

UTILITY PROGRAMS

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revised 7-24-2010

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DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS & UTILITIES (Mostly Free) (BOLD = Favorites)

ANTI-MALWARE UTILITIES: (See my ANTI-MALWARE TOOLS & TIPS)

BART PE (Bootable Windows Environment)

<http://www.snapfiles.com/get/bartpe.html>

BELARC ADVISOR (Hardware & Software profiler):

http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

BOOTABLE REPAIR CD's. Large list of utility and repair CD's <http://www.technibble.com/large-list-of-useful-computer-repair-cds/>

CLEANER (Cleans temp files and old registry entries):

http://www.filehippo.com/download_ccleaner/

See the CLEANER writeup at the end of this sheet.

CLEARTYPE TUNER (Microsoft Powertoy)

<http://www.microsoft.com/typography/cleartype/tuner/Step1.aspx>

CPUFreeBenchMark 2.2

<http://majorgeeks.com/download5944.html>

DAEMON TOOLS LITE (Mount/Open an ISO Image file)

http://filehippo.com/download_daemon_tools/

DIALAFIX (Fixes Windows update errors, missing Registry entries - XP)

<http://wiki.djlizard.net/Dial-a-fix>

ENDITALL (Stops many running processes) - Free

<http://enditall.en.softonic.com/download>

FIX WU (Repairs many Windows Update errors - Vista & Win 7 only)

<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/downloads/Fix%20WU.zip>

GLARY UTILITIES (MISC Utilities. Scans for empty folders)

<http://www.glaryutilities.com/gu.html?tag=download>

INDEX.DAT VIEWER: View Internet browsing history: <http://www.snapfiles.com/reviews/indexdat-analyzer/indexdatanalyzer.html>

KETARIN (Keeps your utility program "Installer Files" updated) - Free

<http://ketarin.canneverbe.com/>

LEELU SOFT - Misc Utilities for Win 7 & XP

<http://leelusoft.blogspot.com/>

LINK200 (Scans your browsers bookmarks for bad links) Free

<http://www.snapfiles.com/get/link200.html>

LINX - CPU benchmark & stress test

<http://www.technibble.com/downloads/windows-tools/linx062.zip>

MEMTEST86 (Exercises and Tests RAM)

<http://www.memtest.org/>

MOZBACKUP (Backs up & restores data for all Mozilla products):

http://www.download.com/MozBackup/3000-2242_4-10260383.html

NETWORKING UTILITIES: (See my NETWORKING TIPS sheet)

PC DECRAPIFIER (Removes trial programs & junk):

<http://pcdecrapifier.com/download>

PC FIXER (Scans PC for optimum security settings) - Free:

<http://www.digitalsupporttech.com/en-us/download.htm>

REVO UNINSTALLER (Removes Programs)

<http://www.revouninstaller.com/>

SECUNIA PSI (checks installed programs for vulnerabilities) - Free (see my "ANTI-MALWARE TOOLS & TIPS" sheet for details)

SECURABLE (Displays CPU hardware features: 32/64 Bit, DEP, VT)

<http://www.grc.com/securable.htm>

SI SANDRA LITE XII (Performance analysis):

http://filehippo.com/download_sandra_lite/

Limited version is free for personal use, Full version is \$30.00.

SPEEDFAN (Monitors Temperatures & speeds inside PC) - Free

http://filehippo.com/download_speedfan/

SIW: Hardware/Software summary of your syste (Portable) -Free

<http://www.gtopala.com/siw-download.html>

SYSTEM FILE FIXER: Open DOS Command Prompt window and enter: sfc /scannow (May need Install CD)

TINYRESMETER: (Resource Meter)

<http://pesoft.com/>

TFC Temp File Cleaner (cleans out temp files for all users at once)

<http://software.addpccs.com/tfc/index.php>

TWEAKUI (Powertoy for Windows XP only) - Free: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.msp>
 ULTIMATE BOOT CD (includes many utilities) www.ultimatebootcd.com/download.html
ULTIMATE BOOT CD for WINDOWS (includes many utilities: www.ubcd4win.com/ See wrietup below
 ULTIMATE WINDOWS TWEAKER (Vista, Win 7) http://download.cnet.com/Ultimate-Windows-Tweaker/3000-18487_4-10915128.html
 UNIVERSAL EXTRACTOR (Makes most utilities portable) - Free: http://www.filehippo.com/download_universal_extractor/
 UNLOCKER (a file unlock Utility so you can delete it) - Free http://filehippo.com/download_unlocker/
 UPDATE NOTIFIER (checks installed programs for updates) - Free <http://cleansofts.org/>
 WINBUBBLE (a TweakUI for VISTA & possibly WIn 7) <http://www.snapfiles.com/reviews/winbubble/winbubble.html>
 WINDOWS INSTALLER CLEANUP UTILITY (WICU) - Free <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/290301>
 WISE REGISTRY CLEANER http://download.cnet.com/Wise-Registry-Cleaner/3000-2086_4-10605508.html?tag=mncol
 ZONELARM REMOVAL TOOL http://download.zonealarm.com/bin/free/support/cpes_clean.exe
 (also see instructions at <http://forums.zonealarm.com/showthread.php?p=265795>)

HARD-DRIVE & DATA RECOVERY UTILITIES

IMAGE BACKUP ~ DRIVE CLONING

- **ACRONIS TRUE IMAGE** (Image Backups or drive cloning) Acronis TI Home is available for about \$30.00 from Gene Barlow at: <http://ugr.com/> and includes a free tutorial. This program the favorite of the LACS User group. See the Acronis TI Tips on my "Backing Up An Image of your Hard-drive" sheet for more info.
- EASEUS Disk Copy (drive cloning) - Free http://download.cnet.com/Easeus-Disk-Copy/3000-2248_4-10867157.html
- R-DRIVE IMAGE - Free trial: <http://www.drive-image.com/>

