

The double-click time tells the window manager how good your reflexes are

 devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20080423-00

April 23, 2008



Raymond Chen

The double-click time is sort of the dialog unit of time. It's used as the basis for many user interface time values that don't have their own custom setting. Here are just a few examples, along with the values you get if you leave the double-click time at its default of 500ms:

- The default tooltip timeouts are based on the double-click time. (Initial: 0.5s, autopop: 5s, reshow: 0.1s.)
- Incremental searching in list boxes resets after 4 times the double click time (2s).
- When you click and hold over a scroll bar arrow, autorepeat begins after 4/5 of the double-click time has elapsed (.4s), and autorepeat occurs at one tenth of the double-click time (0.05s = 20 repeats per second).
- The menu speed used to be 4/5 of the double click speed (0.4s), but now it has its own setting (`SPI_SETMENUSHOWDELAY`).

If you go into the mouse control panel and speed up your double-click speed, then you'll find that other user interface operations tend to speed up as well. The double-click time is a sort of barometer for how good the user's reaction time is. If you set it too low, you may find that things just happen too fast.

[Raymond Chen](#)

Follow

