

# 1 little known secret of regsvr32.exe, take two

[hexacorn.com/blog/2023/12/27/1-little-known-secret-of-regsvr32-exe-take-two](https://hexacorn.com/blog/2023/12/27/1-little-known-secret-of-regsvr32-exe-take-two)

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There is an archaic feature that *regsvr32.exe* leverages to autoregister libraries associated with file extensions.

For this to work, it expects an *AutoRegister* key to be present under the file extension handler with a default value pointing to the library f.ex:

file extension entry: txt -> txtfile

file handler: txtfile

autoregister entry: txtfile\AutoRegister\{Default}=<Library>

As such, one can use *regsvr32.exe* to load library of their choice without passing it as a command line argument to the program!

Let's see an example for the *txtfile*:

```
reg add HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\txtfile\AutoRegister /ve /d c:\test\bar.dll
```

```
echo > foo.txt
```

```
regsvr32 foo.txt
```

A screenshot of a terminal window with a black background and white text. The first line shows the command 'reg add HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT\txtfile\AutoRegister /ve /d c:\test\bar.dll' being executed. The second line shows 'echo > foo.txt' and the third line shows 'regsvr32 foo.txt'. A mouse cursor is visible in the bottom right corner of the terminal window.

The *AutoRegister* feature requires the library supporting this feature to export a function called *DllRegisterServerEx*, but in my example I didn't even bother as I just wanted to demo the *DllMain* Load...