DATA BACKUP & SYNC

- **SYNCKBACK** (synchronize or backup folders) Free: http://filehippo.com/download_synckback/
- WINDOWS LIVE SYNC (This appears to be an online utility) <http://https://sync.live.com/>
- FAB'S AUTOBACKUP (Backup personal settings & data) <http://fabs.dyndns.org/autobackup/download.php?lang=en>
- ONLINE DATA BACKUP SITES:
 - ✓ CARBONITE www.carbonite.com/ Carbonite is currently \$50.00 per year for unlimited storage. Jungledisk is variable priced on usage but cheap, plus it supports LINUX and other platforms besides Windows.
 - ✓ JUNGLEDISK: www.jungledisk.com/
 - ✓ FREE ONLINE Storage: Use GLADINET with WINDOWS LIVE SKYDRIVE (25 GB free storage)
 - ◆ http://download.cnet.com/Gladinet-Cloud-Desktop/3000-18500_4-10904879.html?tag=mncol
 - ◆ <http://skydrive.live.com/>

PARTITIONING TOOLS

- **EASEUS Partition Manager** - Free http://www.download.com/Easeus-Partition-Manager/3000-2248_4-10863346.html

DEFRAG & OPTIMIZE

- **MyDefrag** (XP, WIN 7, & VISTA) http://filehippo.com/download_mydefrag/
 MyDefrag TUTORIAL <http://mydefrag.com/Manual-UsingMyDefrag.html>
- AUSLOGICS DEFRAG (XP & WINDOWS 7) <http://www.snapfiles.com/reviews/auslogics-disk-defrag/adiskdefrag.html>
- SMART DEFRAG (Win98 thru Win 7) http://download.cnet.com/Smart-Defrag/3000-2094_4-10759533.html?tag=mncol
- PAGE DEFRAG (From Microsoft,Defrags unmovable files) <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb897426.aspx>
- GLARY UTILITIES (Registry Defrag) <http://www.glaryutilities.com/gu.html?tag=download>
- SSD TWEAKER SSD Drive Perf tweaker - Free <http://members.westnet.com.au/taroola.computers/elpamsoft/SSDTweaker.zip>

DISK SPACE ALLOCATION ANALYSIS

- WinDirStat - Free: http://download.cnet.com/WinDirStat/3000-2248_4-10614593.html
- **SPACEMONGER** A good file analysis tool, ver 1.4 is free. XP http://www.download.com/SpaceMonger/3000-2248_4-10050288.html
- TreeSizeFree - Free: <http://www.jam-software.com/freeware/index.shtml>

DRIVE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS & REPAIR

- **CHKDSK** (part of Windows XP): See my TROUBLESHOOTING XP sheet for details.
- **CRYSTAL DISK INFO** (HDD HEALTH Monitoring) <http://www.snapfiles.com/reviews/cdiskinfo/cdiskinfo.html>
- FTK IMAGER (pull data from a corrupted drive) - Free: <http://www.accessdata.com/downloads.html>
- HDD REGENERATOR (free to try): is my 2nd choice for repairing HDD's: <http://www.dposoft.net/>
- HD_SPEED (Monitor Drive Data transfer Speed) <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/hdspeed.html>

UTILITY PROGRAMS

- **HD TUNE** (HDD health, performance, & Benchmark) <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/hdtune.html>
- **MHDD32**: The best way to get this is on the Ultimate Boot CD: www.ultimatebootcd.com/download.html
- **SEATOOLS** (Hard-disk Analyzer from Seagate) <http://www.seagate.com/www/en-us/support/downloads/seatools/>
- **SPIN-RITE**:
The SpinRite Hard-Drive analysis and data recovery Utility Program is not free, but is money well spent. <http://www.grc.com/sr/spinrite.htm>
- **TESTDISK**: <http://www.cgsecurity.org/wiki/TestDisk>
- **TRINITY RESCUE KIT** - (Recovery & repair) Free http://trinityhome.org/Home/index.php?wpid=1&front_id=12

DATA RECOVERY

- **GETDATABACK** (\$79.00, Best paid program) <http://www.runtime.org/data-recovery-software.htm>
- **RECOVERMYDATA** (tip from Podnutz.com) -Free <http://www.recovermydata.com/>
- **RECUVA** (Recover files from corrupted Flash Drives as well as Hard Drives) http://www.filehippo.com/download_recuva/
- **FTK IMAGER** (pull data from a corrupted drive) - Free: <http://www.accessdata.com/downloads.html>
- **DDRRescue** <http://www.gnu.org/software/ddrescue/ddrescue.html>
- **EASEUS Data Recovery Wizard** (Up to 1GB for free) <http://www.easeus.com/datarecoverywizard/free-data-recovery-software.htm>

ERASE ALL HARD-DRIVE DATA

- **DBAN** (Derricks Boot And Nuke) **WARNING**: When DBAN is done, you end up with a completely blank Drive. There is no partitioning and no formatting on it. To re-use the drive, you must run FDISK or a partitioning program.
- **SecureErase** <http://cmrr.ucsd.edu/people/Hughes/SecureErase.shtml>

ERASE UNUSED HARD-DRIVE SPACE

- **CCLEANER** (Wipe Free Space option) http://www.filehippo.com/download_ccleaner/
See the CCLEANER writeup at the end of this sheet.
- **ERASER** (Erases unused areas of a hard drive without messing up windows.) <http://www.snapfiles.com/reviews/Eraser/eraser.html>
-

