:
      • Use simple file sharing
      • Hide extensions for known file types
   e Enable the following option:
      • Display the full path in the title bar
   f Apply these settings to all folders by selecting the Apply to All Folders button

[MUST] 3 Internet Explorer: (Start > Programs > Internet Explorer) (See Figure 2 on page 9)
   a Tools > Windows Update: Apply all critical security patches.

   ![Figure 2: Downloading Critical Security Updates](http://www.microsoft.com/isapi/redir.dll?prd=ie&pv=)

[MUST] 4 Register Windows XP Professional with Microsoft.

[MUST] 5 Windows Logon Options: (For Workgroup Systems, only) (Start > Settings > Control Panel > User Accounts)
   a Select Change the way users log on or off
   b Disable Use the Welcome Screen
   c Disable Use Fast User Switching

[MUST] 6 Power Options: (Start > Settings > Control Panel > Power Options) (See Figure 3 on page 10)
   a Select the Power Schemes tab
   b From Power Schemes drop down box select one of the power schemes
1 How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows XP Settings

c Set the drop down boxes Turn off hard disks and System standby to Never.
d Select the Hibernate tab: disable Enable hibernation.

![Power Options Properties Dialog, Power Schemes Tab](image)

[MUST] 7 Local Security Policy: (Start > Programs > Administrative Tools > Local Security Policy)

a In the Security Settings tree open Local Policies folder, then Security Options folder

b Double-click the following policy listed in the right hand panel: Network Access: Sharing and security model for local accounts
Configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows XP Settings

- In the displayed dialog select the following item from the drop down list: **Classic - local users authenticate as themselves**

![Local Security Settings Dialog](image)

**Figure 4** Local Security Settings Dialog

[MUST] 8 Disable Automatic Startup of Windows Messenger: (*Start > Programs > Windows Messenger > Tools > Options*):

- Select the **Preferences** tab (See **Figure 5** on page 12)
- In the **General** section disable **Run Windows Messenger when Windows starts**.
c Select **OK** and reboot the system.

[**MUST**] 9 Regional and Language Options: (**Start** > **Settings** > **Control Panel** > **Regional and Language Options**) (See **Figure 6** on page 13)
a Set **Regional Options** to **English (United States)** from the drop down list.

![Regional and Language Options Dialog, Regional Options Tab](image)
If regional format other than **English (United States)** is used, the following settings are mandatory. The settings can be defined by clicking the **Customize** button (See Figure 7 on page 14):

- Decimal symbol = . (point)
- Digit grouping symbol = , (comma)
- List separator =, (comma)
c Language for non-Unicode programs: On the Advanced Tab select **English (United States)** from the drop down list (See Figure 8 on page 15).

![Regional and Language Options Dialog, Advanced Tab](image)

**Figure 8** Regional and Language Options Dialog, Advanced Tab

**[PERFORMANCE]** 10 Hard disk Properties: (right-click **Start > Explore**, right-click on **Local Disk (C:) > Properties**).

a In the **General** tab, disable **Allow Indexing Service to index this disk for fast file searching** (See Figure 9 on page 17)

b Apply the changes by selecting **OK**.
How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows XP Settings

c In the selection screen, enable the option **Apply changes to C:\, subfolders, and files**.
d Disable this setting for all non-removable drives.

**NOTE**
Microsoft applies special sets of permissions to certain folders, such as the SNTUninstallKB... folders which relate to Windows HotFixes and Patches. These folder permissions result in error messages when applying new settings for the Indexing Service. Select **Ignore**, when these messages appear.
Figure 9  Local Disk (C:) Properties Dialog, General Tab
How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows XP Settings

[PERFORMANCE] 11 Screen layout: (right-click desktop > Properties):

a Please change the following items in the Display Properties dialog (See Figure 9 on page 17):

- **Themes** tab: Change Windows XP to Windows Classic
- **Desktop** tab Customize Desktop button:
  - **General** tab: Enable all 4 desktop icons (My Documents, My Computer, My Network Places, Internet Explorer)
  - **General** tab: Disable Run Desktop Cleanup Wizard every 60 days
- **Screen Saver** tab: Change Screen Saver from Windows XP to none
- **Appearance** tab > **Effects** button: disable all items, except for
  - Hide underlined letters for keyboard navigation.
- **Settings** tab: 1280 by 1024 resolution, 32 bit color, 75 Hertz refresh or higher. (Please note: some old monitors may only work with 60 Hz.)

