# Settings files and registry.doc

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## Contents



# 1 Introduction

Flex stores various information in the registry and in a number of settings files. Occasionally it is helpful to know this information.

# 2 Registry

The following root registry keys and values are used by FieldWorks:

- HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\SIL\FieldWorks
  - **DisableSplashScreen:** Set string value to *true* if you want to hide the splash screen on startup. The default is missing.
  - **ArrowByCharacter:** Set string value to *true* if you want the left/right arrow keys to move by code point instead of character cluster. The default is missing.
  - **Language Explorer** key with the following:
    - **LatestDatabaseName:** Saves the last database name when you close Flex.
    - **LatestDatabaseServer:** Saves the last database server (e.g., machine) when you close Flex.
    - **LatestProjectName:** Saves the last internal project name when you close Flex.
    - **Launches:** Increments each time you start Flex.
    - **LatestConfigurationFile:** Saves the last configuration file when you close Flex. Defaults to c:\Program Files\SIL\FieldWorks\LexText\Configuration\Main.xml. You can use different Flex configuration directories if you set this key manually (untested).
  - **Translation Editor:** Key with numerous values with the last database name, window size and position, zoom factors, and other flags.
- HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\SIL
  - **Icu36DataDir:** The default is %ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application Data\SIL\Icu36\icudt36l.
    **Note**: %ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application Data is c:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data on Windows XP and c:\ProgramData on Vista.
  - **Icu36Dir:** The default is %ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application Data\SIL\Icu36.
  - **InitIcu:** The default is 0 (set to 1 on installation).
  - **FieldWorks** key with the following:
    - **RootCodeDir:** The default is c:\Program Files\SIL\FieldWorks (used by programs to find FieldWorks and related directories).

    - **RootDataDir:** The default is %ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application Data\SIL\FieldWorks (used by programs to find FieldWorks and related directories for data).
    - **InitMSDE:** The default is 0 (set to 1 on installation).
    - **DbDir:** The default is %ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application Data\SIL\FieldWorks\Data (the default directory for the db program to look for files).
    - **MSDEmem:** Must set DWORD for virtual machines to work. This determines the maximum amount of memory (MB) the SQL Server cache uses.
    - **InstallLanguageLog:** This defaults to %ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application Data\SIL\FieldWorks\Languages\InstallLanguage.log. This is the location to store InstallLanguage logging information.
    - **InstallLanguageUseLog:** The "y" string turns on minimal logging and "v" turns on verbose logging. Anything else turns the logging off. It defaults to "n".
  - **EncodingConverterRepository** key with location to repository
  - **SilEncConverters30** key with directories used by SIL Converters. The installed converter engines are recorded in a IEC3.0.0.0 directory under the Plugins directory pointed to by the PluginDir registry setting under this key.
- Numerous keys in HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT result from DLL registrations.

# 3 Settings files

Flex stores various settings files in %USERPROFILE%\Local Settings\Application Data\SIL\Language Explorer when Flex stops normally.
**Note**: %USERPROFILE%\Local Settings\Application Data is C:\Documents and Settings*\Local Settings\Application Data on Windows XP and c:\Users*\AppData\Local on Vista-32 and c:\Users*\AppData\Local Settings on Vista-64 where * is your Windows logon name.
It saves an individual db$* file for each database that was opened. The other files currently affect all databases.

These files may occur in this directory:

- Settings.xml: Stores size and positions of various windows and dialogs
- NavPaneLayout.xml: Settings for the area pane
- DialogResponses.xml: Controls display of informational dialogs
- db$xyz$Settings.xml: (*xyz* is database name) Stores filters, sorts, browse, interlinear, and detail view customizations along with current tool and record for each database.

The following files store customization information for the dictionary view. Each project has its own set of settings files (*xyz* is database name). They contain layout and part specifications that override the defaults stored in c:\Program Files\SIL\FieldWorks\LexText\Configuration\Parts.

- db$xyz$LexEntry_Layouts.xml: Entry customizations
- db$xyz$LexPronunciation_Layouts.xml: Pronunciation customizations
- db$xyz$LexExampleSentence_Layouts.xml: Vernacular example customizations
- db$xyz$LexSense_Layouts.xml: Sense customizations
- db$xyz$CmTranslation_Layouts.xml: Translation (of Example) customizations

- db$xyz$CmPossibility_Layouts.xml: Configurable item layout customizations
- db$xyz$LexReference_Layouts.xml: Cross-reference customizations
- db$xyz$MoAffixAllomorph_Layouts.xml: Affix allomorph customizations
- db$xyz$MoStemAllomorph_Layouts.xml: Stem allomorph customizations

If you copy your database to another machine, or want remote users to see your same settings, you should copy the relevant settings files from your machine to the target machine.

If you want settings for one database to be used for another database, it should be possible as follows:

1. Set up your template database (assume it is abc) the way you want it and close Flex to save the settings.
2. All xml files that do not start with db$ are global settings. Copy these files to the Language Explorer directory on the target machine.
3. Any xml files starting with db$ are settings for a particular database. In this example, files starting with db$abc$ should be copied to the Language Explorer directory on the target machine.
4. On the target machine change all file names with db$abc$ to reflect the target database name. For example, if my new project is called def, the files would be renamed db$def$*.xml.
5. File db$def$Settings.xml will contain various strings containing db$abc$. Change all of these to db$def$.
6. Now when you create the new def database on your target machine, I think it will work properly with the new settings.

# 4 Solving crashes on startup

If you encounter a crash every time you start Flex, do not panic. It is very unlikely that you lost any data. Several problems could cause this:

- When working with daily versions of Flex, this may be due to changes in the information stored in settings files making the old setting incompatible. This should not affect normal users, however.
- There may be some setting on a certain view that triggers a bug. Normally, this would only cause a crash using a particular view of a particular record. But since Flex always tries to bring up the last view on the last record, if you have a problem like this, it will cause a crash every time you try to start.

The first thing to try in a situation like this is to hold Shift down when starting the program. This deletes all dictionary customization files, and resets information in Settings.xml and db$xyz$Settings.xml to default factory settings.

**Note:** This *only* resets db$xyz$Settings.xm for the current project.

If you hold Shift down when opening another project from File…Open, it resets *all* the settings for the project you are opening. This will usually allow the program to start normally. In the second situation, it might still crash when you go to a certain record in a certain view. You can continue working in other areas while waiting for technical help to solve the problem.

On rare occasions, it seems that Shift does not fully reset everything. In this case, delete all files in %USERPROFILE%\Local Settings\Application Data\SIL\Language Explorer to go back to all default settings.

If one database keeps you from starting Flex, but you can work in other databases if you could only get to them, temporarily add a -db “databasename” argument to the Target of your Flex shortcut icon where databasename is the name of the database you want to open. This opens a different database than the one causing the problem. You can also accomplish the same thing by changing the registry key that stores the last database opened.