MISC PROGRAMS LISTED BY CATEGORY:

ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

- **DESKTOP ZOOM** - Free http://download.cnet.com/DesktopZoom/3000-2072_4-10496377.html

ARCHIVING PROGRAMS (zipping and unzipping)

- **IZARC** (decompress ZIPPED or RAR files. opens ISO files) <http://www.izarc.org/>
- **RAR Extract Frog** (unpacks RAR files) <http://www.softpedia.com/progDownload/Free-RAR-Extract-Frog-Download-131763.html>

AUDIO: See the section = VIDEO~AUDIO~MUSIC PROGRAMS

BOOT (DUAL BOOT) MANAGERS for LINUX & Windows or XP & Win7

- **AUTO SUPER GRUB DISK** - Linux (Repairs MBR) <http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?docid=820835>
- **EasyBCD** (for dual booting Win 7 & XP) - Free <http://neosmart.net/dl.php?id=1>

CALIBRATE A MONITOR COLOR

WINCOLORSETUP.EXE

Overview: The Microsoft Color Control Panel Applet adds a new 'Color' item to the Windows control panel, providing a single place to view and edit color management settings in Windows XP. Using it, you can install and uninstall color profiles, change color profile associations for displays, printers and scanners, view detailed properties for color profiles (including a 3D rendering of the color space gamut), and rename color profiles, keeping the filenames and "internal" names consistent.

PANTONE

"huey Pro" is a program and device designed for automatically calibrate and profile all types of monitors – LCD and CRT. It includes a Sensor to assist with calibration. \$99.00.

<http://chris.pirillo.com/2008/02/28/screen-color-correction-with-pantone-huey-pro/>

CELL PHONE PROGRAM:

- BITPIM.COM
- DATAPILOT. This is what I use. You can buy it with adapters for any brand of Cell Phone. If you have a Bluetooth phone, I suggest you buy a Bluetooth USB dongle and a program to match. I believe DATAPILOT now has a bluetooth version.

CD & DVD BURNING & IMAGING SOFTWARE

- ACTIVE ISO BURNER - Burns ISO images to CD & DVD's
http://www.download.com/Active-ISO-Burner/3000-2646_4-10602452.html
- CDBURNERXP - Free CD/DVD Burning Software. <http://cdburnerxp.se/>
- CDSPEED2000 - Finds the best write speed for CD/DVD's <http://www.cdspeed2000.com>
- IMGBURN - Free CD/DVD Burning Software http://filehippo.com/download_imgburn/
- nLite - Create ISO file from a CD/DVD and then slipstream http://filehippo.com/download_nlite/

DESKTOP PUBLISHING - Free

- SCRIBUS <http://www.scribus.net/>
- OPEN OFFICE <http://download.openoffice.org/>

DEVICE DRIVER UTILITIES - (ASSESSMENT, BACKUP, & RESTORE PROGRAMS)

- **DOUBLEDRIVER:** My Favorite. (Windows 2000/XP/Vista/7 32 & 64). Display, Backup, Restore Drivers - Free:
<http://www.boozet.org/dd.htm>
- DRIVERBACKUP! Backup & restore your full set of device drivers (95/98/2000/XP/Vista/Win7) Free (This program requires .NET Framework 2.0 (or higher) to be installed from Windows Update before you install it). I like it because the backed up drivers are easily accessed manually. They are not hidden in some strange file format as do other driver backup programs:
 - ✓ The best version of the program is English (not Italian) and can be downloaded as an .RAR file from:
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/drvback/files/> . Choose the **DrvBK2_0.rar** file.
 - ✓ Before installing DriverBackup!, you must first unpack the .RAR file (It is compressed like a ZIP) by downloading and installing the IZARC or RAR Extract Frog program.
- DRIVERMAX - Backup, Restore, & Update your full set of drivers (XP/Vista/Win7) - Free, but requires online registration. The free version is only good for backup/restore, not for getting newer drivers. They purposely slow your driver downloads and limit you to two drivers per day. You have to pay to get basic functionality. <http://www.drivermax.com/download.htm>
- DRIVERMAGICIAN LITE - Free to backup, but you must buy it to restore your Drivers (98/XP/Vista/Win7):
http://www.download.com/Driver-Magician-Lite/3000-2242_4-10521270.html
- ADDPCS DRIVER BACKUP <http://software.addpcs.com/>
- DEVICE DOCTOR: (Analyzes your system for the latest drivers)-Free; <http://www.devedoctor.com/device-doctor-download.php>
- "UNKNOWN DEVICE" IDENTIFIER TOOLS
 - ✓ DRIVERMAX
 - ✓ SIW
 - ✓ ZHANGDUO DEVICE IDENTIFIER (Device Manager) - Free:<http://www.zhangduo.com/unknowndeviceidentifier.html>

ENCRYPTION UTILITIES:

- TrueCrypt - Free: http://filehippo.com/download_truecrypt/
- KeePass - Free: http://filehippo.com/download_keeppass/
- AXCRYPT - Free: <http://www.axantum.com/AxCrypt/>
- Folder Lock <http://www.newsoftwares.net/folderlock/?id=ll>

FTP CLIENTS

- FireFTP (Firefox add-on) I prefer this one. <http://https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/684>
(Be sure to get the FireFTP Button also): <http://https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/2200>
- Filezilla is also good: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/filezilla/>

ICON / FAVICON GENERATORS (16x16, 32x32, 48x48, 64x64)

- DEGRAEVE Favicon Generator - Free <http://www.degraeve.com/favicon/>

UTILITY PROGRAMS

- GENFAVICON Favicon Generator - Free <http://www.genfavicon.com/>
- FAVICON VALIDATOR - Free <http://www.html-kit.com/favicon/validator/>

INSTALLERS - AUTOMATIC APPLICATION INSTALLERS

- NINITE <http://ninite.com/>
With Ninite, you can download and save a custom installer program that will download all your favorite Programs at once. If it fails to install any of the selected programs, it will give you a status list at the end.

