



Using the Windows Installer CleanUp Utility

By F. Varano

If you are unable to remove or uninstall an application in Windows XP using either the Uninstall option or the Add/Remove Programs tool, try using the Windows Installer CleanUp Utility. This utility will remove all the folders, files, registry keys, and entries from your system as long as you installed the application using the Windows Installer. And, like a virgin, you can start over with a clean slate.

Here's how:

1. Go to <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/290301>. Look for the download link.'
2. In the download window click on Save.
3. Create (if you don't have one) a Microsoft folder in My Downloads folder which I know you created a long time ago, yes?
4. Download the Windows Installer CleanUp Utility from the Microsoft Download Center. The file is Msicuu2.exe and it is about 350 KB or so. It takes 1 second with FIOS to download. During that time you can sprint to the kitchen and brew a cup of coffee and get a practice session on your guitar.
5. Close everything and then open My Download folder and drill down to the Microsoft folder in there. When you see the executable file, double click on it to start the install.
6. When it is installed click on Start and then Programs. Find the Windows Installer CleanUp Utility and click on it to launch the program.
7. Inside the Windows Installer CleanUp Utility window, locate the application you want to get rid of in the list and click the Remove button.
8. Once the application has been removed, click the Exit button to close the utility.
9. You can now reinstall the application if that is your objective.

Here is a bit of advice. Some programs go bonkers for no apparent reason. Especially printer software. Oh sure, there is really a reason but you could spend hours trying to find out what went wrong. It is simpler to uninstall it and then reinstall it. However, often times the reason the program went bonkers is that a file got corrupted. It went rotten! That kind of a problem is best solved by uninstalling first then reinstalling. Uninstalling will get rid of all the files, normally.

I don't recommend reinstalling without uninstalling first no matter what anyone else tells you

Imagination is greater than knowledge.—Einstein

G-Mail? Anyone?

From a Blog.

I have 5 email address and I need 4 of them like I need a broken guitar string. I pay only for the verizon.com address. The rest are free. The free one which is interesting is Gmail. Of course you know about Gmail. (Don't you?)

When you choose a Gmail address, you actually get more than just "yourusername@gmail.com." You get variations of your basic address by modifying it in several funny ways and still get your email. But why? Let's say for instance that you want only your mistresses to have a certain (special) email address. Well, here are my examples.

My mistress #1 uses `tmradius+M1@gmail.com`

My mistress #2 uses `tmradius+M2@gmail.com`

My mistress #3 uses `tmradius+M3@gmail.com`

I've got more but I am listing only three to keep you from getting jealous. Note that all I did was to add the plus sign plus some characters after the ID part of the address. Gmail ignores the plus and the following characters up to the @ sign. And there's more!

Insert periods in your ID part of the address. For example, I can insert a period in the ID like `tm.radius@gmail.com` or `tmra..dius@gmail.com` or `tm..radius+bank@gmail.com`.

Gmail doesn't recognize periods as characters in addresses -- it just ignores them. Apart from addresses just for your forlorn mistresses there is a more sophisticated use for such email addresses.

For example you could specialize the address with such characters when you sign up for online banking and then set up a *filter* to automatically star, archive or label emails so addressed. I hinted above with this address: `tmradius+bank@gmail.com`.

You can also use this when you register with a bank or for a service or a subscription if you think that they might share your information. Now when you get email from various sources you can tell which SOB shared your address with others.

Ah, sweet revenge. You know how they got it. Solution: filter to auto-delete. Source: Gmailblog.





Board of Directors

President

(Position open)

PRESIDENT@ccmv.net

Vice President

Jim Richardson
VP@ccmv.net

Secretary

Jim Semanek
SECRETARY@ccmv.net

Treasurer

Chet Hartley
TREASURER@ccmv.net

Director at large

Lance Boyd
dal@ccmv.net

Help lines:

Windows XP

Bill Oberg—672-3387
wobergr@verizon.net

Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint

Joannie Lenz—301-6226
Joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Newsletter

E-mail your articles, comments and suggestions and information to:
EDITOR@ccmv.net or
tmradius@verizon.net

Web Page Address

www.ccmv.net

Good info on our Web Site.
Read and download the newsletter at the web site.
(No newsletter in August)

Club Meetings:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Seventh-day Adventist Church
29885 Bradley Road,
Sun City, CA

Many free magazines, books items and loaners. Pick up a copy of the newsletter

FIOS, CABLE, BROADBAND, ETC.

FIOS is here to stay and is the coming 'thing' in broadband. Here are some sites for you to explore. One of them shows the step by step installation and another talks about broadband. All of it is interesting.

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/BTL/?p=5664&tag=nl.e539>
http://content.zdnet.com/2346-10532_22-94435.html
<http://blogs.zdnet.com/BTL/?p=9172&tag=nl.e539>

That Task Pane Again

By F. Varano

Here is something I want you to do. It is not complicated but it is something along the lines of previous articles I have put in these pages. We're going exploring. This applies to XP both Home and Professional.

