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Introduction to S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows

S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows serves as a tool for the management of Microsoft Windows. It fills the gap left by Microsoft regarding the installation and uninstallation of software in the Windows system.

S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows offers the following features:

- n Analysis of all changes made during software installation.
- n Monitoring of AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, and user-specified text files.
- n Monitoring of SYSTEM.INI, WIN.INI, and any other Windows INI files.
- n Monitoring of all disk drives and changes made (new, deleted, and changes with regard to size, date/time, attributes, and CRC checksums).
- n Automatic backup of any files before the installation.
- n Detailed log of all changes and file structure after the software installation.

100% uninstallation of all changes!

(Deleted and altered files must have been saved with S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows).

System requirements:

MS-DOS 5.0 or higher
MS-Windows 3.1 or higher

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Basics

S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows completes four steps in the process of monitoring the installation of a software package and its uninstallation:

- n In the first step, you set the freeze options that let you monitor or save four different categories (see below) of file information.
S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows creates a new directory in your working path in which it saves all information about the current system status.
- n After freezing has been completed, you install the new software.
- n After the installation, you and S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows analyze all changes. It is possible to use all system backups already made to run analyses of the differences between the old states and the new. The analysis generates a detailed protocol of all changes and associations, which clearly informs you which files and changes belong to a particular software package.
- n The last step is the uninstallation of software. S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows uses the desired backup to reverse all changes made. All changes are 100% reversible, assuming that the installation was done properly. To reverse all changes, all affected files must have been backed up with S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows, and the changes must not have been overwritten with new information.
In the latter case, S.I.P.-Uninstall notifies the user and allows changes to be made manually.

Backup Categories

1. Step: Freeze System State

2. Step: Install The New Software

3. Step: Analyzing The Changes

4. Step: Uninstalling Software

Backup Categories

In theory, all that is needed to log changes made during an installation is a list of all affected files. This is, however, usually not enough.

Often, special configuration files are present that specify a necessary internal structure and therefore provide important additional information.

S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows therefore distinguishes between four different categories of backup information:

Text Files

Text files consist of lines with limited size (usually 256 characters) that may contain any ASCII characters.

Important text files are, for example AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS.

INI Files

INI files are also line-oriented, and are therefore a subset of text files. Additionally, they contain an internal structure that is divided into "Topics" and "Subjects". Blank lines are irrelevant, and are skipped over.

Important INI files are, for example, SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI.

A Topic may contain any text, begins at the beginning of the line, and is enclosed in brackets. All following lines belong to this Topic, until the next Topic begins. Topic names must be unique within the INI file.

A Subject is composed of a keyword at the beginning of the line, followed by an "=" (equals sign) and some data. A Subject is only one line long. Subject names must be unique within a Topic.

Example:

```
[Topic1]
Subject11=data
Subject12=number
[Topic2]
Subject21=data
Subject22=number
```

Disk Drives

Disk drives are indicated in Windows and DOS with a letter. The file system based on this name has a hierarchically-recursive structure. This category includes all information related to changes in the file system.

This category only shows changes. New entries may be reversed without restriction. Deleted entries must have been backed up under the following category (Other Files).

S.I.P.-Uninstall for windows creates a database while it's freezing the disk drives. The database contains all information about directories and files (size, date/time, attributes). Optional you can generate a CRC checksum. This slows down the freezing process a bit.

Other Files

This category is for all files in which the acknowledgement of a change is not sufficient. They are saved by S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows before the new software is installed, and therefore may be completely restored with an uninstallation.

1. Step: Freeze System State

In this first step, you set the freeze options that allow you to monitor and save file information in four categories.

First, use the radio button to choose "Freeze".

To set the options, click the "Options..." button and follow the instructions for all four sublevels.

After you have set the options, start the freezing process with the "Start Freeze..." button. The following two dialogs ask for the name of the backup directory (max. 8 characters) and comments for this freeze.

S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows then creates a new directory with the given name and the extension "CMP" in your working directory (set with "System Options" in the "Options" menu), saves all marked text, INI, and "other" files, and creates a database of information for each drive to be monitored. Please make sure that you have enough free disk space on the drive containing the working directory for this backup!

When this information has been stored, a dialog indicates that the freeze process is complete.

The next step is the installation of the new software.