INSTALLERS- WINDOWS UPDATE INSTALLERS

- AUTOPATCHER (combines windows updates onto a CD) <http://www.autopatcher.com/>
- **WSUS "WINDOWS UPDATE OFFLINE INSTALLER"** Combines Windows Updates onto a flash drive for offline installation. (XP/Vista/Win7): - Free <http://download.wsusoffline.net/>

KEY, PRODUCT (see PRODUCT KEYS RECOVERY & CHANGE PROGRAMS)

KEYBOARD UTILITIES

- AUTOHOTKEY: <http://www.autohotkey.com/download/>

LOCATOR SOFTWARE for missing, lost, or stolen laptops.

- Prey Project - Free: <http://preyproject.com/>

MUSIC: See the section called = VIDEO~AUDIO~MUSIC PROGRAMS

NETWORKING UTILITIES: (See my "NETWORKING TIPS" sheet)

PASSWORD MANAGERS - Free

- KEEPPASS: See under encryption tools
- LASTPASS: Password manager for online websites (if you don't use Firefox)

PASSWORD RECOVERY PROGRAMS

- POGOSTICK Pswd Mgr - Bootable CD ISO: Free : <http://pogostick.net/~pnh/ntpasswd/>
- Ophcrack Live CD (XP & VISTA) Free: <http://ophcrack.sourceforge.net/download.php?type=livecd>
- Kon-Boot (Boot CD to bypass pswds) <http://www.piotrbania.com/all/kon-boot/>
(NOTE: MSE thinks Kon-Boot is a virus. Use caution)
- Active@ Password Changer (\$50.00) <http://www.password-changer.com>

PDF's - CONVERT Docs to PDF FILES

- **PDF CREATOR** - Installs as a virtual printer. <http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/>
- PrimoPDF - Installs as a virtual printer. (I have not tried this one) <http://www.primopdf.com/>
- DoPDF - Installs as a virtual Printer. (I have not tried this one) <http://www.dopdf.com/>

PHOTO IMAGING PROGRAMS

- PHOTO PROGRAMS - Free
 1. Irfanview http://filehippo.com/download_irfanview/
 2. Picasa (Has "Album Mode" only??? not "Folder Mode"?) http://filehippo.com/download_picasa/
 3. Paint.NET: http://filehippo.com/download_paint.net/
 4. Inkscape <http://www.inkscape.org/>
- RESIZE PHOTOS - (Microsoft Powertoy) <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.mspx>
- FASTSTONE CAPTURE: (\$19.95) Versatile image capture <http://www.faststone.org/FSCaptureDetail.htm>
- IMAGE MORPHING SQIRLZ MORPH - Morphing software - Free <http://www.xiberpix.net/SqirlzMorph.html>

PORTABLE APPS

- LIBERKEY (Manage Portable apps on a Flashdrive) - Free: <http://www.liberkey.com/en/download.html>
- PORTABLE APPS SUITE (Collection of Portable applications) - Free: <http://portableapps.com/>

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION VIEWER (.PPS Files)

- Download and install the free PPVIEWER.EXE Utility from Microsoft:
<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=428D5727-43AB-4F24-90B7-A94784AF71A4&displaylang=en>

PROCESS MONITORING

- Process Explorer <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896653.aspx>
- Performance Monitor
<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=31FCCD98-C3A1-4644-9622-FAA046D69214&displaylang=en>
- Process Monitor <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896645.aspx>

PRODUCT KEY RECOVERY & CHANGE PROGRAMS

- **PRODUKEY** (Product Key Recovery for XP, Vista, Win7 & Office) - Free: http://www.nirsoft.net/utills/product_cd_key_viewer.html
- INNOBATE Product Key Recovery Utility from ZDNET
<http://downloads.zdnet.com/download.aspx?&compid=64390&docid=305770&tag=nl.e530>
- ROCKXP - Recover XP Product Key (Activation Code) - Free <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/rockxp.html>
- KEYFINDER (Magic Jelly Bean XP) - Free <http://magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder/>
- Product Key Finder 100422 (WIN95/WIN98/2000/Me/XP)
http://www.download.com/3001-2094_4-10736781.html?spi=144b8f828f844094860b65b8715f4724
- Windows Product Key Viewer and Changer Free to try (Cost \$6.99)
<http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?&compid=53055&docid=218025&tag=nl.e530>
- PRODUCT KEY CHANGERS
 - "Windows Product Key Changer" (for all versions of Windows) - Free to try :
http://download.cnet.com/Windows-Product-Key-Changer/3000-2094_4-10908137.html
 - Product Key Update Tool from Microsoft for XP - Free:
<http://www.microsoft.com/genuine/selfhelp/XPPkuinst.aspx?displaylang=en&sGuid=cbf4d2fe-8a77-40d7-9b83-d9feb4d218a>

REGISTRY BACKUP TOOLS

- ERUNT (Emergency Recovery Utility NT) <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/erunt.html>

REMOTE DESKTOP / REMOTE ACCESS

- **LogMeIn Free**
 - ✓ To control a remote PC, open a free account at: <http://secure.logmein.com/US/home.aspx>
 - ✓ Install this "Listener Client" program on each remote PC:
http://www.download.com/LogMeIn-Free/3000-7240_4-10317491.html?tag=mncol
- MIKOGO - Free <http://www.mikogo.com/>
- TEAMVIEWER - Free <http://www.teamviewer.com/index.aspx>