My Computer

On your Desktop, click to open My Computer. Note that you have a right pane and a left pane. The left pane most likely will default to show a list of folders. On the Menu bar click on Folders. Note that you now have a task pane. Under System Tasks click on **Add or remove programs**. Isn't that also in the Control Panel? Isn't it nice to know that you don't have to wade through all those steps to get the **Add or remove programs** through the Control Panel? Close the **Add or remove programs** window.

Back in My Computer, under System Tasks, click on **View system information**. Looks familiar? Normally to get to **System information** you have to click on Start, Programs, Accessories, System Tools, then **System information** (the System Properties window). It is hard to remember that when you don't use it frequently.

Close the System Properties window. Back in My Computer, in System Tasks, click on Change a setting. Well, this looks just like the Control Panel! How convenient.

My Network Places

(Click on Up tool on the tool bar in the Control Panel to get back to My Computer.) Click on **My Network Places** which has its own set of Tasks, **Network Tasks**. I am not going to go through all of the tasks. Click on **View network connections** to work with your network connections. Click on the Back arrow on the tool bar to return to My Computer. (Note that clicking on the Up icon returns you to the Desktop since My Network Places is on the Desktop.)

I got this far in describing the Task Panes and I realized that you can get lost easily following these clicking instructions. Actually these Task Panes->

Department Leaders

Membership

Dee Morris
MEMBERSHIP@ccmv.net

Material Distribution

Dorothy & George Metcalf
GWDJM@Verizon.net

Shareware

Distribution

Position Open
Need Volunteer

Newsletter

Editor: Frank Varano

Newsletter:
Reporters & Articles:
E-mail your articles, comments and suggestions to:
EDITOR@ccmv.net

Computer Lab

Technician
Jim Richardson

Web Site
Jim Semanek
WEBGUY@ccmv.net

Computer Instruction

Registrar

Carol Taggart
REGISTRAR@ccmv.net

Teachers & Assistants are CCMV members.
Would you like to teach?
Would you like to help our teachers? Come to the meeting and tell us. Or email Carol.

Computer Classes:

We're in full swing
Call for class information and sign-ups



Monthly Income and Expenses	
6/1/08 thru- 6/30/08	
Chet Hartley, Treasurer	
Income (\$)	
Contributions	99.00
Interest	2.61
Shareware/Freeware Sales	30.00
Textbook Sales	445.00
Tuition	490.00
Total Income	1066.61
Expenses (\$)	
Church Usage	250.00
Text book purchases	547.20
Newsletter expenses	14.78
Total Expenses	811.98
Income less expenses	\$ 254.63

(Continued from page 2)

are really shortcuts to various places.

The best way to get any familiarity with them is to do what I did here. Start with My Computer and keep clicking on the various tasks and Other Places to where your clicking leads you. Be sure to use the Up tool and the back arrow tool so that you can flip back and forth in your exploration.



It is much easier to remember these shortcuts than the tortuous paths of clicking sequences needed to get to many of these functions.

Viruses, Malware and now Ransomware

By Frank Varano

It is bad enough that we have viruses and malware to bug us. Virus analysts at Kaspersky Lab have intercepted a new variant of Gpcode, a malicious virus that encrypts important files on an infected desktop and demands payment for a key to recover the data.

The biggest change in this variant of the ransomware is the use of RSA encryption algorithm with a 1024-bit key, making it impossible to crack without the author's key.

This encryption stuff is sheer gibberish. Don't expect me to explain it to you when I don't know anything about it. Yet. It does make me wonder if such ransom is paid by a wire transfer. I can imagine that there would be a battle of wits. Pay the ransom, yes. But in the software transferring the money put another glitch that would null the transfer!

Conversion of Brand Names Into Verbs

By Frank Varano

In the computer world you might hear the word, "I'll Google it." If you poor souls don't have a computer you don't know what I am talking about. I don't want to leave you "out of the loop." This is where it comes from: When you want to find out about something, we computer users go to a website, named Google.com and search for something on the topic. (You must have heard "Dot Com" a million times.) So we have a new word, "google." If you hear that, you will know. We have other search engines but so far I've never heard anyone say I'll Yahoo it.

That's not the first time a brand name has found its way into our lexicon. Remember Kleenex? No matter what kind of tissue you have, it always seems to be Kleenex. Did you ever Xerox something on a Canon machine? A guy has to zip up his fly because he has a zipper a name from Talon fastener of Meadville Pennsylvania. I understand that elevator, cellophane, thermos and escalator are also brand names. I didn't know that. Aspirin too.

There are other kinds of words that have insidiously sneaked into our lexicon with different meanings? How about telling someone to 'can it?' Oh, you don't 'dig it?' Although we use crap to signify something not desirable, that word came from a Britisher who had a name Crapper. There is more to the story, but let's find some more.

The computer world is full of such words. We abort a program. We have menus, dialog boxes, buttons, we X things out. We load software, install, uninstall; we do things and we also undo and redo things. You can't cash a spellcheck. We can hibernate the computer and also put it to sleep or make it standby. We have a mouse, a product key, licenses and gigs. Computers get sick with viruses and now malware. Even Greek Mythology got in the picture with the Trojan Horse virus.