![Display Properties Dialog](image)

Figure 10 Tabs in Display Properties Dialog

[PERFORMANCE] 12 System Properties: Start > Settings > Control Panel > System

a **Advanced** tab > **Performance** > **Settings** button (See Figure 11 on page 19):

- **Advanced** tab > **Virtual Memory**: For optimum performance use the **Change** button to adjust the paging file size to a value of 2 to 3 times of the physical RAM of the PC.
- **Data Execution Prevention** tab: Enable Turn on DEP for essential Windows programs and services only.
Configure and Maintain your Agilent ChemStation 19

How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher 1

Configure Windows XP Settings

**Figure 11 Performance Options Dialog, Advanced Tab**

b. **Advanced** tab > **Startup and Recovery** > **Settings** button (See **Figure 12** on page 20):

* System startup section: Change both **Time to display...** fields from 30 to 3 sec.
Configure and Maintain your Agilent ChemStation

1. How to configure Windows XP SP 3 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows XP Settings

- **System failure** section: Set **Write debugging information** to **none**

![Startup and Recovery Dialog](image)

- **Advanced** tab > **Error Reporting** button: Select **Disable error reporting** and **But notify me when critical error occur**.

- **Remote** tab: Disable **Allow Remote Assistance invitations to be sent from this computer** and **Allow users to connect remotely to this computer**.

- **System Restore** tab: Enable **Turn off System Restore** on all drives.

- Reboot the system after enabling this setting.
g Disable hardware acceleration for the video adapter.
   - Right-click desktop > Properties > Settings Tab > Advanced button > Troubleshoot tab
   - Set hardware acceleration to None.

[OPTIONAL] 13 Recycle Bin Properties: (right-click on desktop icon Recycle Bin) Enable the following options (See Figure 13 on page 22):
   a Use one setting for all drives
   b Do not move files to the Recycle Bin. Remove files immediately when deleted
c Display delete confirmation dialog

![Recycle Bin Properties Dialog, Global Tab](image)

[OPTIONAL] 14 Screen layout: (right-click desktop > arrange icons by) Disable Align to grid.
2

How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Install Windows 7  24
Configure Windows 7 Settings  25
  OpenLAB CDS Config Checker  25
  Manual Configuration  25

This chapter identifies and describes all parameters necessary to configure a non-Agilent Windows 7 system for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher.
2  How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Install Windows 7

Install Windows 7

NOTE Keep your PC disconnected from the internet until you have installed the appropriate security patches and hot fixes. It's strongly recommended to install the latest security fixes as supported from Agilent Technologies and virus definitions prior to connecting to a network.

1  Install Windows 7 from recovery DVD or Windows 7 Professional or Enterprise DVD. During the setup of Windows 7 provide the Computer Name, Administrator password and network settings. Select to either join an existing domain or set up the system in workgroup mode.

2  To secure your system against viruses please install an AntiVirus program. Running AntiVirus programs might influence the behavior and performance of your computer. Agilent ChemStation was tested to run with Symantecs Norton Antivirus.
Configure Windows 7 Settings

OpenLAB CDS Config Checker

This tool is only available for OpenLAB CDS ChemStation Edition on Windows 7.

The OpenLAB CDS Configuration Checker checks and repairs all mandatory settings. It does not check optional settings or settings that improve the performance.