SCREEN CAPTURE TOOLS - Free

- SNIPPING TOOL
- JING
- SKITCH
- PIXIE: Color Capture of a pixel http://download.cnet.com/Pixie/3000-10247_4-10047496.html?tag=mncol
- COLOR CAPTURE - Pixeur: <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/pixeur.html>

START-UP MANAGEMENT

- AUTORUNS (Good, but very complicated to use): <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb963902.aspx>
- **CODESTUFF STARTER** (Manually remove processes from startup): <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/starter.html>
- GLARY UTILITIES (MISC Utilities. Scans for empty folders) <http://www.glaryutilities.com/gu.html?tag=download>
- SOLUTO Startup Manager (Requires constant internet connection) - Free: <http://soluto.com/Download/>

TASKBAR REPAIR

- Taskbarplus! A Free Utility from: <http://www.kellys-korner-xp.com/taskbarplus!.htm>

TORRENT PROGRAMS: *(Beware that peer to peer programs frequently are a source of malware)*

- **FIRETORRENT** (Firefox add-on. My favorite Torrent program) <http://https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/10931>
- uTORRENT (Free lightweight) <http://www.utorrent.com/>
- MOZTORRENT (still not yet avail as of 12-2009)
- FOXTORRENT (Bad. Too invasive)

UTILITY PROGRAMS

- BIT COMET ??? Not tried yet
- BIT TORNADO ??? Not tried yet

UNINSTALLERS - Program uninstallers

- List of Unstallers from RaProducts: <http://uninstallers.blogspot.com/>

VIDEO~AUDIO~MUSIC PROGRAMS

- **PLAYERS**
 - ✓ VLC MEDIA PLAYER (Plays ALL Formats - Free <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>)
 - ✓ SONGBIRD - Free: <http://www.getsongbird.com/>
 - ✓ REALPLAYER ALTERNATIVE PLUGIN for WMP http://www.free-codecs.com/download/Real_Alternative_Lite.htm
 - ✓ "GSPOT" Utility: A program that identifies which codec is needed if an audio will not play: <http://www.free-codecs.com/download/GSpot.htm>
- **VIDEO CONVERSION**
 - ✓ SUPER (Simplified Universal Player Encoder & Renderer. FREE!) <http://www.erightssoft.com/SUPER.html>
 - ✓ Adobe Premier Elements.
- **VIDEO DOWNLOADING FROM WEBSITES**
 - WM RECORDER or WM CAPTURE (Not free) <http://www.wmrecorder.com/>
- **EDITING ETC.**
 - ✓ CAKEWALK (SONAR)
 - ✓ LIVE (ABLETON.COM)
 - ✓ PROTOOLS
 - ✓ AUDACITY (Record & Play - Free)
 - ✓ FREE AUDIO EDITOR 2008: http://www.download.com/Free-Audio-Editor-2008/3000-2140_4-10809742.html
- **CODECS:**
 - ✓ See K-Lite codec Pack (Full): http://filehippo.com/download_klite_codec_pack/
 - ✓ Free CODECS - See the AUDIO/VIDEO Section of my "WEBSITES - USEFUL" sheet.
 - ✓ "GSPOT" Utility: A program that identifies which codec is needed if a video will not play: <http://www.free-codecs.com/download/GSpot.htm>

WINDOWS UPDATES - OFFLINE TOOLS

- CT OFFLINE UPDATE (for XP) - Free: <http://www.softpedia.com/get/Others/Signatures-Updates/ct-Offline-Update.shtml>
- CTUPDATE - Free <http://www.heise.de/ct/projekte/offlineupdate/download/ctupdate60.zip>

WIRELESS NETWORKING UTILITIES: (See my NETWORKING TIPS sheet)

ZIP PROGRAMS: (See ARCHIVING PROGRAMS)

PROGRAM TIPS & NOTES

ADOBE-READER ~ ADOBE-ACROBAT CONFIGURATION FOR BROWSERS

- To make sure this program operates smoothly with Firefox, configure the Internet option:
 1. Start the Reader, and in the Reader click: (Edit > Preferences > Categories:Internet)
 2. Uncheck the box " Display PDF in Browser".
 3. Click OK to exit.
 4. Close the Reader and Restart the PC.

BELARC ADVISOR

- If Belarc Advisor posts the wrong Anti-virus, try the following:
 1. Stop the WMI Service
 2. Delete the "repository" folder in C:\windows\system32\wbem
 3. Start the WMI Service. Starting the service rebuilds the deleted folder and the database. Once I restarted my system, Windows Security Center no longer showed McAfee Firewall as running.
- The latest version of Belarc Advisor (version 8.1b or higher) now scans the entire local network and lists all devices discovered. First by IP address, then Device Type, Device Name, & Device Description.