We have software now held for ransom. A firewall protects the software. Our computers crash, hang up and freeze. They have no feet but must boot up. Our storage media have partitions. We even have platforms. We have memory sticks. Thumb drives. A mother board but no father board. And Windows with panes, Task Panes that we can't see through. You could eavesdrop on some computer nerds and not know really what they are talking about.

We also have people's names which are part of our lexicon. For example John can be in a john, a toilet. Sorry about that. Merry can be the hitching operation. No, no that's Mary. Crystal can be a vahz (!) or a wine glass. Mr. White can be black and Mr. Black can be white. Frank can be frank, at least. Let's quit here before I get fired.



Are you a ScreenSaver Junkie?

By F. Varano

Y'all know why screen savers were used in the past, in the first 200 years of the PC. Y'all know that you don't need them for today's monitors, the flat screen LCD monitors. And y'all know that screen savers are simply stupid. Sorry if I offended you. They're stupid.

The first thing I do when I go to someone's place to work on his computer is get rid of that stupid screen saver, so that I can see what is on the desktop. I'm there to fix the computer not to see a bunch of grandkids' pictures cycle through as a screen saver. Of course, I am jealous because I don't have any grandkids. I have only cats. I can't stand cat hairs on the key board either. Donut crumbs, yes.

Do you ever sit in front of the computer just to watch a screen saver for entertainment or amusement? I bet not. Then why do you have a screen-saver? Does the computer love you more because you have a screensaver? Why is there still such a craze over screensavers? It doesn't make sense. I have an inherent distaste for screensavers. Some of may disagree. You may even love them. I hate them

So kill your stupid screen saver. When you're not sitting in front of your monitor it should be off off off. Capisce?

I am not alone. "Telstra, the biggest phone company in Australia, has removed all the corporate screen savers from the 36,000 computers in its offices. What will happen? The change will cut tons of CO2, which they claim will be the equivalent of taking 140 cars off the road for a year. Good on ya, mate. Follow Telstra's example. Let your flying toasters crash and burn."

While I am on the soap box, let me also blast Telstra. Who's kidding whom? You really think someone spent time and his college training to figure out how much atmospheric CO2 was reduced and the car equivalent? This global warming stuff is sure spawning a bunch of dubious stats by dubious engineers.

Let me throw in my own stats. There are over 50 million cats in this country. At least 40 million of them spew cat hairs on keyboards that have to be replaced periodically. And that requires 1000's of tons of CO2 in manufacturing of new keyboards that use plastics made from oil. And that's 100,000 cars off the road. Trust me; I went to college.

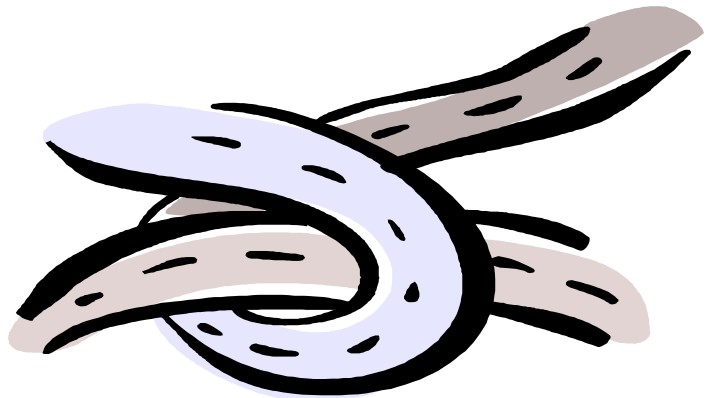


Bandwidth Metering

By F. Varano

All of us think that broadband is wonderful. So are the freeways. Dial-up is much like a dirt road with 2 ruts for the tires of your car. (Let's face it; that is a horrible analogy. But I have to use it to illustrate that traveling by car has limitations.) You know how limiting the dirt road is. It is easy but not elegant to tie the dirt road to dial-up.

You also know how wonderful the freeway (can be) to get from one place to another fast and with a minimum of effort. The freeway can handle a lot of cars going *both directions*. The road is the limiting factor. Let me repeat: *The road is the limiting fac-*



tor. It is possible for the freeway to be so full of cars that they are bumper to bumper. It is happening too often already. Can that happen to broadband too?

Time Warner Cable is installing new bandwidth metering equipment. It is experimental so far. "There is a lot of fear that this is going to drive up the cost of Internet service for average users and businesses, or worse, force them to monitor and curtail some of their Internet downloading habits." Those are not my words." Why is this happening? "The ultimate goal for Time Warner is to exercise control over ultra-heavy downloaders, who hog the network's resources while still paying the same flat rate as everyone else." Look at the phrase " *who hog the network's resources* "

Doesn't that tell you that the freeways are already clogged? Bandwidth hogs take up a huge share of 'the pipes.' and slow things down for everyone else. Notwithstanding FIOS, Cable, DSL and all the broadband systems, 'the pipes' can get jammed. Time Warner Cable is doing a trial, a small experiment for new customers. And the company is looking to ditch bandwidth hogs that are costing it money. Or charge them more.

I want to point out that the bands will get clogged. It is already an issue and will continue to be so. Is there an end to unlimited Internet bandwidth coming? Some forecast that the year 2010 is a critical date.