The OpenLAB CDS Configuration Checker comes as .diagcab file, which is a file format used with Microsoft Windows Troubleshooting Platform (WTP) program. Microsoft Windows Troubleshooting Platform (WTP) is a platform to locate and fix hardware and software settings in Windows. It is used specifically for diagnosing and repairing computer settings.

In general, .diagcab files are useful for deploying troubleshooting packs because they are self-contained and require no installation. They can be deployed onto Web sites, network shares, or copied to USB keys. The .diagcab file name extension is a registered file name extension that can be executed by WTP.

To start the OpenLAB CDS Configuration Checker, call the file Agilent.Wtp.ChemStation.WindowsConfiguration.diagcab. This file is located on the OpenLAB CDS Disk 6 under Tools\OpenLAB CDS ChemStation Edition\Diagnostics\WindowsConfiguration\Cab\.

Manual Configuration

Some changes within this document are mandatory for the ChemStation to work properly on a Windows 7 system. Some changes will optimize application performance. Other changes will have a graphical or minor impact.
2  How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher
Configure Windows 7 Settings

NOTE To indicate the relative importance of individual settings, each item is categorized as:
MUST: These changes must be applied.
PERFORMANCE: These changes will improve system performance.
OPTIONAL: Most of these changes will affect the graphical display of the application.

NOTE If User Account Control (UAC) is switched on, some configuration steps will require active
confirmation to continue.

[MUST] 1 Folder Options: (right-click Start > Open Windows Explorer)
   a  Click Organize > Layout
      • Select Menu Bar
      • Select Navigation Panel
   b  Set View to Details
   c  Click Tools > Folder Options
      • View tab:
         Clear Hide extensions for known file types;
         Clear Display the full path in the title bar (classic theme only)
   d  Click Apply to Folders to apply these settings to all folders.
How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings

2 Go to Start > Control Panel > Windows Update. Check for updates and apply all critical security patches.

3 Go to Start > Control Panel > System, and register Windows 7 with Microsoft.
2 How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings

[MUST] 4 Click **Change Settings** > . In the > **Important updates** section select **Never check for updates**. Clear the other update options.

![Windows Update Settings](image)

**Figure 14** Windows Update Settings

Close the **Update** screen

**NOTE**

This setting is important to avoid data loss due to system reboot during data acquisition.
[MUST] 5 Go to Start > Control Panel > Administrative Tools. Click Services. Right-click on the Desktop Window Manager Session Manager. In the context menu select Properties. Set the startup type to Disabled. Confirm by clicking OK.

Figure 15 Disable Desktop Service

Do the same for Application Experience service and close the Services window.

Close Administrative Tools
Configure Windows 7 Settings

[MUST] 6 Go to Start > Control Panel > Indexing Options. Click the Modify button. Clear all drives and locations. Click OK. Click Close.

![Indexing Options](image)

Figure 16  Disable file indexing
Configure Windows 7 Settings


Figure 17 Local Group Policy Editor Dialog
2 How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings


a As preferred plan select High performance

b Click Change Plan settings (see Figure 19 on page 33)

c Set the option Put the computer to sleep to Never

d Click Change advanced power settings. Open the nodes for Hard disk, Turn off hard disk after and set the Minutes to 0 (=Never). Click OK

e Save the changes.

Figure 18 Selecting a power plan
Configure and Maintain your Agilent ChemStation

How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings

Figure 19   Edit Plan Settings: High Performance
How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings


a Navigate to Security Settings > Local Policies > Security Options

b Double-click the following policy listed in the right hand panel: Network Access: Sharing and security model for local accounts
c In the displayed dialog select the following item from the drop down list: **Classical - local users authenticate as themselves**

![Figure 21 Local Security Policy Dialog: Network](image)

**[MUST]** 10 **Regional and Language Options:** (*Start > Control Panel > Regional and Language Options*)
How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings

- Regional options should be set to **English (United States)** from the drop down list.
If regional format other than **English (United States)** is used, the following settings are mandatory. The settings can be defined by clicking the **Customize this format** button:

- Decimal symbol = . (point)
- Digit grouping symbol = , (comma)
- List separator =, (comma)

![Customize Regional Dialog](image)

**Figure 23** Customized Regional Dialog
2 How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings

[OPTIONAL] c Language for non-Unicode programs: On the Administrative Tab click Change system locale…. From the drop down list, select English (United States)

NOTE Do not change system locale if you are using an English, Japanese or Chinese Operating System.