CCLEANER - SETUP & USE: (A File & Registry Cleaner): (Ref: version 2.17.878)

- **INSTALL:** When installing original or updated versions of CCLEANER, be sure to UN-CHECK the boxes Add ' Run CCleaner' option to recycle bin.....', ' Add 'Open CCleaner' option to Recycle Bin....', ' Automatically check for updates, and ' Add CCleaner Yahoo Toolbar.....'.
- **BACKUP FOLDER:** Before running CCleaner, create a sub-folder in "My Documents" called "CCleanerRegBackups".
- **UPDATES:** Before running the program, click "Check for updates..." in the far lower RH corner. Download and install the latest version. ***Always make sure you are using the latest version available.***
- **SET-UP CHOICES:** Starting at the CCLEANER MAIN SCREEN
 1. **CLEANER SCREEN:** (Make sure "Cleaner" is checked on the left). The Cleaner function removes unused & temporary Files. Before running you must decide which files types you want processed.
 - a. **WINDOWS Tab:**
 - 1) Internet Explorer: Un-check " Autocomplete Form History"
 - 2) Windows Explorer: Check all entries.
 - 3) System: Un-check " Windows Log Files", " Start Menu Shortcuts", and " Desktop Shortcuts".
 - 4) Advanced: Make sure ALL ENTRIES ARE UN-CHECKED.
 - b. **APPLICATIONS tab:**
 - 1) Firefox/Mozilla: Un-check " Saved Form Information"
 - 2) Applications: Un-check " Adobe Reader/Acrobat", and " Nero or any CD burning program".
 - 3) Internet: Un-check all entries.
 - 4) Multimedia: Un-check all entries if desired.
 - 5) Utilities: Un-check all entries.
 - 6) Windows: Un-check " Regedit"
 2. **REGISTRY SCREEN:** **NOTE: As of 12-2009 I no longer do any kind of Registry Cleaning except during malware removals.** (Click "Registry" on the left): Leave all boxes checked .
 3. **TOOLS SCREEN:** Uninstall (Programs) & Startup. (I do not use either of these features. I use "Codestuff Starter" for startup management and RevoUninstaller for removing programs and add/removed program entries).
 4. **OPTIONS SCREEN:**
 - a. **SETTINGS:**
 - i. Make sure first four boxes are UN-CHECKED.
 - ii. Choose a preferred "Secure Deletion" method,
 - iii. Under "Wipe Free Space drives", choose which drives upon which you want to have the Free Space wiped. This is not used for normal scans. (To run it, see above under CLEANER SCREEN > WINDOWS tab > Advanced > Wipe Free Space).
 - b. **COOKIES:** If desired, select which cookies you want kept or deleted.
 - c. **ADVANCED:** Check the box for " Only delete files in windows temp older than 48 hours, and for " Show prompt to backup registry issues. Leave all other boxes UN-CHECKED .
- **RUNNING THE FILE CLEANER:**

UTILITY PROGRAMS

1. Click the ANALYZE button first to see what will be deleted, before you run CCLEANER to remove the files.
2. Click the ANALYZE button again. It should come up clean.

- **RUNNING THE REGISTRY CLEANER:**

1. Click the SCAN FOR ISSUES button first to see what entries will be deleted.
2. Click the FIX SELECTED ISSUES button.
 - a. The first time you run Reg clean, say Yes to "Do you want to backup changes to the registry?". Then browse the My Documents folder and find the new folder you created called "CCleanerRegBackups". Save to that folder. It will then save the backup as a file named "cc with the Date and a unique sequence number.reg".
 - b. NOTE: Each time you click FIX SELECTED ISSUES and say Yes to "Backup changes?", it will now save the changes to the "CCleanerRegBackups" folder.
 - c. Click the FIX ALL SELECTED ISSUES button, then say Yes to the verify prompt.
 - d. If trouble follows, you can restore any Registry entry deletions by double-clicking on the saved Backup file. Each backup file is saved with the date and a unique sequence number.
3. Keep re-running SCAN FOR ISSUES and FIX SELECTED ISSUES until the scan comes up clean or with just one or two entries.

- **WIPING FREE SPACE ON THE HARD DRIVE:** (This option runs very slow and only needs to be done rarely)

1. First run a pass of the normal File Cleaner. (Click Cleaner on the left)
2. Next, make sure you have correctly selected the desired drives, under the *OPTIONS SCREEN > SETTINGS > Wipe Free Space Drives*.
3. Go to the *CLEANER SCREEN > WINDOWS tab > Advanced* and Click to check the box for " Wipe Free Space".
4. Click the "Run Cleaner" button.
5. After running this scan, be sure to UN-CHECK the box " Wipe Free Space", (*under CLEANER SCREEN > WINDOWS tab > Advanced.*) or it will do the Wipe scan every time you run CCleaner.

CODESTUFF "STARTER" TIPS

- Stick with the "Startups" Tab to be safe. Unless you are experienced, making changes to entries on the "Processes" or "Services" Tabs can be risky.
- Warning: There is a startup listed that has no name and no description. Do not disable this entry or Windows will not boot.

MOZBACKUP NOTES

- FIREFOX: MOZBACKUP saves all your bookmarks, history, settings, saved passwords, etc and will restore them to a Firefox installed on another computer. When I have tried it, it also has successfully restored all my installed add-ons & extensions. (They do not promise that will all work though).
- FIREFOX BOOKMARKS: Firefox bookmarks can be manually exported and saved in a file (Bookmarks > Organize Bookmarks > Import & Backup > Export HTML) without using MOZBACKUP. I do this regularly as people have complained that very rarely, Firefox bookmarks just disappear.
- THUNDERBIRD: I have also successfully used MOZBACKUP to fully restore all my Thunderbird mail, mail settings, & address books in one swell foop. NOTE: MOZBACKUP can be erratic with Thunderbird if your mail file is too big or if you do not compact your mail folders first. I suggest you delete old mail or move it to local folders first, then Compact Folders, then run MOZBACKUP.
- NOTES: One thing I have always done is to make sure the version of Firefox or Thunderbird I restore "To" is the same version I used to back up "From". Supposedly, this is not necessary but I do it anyway. Also, I have not yet tried it with Firefox 3.0.x.

