



release option, and part of the appearance optimization (**visual effects** and **menu appearance**). Weird enough, some of the settings are locked in XP as well. In Core Settings of the Optimize System Settings submenu, there is no way to enable the Write behind cache option or optimize swapfile performance. The restrictions continue in File System that does not let you change the disk cache and caching memory. System Memory optimization comes equipped with a minimal **process manager** which allows you to end the activity of different processes. Also, the amount of memory you want to be released can be manually set in Manual Optimization window. Automatic RAM release settings is available in this section and you can set the values to be reached for the RAM optimization process to be triggered and the amount of RAM to be freed. The most used **web browsers** (Internet Explorer, Opera, Netscape and Firefox) can also be tweaked and made to load the pages faster. The restrictions in this case seem to be applied only for Mozilla products (and they are legit as there is the developer's warning appended to the window), as Opera and IE are all good to tweak. There aren't too many options available, but they can make a significant change during browsing. You can disable pictures loading, sounds playing, smooth scrolling or disable GIF animation in IE and Opera. These will speed up page loading, but will result detrimental to page viewing, and this is definitely not a good compromise for the average user. BoostSpeed makes available a suite of **optimization tools** designed to maintain your computer in tip top shape and clean the errors in the registry, defragment it, clean the disks of useless files, manage the startup items and clean/uninstall the programs on your computer. The registry and disk cleaners are locked in the trial version of the software, but they will perform the scan and give you the number of errors found. However, you will not know which are the "rotten" elements and they cannot be eliminated. Compacting the registry files on the other hand, is working just fine. The trouble is that this should be run after saving all your work. In fact, the tool won't start until all the other applications are closed or the "Ignore running programs" is checked. Choosing the latter option results in no access to anything but BoostSpeed's **Registry Defrager**. And when the compacting operation is over, there will be required a restart of the computer, which in this case is automatic. For properly taking care of your computer the application provides a startup manager that allows you to handle the processes that load with Windows. You can enable/disable them or even remove them from the list. Additional alternatives include checking the Internet for information about the items, opening the folder they resides in or running the files. Having all these options allows you to accurately identify the process and determine if you need it or not. The **uninstaller** appended to the list of optimization tools is really disappointing. All it does is roll the "victim's" uninstaller. There is no registry cleaning so there is absolutely no benefit from using this tool. The only advantage is that it makes a little order in the list by grouping the Microsoft programs and large programs together. Taking a look at the installed updates and hotfixes for Windows is a cinch as the option is provided in View menu. Obviously all the elements will be appended to the **Microsoft Programs** list. You may enjoy this feature in Windows XP but when it comes to running the application on Vista there is not way to see all the updates of the operating system. Network Tools menu contains a series of options for synchronizing the computer clock with online atomic servers, lookup domain names and IP addresses or test the Internet connection speed. For finding out information about a certain domain or IP address the software makes available a list of 10 different servers, so there is a very slim chance not to find out what you are looking for. Additional Tools includes **IE7 automatic optimization**, quicker access to files and folders in MS Office, a banner killer which is disabled in the unregistered version and Windows Power Tools which are simply shortcuts to Microsoft's System Information, DirectX, System Configuration, Computer Management and XP's Performance Monitor. All in all the application turned out to work fine on XP but running short on options in Vista. There weren't drastic changes in the performance of the computer as the limitations of the trial version did their job well. However, many of the options provided by the application can be found in the operating system as well (menu appearance, visual effects, disk cleaner,

uninstaller etc.). **The Good**The application handles well and proved to be quite stable. It has automatic optimization options and comes complete with a registry cleaner, defragger and memory optimizer. **The Bad**It runs short on file defragmentation and many of the limitations do nothing but hinder the testing of the software. Registry Defrager takes away all the control over your computer and you have to wait for the job to finish. The uninstaller will not clean your registry of leftovers of the uninstalled applications. It will simply run the uninstaller of the program. The interface needs a little change as Vista is a tad more high-flown in this sense. BoostSpeed implemented support for IE7 but failed to make the software Vista ready. **The Truth**The after-running effects were not dramatic but a slight increase of speed is noticeable. However, this can be achieved by trying different system optimizers on the market. Despite the lack of some important features like disk defragmenter the software manages to cover most areas required for optimizing your system. However, the restrictions imposed on some of the options makes it really difficult to get a hold on software's full powers. *Here are some snapshots of the application in action:*