[OPTIONAL] c Language for non-Unicode programs: On the Administrative Tab click Change system locale…. From the drop down list, select English (United States)

MUST 11 Power Management for network devices (From Start > Control Panel > Network and Sharing Center) Select Change adapter settings. Right-click Local Area Connection > Properties > Configure)
a On the **Power Management** tab, clear all check boxes.

**[PERFORMANCE]**

12 Screen layout: (right-click on desktop > Personalize):

a Click on **Window Color and Appearance**

b Click on **Open classic appearance properties for more color option**.
Configure Windows 7 Settings

- Click Effects. Clear all three checkboxes.

![Effects Dialog](image)

**Figure 25 Effects Dialog**

**[PERFORMANCE]**


- On the Advanced tab > Performance click Settings.
  - Advanced tab > Virtual Memory: For optimum performance use the Change button to adjust the paging file size to a value of 2 to 3 times of the physical RAM on the PC. If possible locate the paging file on a drive different from system and ChemStation installation drive.
  - Data Execution Prevention tab: Select Turn on DEP for essential Windows programs and services only.

- Advanced > Startup and Recovery > Settings button:
  - System startup section:
    Change both Time to display ... fields from 30 to 3 sec.
  - System failure section:
    Select Automatically restart, select Write Kernel Memory Dump.
c Remote tab

- In the Remote Assistance section, clear the checkbox Allow Remote Assistance connections to this computer.
- In the Remote Desktop section, select Don't allow connections to this computer.

[OPTIONAL] 14 General Layout: (right-click Start > Properties)

a Start Menu Tab: In the Privacy section select both items

b Start Menu Tab > Customize button: In Customize Start Menu dialog:

- Clear the following option:
  - Favorites menu
- Select the following options:
How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings

- Computer  Display as a link
- Connect To
- Control Panel: Display as a menu
- Default Programs
- Devices and Printers
- Documents: Display as a link
- Enable context menus and dragging and dropping
- Games: Don't display this item
- Help
- Highlight newly installed programs

Figure 26  Start Menu configuration

- Music: Don't display this item
- Network
- Open submenu when I pause on them with the mouse pointer
- Personal submenus: Display as a link
- Pictures: Display as a link
Configure and Maintain your Agilent ChemStation

How to configure Windows 7 for use with Agilent ChemStation Rev. C.01.04 or higher

Configure Windows 7 Settings

- Run command
- Search other files and libraries Search public folders
- Search programs and Control Panel
- Sort All Programs menu by name
- System administrative tools: Display on the All Programs menu and in the Start menu
- Use large icons

[OPTIONAL] 15 Welcome Center (Start > search for 'gpedit.msc')

- Navigate to Local Computer Policy > Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > System > Logon
- Select Don't display the Getting Started welcome screen at logon.

[OPTIONAL] 16 Recycle Bin Properties: (right-click on desktop icon Recycle Bin) Select the following options

- Custom size: select a size corresponding to approximately 10% of the complete disk space for the drive
- Display delete confirmation dialog

Figure 27 Local Group Policy Editor Dialog
a Repeat these steps for all drives of your computer.
This chapter summarizes all security settings required for LC/MSD, CE/MSD, LC/MSD Trap. All other security settings are set automatically by the OpenLAB CDS Master Installer.
Security Settings for LC-MSD and CE-MSD Systems

The MSD part of LC/MSD and CE/MSD systems requires exceptions for the Windows Firewall in case the firewall is enabled. Additionally, the communication with the MSD is sensitive to the order NICs in the Adapters and Bindings dialog. These settings are described in the following passages. In case a custom firewall is used, please contact your administrator to make the necessary exceptions.