NORTON GOBACK

REMOVING GOBACK FROM THE SYSTEM MBR: (XP, Win98, and VISTA/WIN7???)

- Problem description: <http://www.knoppix.net/forum/viewtopic.php?p=61459>
- To remove the changes that GoBack made to the boot record
- The Symantec site has a GoBack ISO image you can use to burn to CD. Boot it to remove GoBack & fix MBR.
- Find or create a Windows Startup disk for Windows 98/Me. For more information, see the document How to create a Windows Startup disk.
- Copy the GoBack Gb_prog.exe (See Note below) to the Windows Startup disk. If there is not enough room to copy Gb_prog.exe to the Windows Startup disk, then copy Gb_prog.exe to a separate floppy disk.
- On the computer that you want to remove the GoBack changes from, insert the Windows Startup disk and then start the computer. The computer has finished starting when you see an A:\> prompt and a blinking cursor.
- Insert the disk that has the Gb_prog.exe file.
- Type `gb_prog.exe /u` and then press Enter.
- The utility removes the changes that GoBack made to the boot sector and the partition table and further troubleshooting can proceed.
- Notes:
 - a. The following instructions require a computer that can successfully start Windows 98/Me in order to create a Windows Startup disk. This computer does not have to be the computer you are trying to remove GoBack changes from.
 - b. The `Gb_prog.exe` can be located in the GoBack installation folder (C:\Program Files\GoBack is the default location). `Gb_prog.exe` can also be found on the Norton SystemWorks CD in the \Support\GBTools folder.
 - c. Note: This process does not entirely remove the GoBack program. Use the Add/Remove Programs utility in the Windows Control Panel to remove the rest of the GoBack program.

GoBack Problems

- **DISABLING GOBACK.** Clearing the GoBack History takes forever.
 - ✓ **FIX:** Do not disable GoBack or clear the History from the GoBack program running in Windows. Instead do a system restart and press the spacebar while the GoBack Flash screen is displayed. From the GoBack boot window, tell it to clear the History or disable GoBack. It will clear much faster.
- Notes from Charles_Pattison on 10/4/2007 10:38:00 PM On Windows XP:
 - a. Norton GoBack does not yet have the ability to restore the MBR and PBP when it is in doubt about its backup copies. If the MBR can be restored by another utility from a backup copy, your data should be intact. You may boot to a floppy to bypass the norton goback boot driver.
 - b. Quick fix ... use windows 98 cd boot to dos ... Type: `fdisk/mbr` This works . Now you can start XP normally. P.S. Booting to the Windows XP Repair terminal and replace boot sector..... does not work!
- **USB Drives.** The presence of GoBack on a drive's MBR may cause the blue screen of death on the system when plugged into a USB port on a system without GoBack installed. Try the GoBack removal Tool or UBCD4WIN. (I am not sure if the GoBack removal tool recognizes USB Drives. --Jim)
- The presence of GoBack on any internal drive can cause it to be unrecognized by Windows, unless GoBack is already installed on the System. See my SYMPTOM FIX TIPS for more details.

PC FIXER (Optimizes system settings for XP, Firefox, and IE)

- Run the "Checkup" option to scan the PC for issues.
- On the Results window, check the category boxes for both Security and Performance.
- Check all items shown (at the left), EXCEPT for the "HID INPUT SERVICE" , Do not disable this Service. Is it needed for custom buttons & controls on many keyboards.
- Click <Apply Selected>. (Requires a restart)

REVO UNINSTALLER:

- My advice: Do not use Revo Uninstaller to remove any Microsoft Programs.
- Deleting registry entries and/or files that are shared between multiple programs can cause problems with the program that remains. Make sure you are backed up.

SECUNIA PSI: Details about the Secunia Personal Software Inspector can be found in my ANTI-MALWARE TOOLS & TIPS sheet.

UTILITY PROGRAMS

SPEEDFAN (This utility allows you to monitor hardware temperatures, fan speeds, & voltages of various PC components. It also allows you to control the speed of specific fans).

- See this youtube tutorial: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQsb0ld2eWk>
- SpeedFan can let you know if your PC is running hot without opening the covers. It tells you the current operating temperature of several components in a PC.
- SpeedFan only runs on PC's that have hardware temperature monitoring chips. Older PC's cannot do this.
- SpeedFan can also monitor system voltages on PC's equipped with the proper hardware & BIOS.
- How do you know if your PC has hardware with temperature monitoring sensors & fan controls?
 - ✓ If SpeedFan shows valid temperatures, then your PC is new enough to monitor hardware temps.
 - ✓ If SpeedFan shows nothing or temps of 0 C, then you probably do not have hardware monitoring. You can try looking in the BIOS setup to see if there are any options for activating it.
 - ✓ Even if you can monitor temperatures, you may or may not be able to manually control fan speeds.
- Too HOT?
 - ✓ If any component is running hot, a good cleaning of fans, grills, and heatsinks by a knowledgeable technician will probably be the most help.
 - ✓ Never attempt to clean out a laptop. Let an expert do it.
 - ✓ Any component running hotter than 70 Celsius needs immediate attention.
 - ✓ SpeedFan considers any temp over 50 Celsius to be too hot.
 - ✓ You can reduce the temperature of some components by using the program to increase specific fan speeds, but you should only do this after a thorough cleaning of dust & pet hair.
- SpeedFan does not always clearly identify components, but you can click the "Configure" Button for some definitions. SpeedFan is at the mercy of the BIOS as far as names for components, so if you see something strange like Temp1 (Chip = IT8712F) it will probably end up being some sensor on the motherboard, you will have to go to your PC User Manual or Google it to find out exactly what it is. *Note: HD0 is usually the main hard drive, HD1 is usually the secondary hard drive, GPU is usually the Video card, CPU is the main processor, but may be referred to by other names (Core 0, Core 1, etc).* Basically if anything shows too hot, you should take action.
- NOTES:
 - ✓ A PC that is running hot will run slower.
 - ✓ Many Processors are programmed to "Throttle down" when getting hot to protect themselves.
 - ✓ Windows does not warn you when this is occurring, it just runs slow .