[2. Step: Install The New Software](#)

2. Step: Install The New Software

After the freeze process has ended, install the new software by running the setup or install program either from the Windows File Manager or from S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows.

From S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows, select "Install New Software" from the "Procedures" menu and start the installation with the file selection dialog.

You may leave windows and run the installation from DOS; S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows does not carry out any resident monitoring of the DOS system.

In order to capture all changes, you should start the new software, change and save a few options, and create and save a few small examples. This is done to catch the configuration files that many programs created at runtime. Failing to start and use the software may result in this file not being included!

As soon as the installation is complete, move to the next step - the analysis of the changes.

[3. Step: Analyzing The Changes](#)

3. Step: Analyzing The Changes

After the installation, start S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows again and run an analysis of the changes. Chose the state to compare to from the list provided.

All backups to date are available for comparison; you may want to run several analyses using various backups. The result protocols are numbered in order.

Analysis options may be set by selecting the "Options..." button.

Use the button "Start first analysis..." or "Start further analysis..." to begin the analysis process.

An analysis generates a protocol of all changes made to the system. For text files, you get a list of all new, deleted, or changed lines; for INI files, a list of all changes on the Subject level. For the disk drives, all new, deleted, or altered directories and files are displayed. If you have marked any "other" files, S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows lists which of them has been changed.

After this step has been completed, all information is available to uninstall the software at a later time.

[4. Step: Uninstalling Software](#)

4. Step: Uninstalling Software

The last step is for uninstalling software. S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows reverses all changes based on the selected backup state.

Select the state to be reverted to from the list provided.

The "Options..." button has no function for uninstallation - these options are provided during the uninstallation. With these options, you specify which files are to be restored and which are to be left in their current status. For example, you may keep the fonts from particular application, but delete their associated DLLs.

To start the uninstallation, select the "Start Uninstallation..." button. All further actions occur automatically.

If during a uninstallation problems occur, S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows notifies you and gives you the option of manual intervention.

When the uninstallation is complete, all results of the particular software installation have been reversed.

S.I.P.-Software Solutions

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Informationen about S.I.P.-Uninstall

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Tobias Schulz-Hess - Freeze, analyze and uninstall engine

Compiler

Borland Pascal V7.0 with OWL

HLP-Tool

Visual Help V2.0j

Registration

Please print this chapter, fill out the order form, and send it to us either by mail, email, or fax (see "About S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows").

S.I.P.-Software Solutions

The prices are in US\$, do not include shipping and handling, and are valid until another price list is released (without notice).

Ordering

I/We would like to order the most recent version of S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows V1.5 with network support included:

__ single license(s) US\$ 79 each

Disk size

__ 5-1/4"

__ 3-1/2"

To pay with VISA or MasterCard:

__ VISA __ MasterCard

Exp. date: _____

Card number: _____

Card holder: _____

Signature: _____

Address:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Department: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Tel./FAX: _____

E-Mail: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

What's new?

- n Normal and network version combined in one single application.
- n Now you get network functionality for the price of the single version!
See also:

Registration

- n Now full "Windows for Workgroups" support! Problems with drive and CD-ROM detection removed.
- n Now you can watch any read only drive or directory without access violation.
- n No more access of the disk drive after an installation from drive A. or B:.
- n Problems with some deinstallations and resulting collection errors removed.
- n Unnecessary application shut down dialog removed.

References / Test Reports

S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows has been tested by different journals and editors in Germany. We have collected a list and included the main statements (this list claims no completeness):

- n PC-Windows 6/94: "Without question S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows is the most powerful program in our survey."
- n c't 5/94: "...[comparing to other uninstall applications] it is the more thorough tool in the hands of an 'expert'."
- n Windows aktuell 3/94: "...analyzing new installations S.I.P.-Uninstall finds 100% of all changes. All changes are precisely recorded."

User Interface

S.I.P.-Uninstall for Window's user interface has three areas: the mode area, the registration button, and the compare-state area.

[The Main Menu](#)

Mode Selection Area

In the mode selection area, radio buttons allow the current working mode to be specified. Use "Options..." to make changes, and "Start" to activate the action.

The "Start" button text changes depending on the current action.

[Freeze Options](#)

[Options Analysis](#)

[Uninstall Options](#)

Registration Button

This button opens a dialog box allowing the user to enter the license number. Double-click on this box for more information about license numbers.