The settings described below apply to Win XP only. If you are a Windows 7 user do the following:

1. Start > Control Panel > Windows Firewall
2. click Advanced Security and enter the necessary rules

NOTE

Please contact a MSD product specialist for the required rules

NOTE

These settings should only be applied on PCs controlling LC/MSD or CE/MSD systems.

Internet Security Settings:

Start > Settings > Control Panel > Security Center
1. Click Manage security settings for Windows Firewall
2. General tab (See Figure 28 on page 47)
   a. Select option On (recommended)
b Disable option **Don’t allow exceptions**

![Windows Firewall Dialog, General Tab](image)

**Figure 28**  Windows Firewall Dialog, General Tab

3 **Exceptions** tab (See Figure 29 on page 48)

a Select option **Display a notification when Windows Firewall blocks a program.**

b Add **ChemMain.exe** to the list of Programs and Services

c Enable an exception for this program.
3 Security Settings
Security Settings for LC-MSD and CE-MSD Systems

d Disable exceptions for all other programs listed by default.

![Windows Firewall Dialog, Exceptions Tab](image)

**Figure 29** Windows Firewall Dialog, *Exceptions* Tab
Advanced Network Settings:

Start > Settings > Control Panel > Network Connections

1. Select menu Advanced > Advanced Settings

2. Adapters and Bindings tab (see Figure 30 on page 49)

   a. Make sure that the Local Area Connection pertaining to the LC/MS or CE/MS NIC is the first item in the list of connections

The names of your LAN cards may differ from those shown in the example. You can tell which LAN card is the Instrument LAN by comparing the IP addresses assigned to the LAN cards.

The LAN pertaining to the company intranet > internet will typically have an IP address assigned by organizations Static IP policy or by a DHCP server. Check with your network administrator.
The MSD part of LC/MSD Trap systems requires exceptions for the Windows Firewall in case the firewall is enabled. These settings are described in the following passages.

**NOTE**
These settings should only be applied on PCs controlling LC/MSD Trap systems.

**Internet Security Settings**

1. Start > Settings > Control Panel > Security Center
2. Click **Manage security settings for Windows Firewall**
2 On the **General** tab (See below):
   - Select option **On (recommended)**
   - Disable option **Don’t allow exceptions**
3 Security Settings
Security Settings for LC-MSD Trap Systems

3 On the Exceptions tab (See below):
   * Select option Display a notification when Windows Firewall blocks a program.
4 On the **Advanced** tab (see below): In the **Network Connection Settings** section, de-select the Local Area Connection pertaining to the LC/MS NIC. Typically, this is **Local Area Connection 2**.
3 Security Settings
Security Settings for LC-MSD Trap Systems

5 From the list of Resources select Change the way Security Center alerts me
(See below)
- Disable Automatic Updates
- Disable Firewall
- Enable Virus Protection

NOTE With these settings, you will not receive any alerts regarding the state of Windows Firewall. Be sure that you monitor the state of Windows Firewall yourself
## Index

### A
- anti virus 6, 24

### C
- Configuration Checker 25
- configure settings
  - Windows 7 25
  - Windows XP 7

### D
- diagcab file 25

### F
- folder options
  - Windows 7 26
  - Windows XP 9

### P
- Power Options
  - Windows XP 9

### S
- security settings
  - LC/MSD and CE/MSD 46
- security 6

### W
- Windows 7
  - configure 25
  - installation 24
- Windows XP
  - configure 7
  - installation 6
In This Book

This manual describes how to configure a non-Agilent PC Bundle system.

The first two chapters of this document, identify and describe all parameters necessary to configure a non-Agilent PC Bundle system as well as important settings such as Internet Security.

The third chapter describes instrument specific security settings.