SYNCKBACK With a click of a button you can backup or synchronize data files between two PC's or between hard drives. You can also set up jobs to run automatically as a scheduled task as long as all devices are powered on. See these tutorials

- Syncback Help PDF <http://www.2brightsparks.com/assets/pdf/SyncBackPDF.zip>
- Video Tutorial http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITL7sA_wX6Y

"ULTIMATE BOOT CD FOR WINDOWS" TIPS (UBCD4WIN version 3.50)

- How to create a "UBCD4WIN" CD:
 - ✓ http://www.maximumpc.com/article/howtos/how_to_create_ultimate_boot_disk or http://datamike.net/?page_id=72
 - ✓ I tried using an XP CD with SP3 and it failed, plus it was too big. XP CD at SP2 works good and the final size was 697MB. NOTE: If the ISO is a little to big to fit on a CD, delete the games from the ISO and try again.
 - ✓ More Help: http://www.bendburrows.com/?page_id=145
- TOOLS AVAILABLE ON THE CD: For a summary of tools, see: <http://www.ubcd4win.com/contents.htm>
- OPERATING NOTES:

- ✓ SINGLE CLICK: Note: The Desktop Icons are set up for "Single-click". A "double-click" will open it twice.
- ✓ BE PATIENT after clicking a button: UBCD4WIN runs slow. You are running from CD and a Virtual RAM Drive.
- ✓ "NORTON GOBACK" WARNING: If GoBack is installed on the PC's drive, UBCD4WIN will not recognize it. When you first boot the CD (Before UBCD loads), there is an option to remove GoBack.
- ✓ If you get a message saying Out of Virtual memory or low on virtual memory, make sure the BIOS video memory setting is set to 2MB or more (8MB is preferred).
- MOVE XP TO ANOTHER PC OR MOBO CHANGE
 - ✓ See the steps below under XP BOOT FAILURES>MOBO Change
 - ✓ See this site:
<http://www.raymond.cc/blog/archives/2008/07/09/move-windows-xp-hard-drive-or-change-motherboard-without-getting-blue-screen-of-death/>
- XP BOOT FAILURES: To restore an unbootable PC to an earlier state
 1. Run CHKDSK from UBCD4WIN: (*Start > Programs > Disk Tools > Diagnostic > Check Disk. Run Option 3*)
 2. Run HD TUNE to establish condition of the hard-drive: Its Icon is on the UBCD4WIN Desktop (*Also: Start > Programs > Disk Tools > Diagnostic > HDTune*). Tests, Benchmarks, and gets Drive SMART info
 3. Run the Registry Restore Wizard: (*Start > Programs > Registry Tools > Registry Restore Wizard*).
 4. Try the EZPCFIX Utility. (*Click the EZPCFIX Icon on the UBCD4WIN desktop*)
 5. AFTER MOBO CHANGE: To fix XP so it will boot after a MOBO change, use the "FIX HDC" Utility to install a generic IDE controller driver so Windows will boot. (*Start > Programs > Registry Tools > Fix_hdc > Fix hard disk controller*). Run option T (*Target is C:\Windows*). Run option M. Run option 0, if M does not exit you from the program. Reboot XP into safe mode and see if Windows can boot now. Install any necessary drivers.
- MALWARE RECOVERY: To do proper Anti-Malware scans, you need to have Networking started: If you did not start Networking when you booted UBCD4WIN, go to (*Start > Programs > Networking Tools > Start Network and Dialup Services*)
 - ✓ SUPERAntispyware (*Start > Programs > Anti-Spyware Tools > SUPERAntiSpyware*). Do the online updates and then scan drive C. Any errors found on drive X or B can be ignored.
 - ✓ Malwarebytes Anti-Malware (MBAM) (*Start > Programs > Anti-Spyware Tools > MalwareBytes Anti-Malware*). Do the online updates and then select "Perform Full Scan". Check only Drive C and then click "Start Scan". Any errors found on drive X or B can be ignored.
 - ✓ Avira Antivir is on the Taskbar (Red umbrella). The first time you click the Icon, Antivir installs and updates. When its done with that, it looks like nothing happened. Click the Icon again and Antivir will open to its normal main screen. Make sure the update date is current before running a scan. Note: Any errors found on drive X or B can be ignored.
 - ✓ CCLEANER (*Does not work when booting from UBCD4Win CD*)
- USER DATA BACKUP: Back up Personal Settings & Data: Use FABS AUTOBACKUP Utility. Its Icon is on the UBCD4WIN Desktop. (*Also: Start > Programs > File Management > Recovery > Fabs's Autobackup*).
- DATA RECOVERY: RECUVA (*Start > Programs > File Management > Recovery > Recuva*). ????
- PASSWORD RECOVERY:
 - ✓ To access a system, try (*Start > Programs > Password Tools > Password Pro*)
 - ✓ To access a system, try the SALA PASSWORD RENEW Utility. (*Start > Programs > Password Tools > Password Renew*)
- PARTITION RECOVERY: TESTDISK Utility. (*Start > Programs > Disk Tools > Partition > TestDisk*)
- RAM TESTING: MEMTEST86 (Scans RAM for errors) Run this from the Primary UBCD4WIN Boot menu.