[Registration Dialog](#)

Compare State

Here you may chose a compare state from the listbox. Use the "Delete" button to delete a state, the "View Results..." button to view an analysis protocol, and the "Change Comment..." button to edit a compare state comment.

[Change Comment](#)

[View/Print Results](#)

The Main Menu

File Menu

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[Page layout...](#)

[Printer setup...](#)

[Quit](#)

Procedures Menu

[Freeze System State](#)

[Install The New Software...](#)

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Options Menu

[Freeze Options...](#)

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[System Options...](#)

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The Print Dialog

This dialog allows the choice of three different print files:

The current program options

Choose this option when you would like a printout of the current valid options. The printout contains all settings for text, INI, and "other" files, plus the disk drive and system options.

The current compare state options

This choice prints all option settings for the current compare state. Note that these may be different than the current valid option settings.

One of the analysis protocols

An analysis protocol for the current compare state is printed when this option is selected. A complete list of all changes is printed.

The Page Layout Dialog

This dialog is for determining the appearance of a printout. It is possible to set headers and footers, as well as the margins.

The "OK" button closes the dialog box and accepts all changes to the various options. The "Cancel" button closes the dialog box and does not accept any changes made to the various options.

Headers and Footers

It is possible to switch headers and footers on and off using the appropriate checkboxes.

Any text is allowed in the edit fields under the checkboxes. Use the following special format indicators to alter the format:

n \l \L \m \M \r \R All text following these indicators will be left justified (\l or \L), centered (\c or \C), or right justified (\r or \R). The default is left justified.

Note: repeated usage of the same indicator causes all but the last text segment to be overwritten! Example: "\LOne\LTwo" will output only "Two".

n \d \D The current date is printed at this location. \d uses the short date format, and \D uses the long date format (see Windows system settings).

n \t \T The current time is printed at this location.

n \p \P The current page number is printed at this location

n \s \S The total page count for the document is printed at this location.

Margins

The margin settings allow you to set the size of the space between the edge of the page and the printed text. For the left and right margins, the unit is characters, and for the top and bottom margins, the unit is lines.

When headers and footers are being used, you may also set the amount of space appearing between the text and the header and footer. The unit in this case is lines.

Font

By selecting the "Fonts..." button, you may chose the font to be used and set attributes such as size, bold, italic, etc.

Printer Setup

This dialog allows you to choose from the list of installed printers. You may also change the setup for a particular printer by selecting the "Setup" button.

Quit Program

This menu option allows you to exit S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows.

If you have made any options changes, you are given the chance to save these changes before exiting.

Freeze Options

The options for freezing the current system state branch into four sublevels:

[Text Files](#)

[INI Files](#)

[Disk Drives](#)

[Other or single files](#)

Each of these additional options handles a particular type of information and/or backup category.

See also:

[Basics](#)

[Backup Categories](#)

Options Text Files

Text files are all files consisting of lines ended with a carriage return and containing text or text information. The freeze process copies these files in the user-specified backup directory, where they are saved for use in the installation analysis.

The analysis compares the original (potentially modified) file with the backup copy and records all changes. These changes are shown as a listing of all lines that have been modified.

The "OK" button closes the dialog box and accepts all changes to the various options. The "Cancel" button closes the dialog box and does not accept any changes made to the various options.

System text files

Every DOS system uses two configuration files when started -AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS. Installation programs often change these files to alter a path or to load a driver.

Use the checkboxes to indicate whether these files should be monitored or not. If you click on a blank entry for the file location, a selection dialog box appears.

Using the buttons "AUTOEXEC..." and "CONFIG...", you can determine the location of these two files in your system. In most cases, these files should be in the root directory of the C hard drive: "C:\".

Other text files

Use this area to set other text files to be monitored. Change the contents of this list using the "Add..." and "Delete" buttons.

[Basics](#)

[Backup Categories](#)

Options INI Files

INI files are all files consisting of lines ended with a carriage return and containing text or text information in the Windows INI format. The freeze process copies these files in the user-specified backup directory, where they are saved for use in the installation analysis.

The analysis compares the original (potentially modified) file with the backup copy and records all changes. These changes are shown as a listing of the Topic and Subject affected, including the new contents.

The "OK" button closes the dialog box and accepts all changes to the various options. The "Cancel" button closes the dialog box and does not accept any changes made to the various options.

Windows INI files

Every Windows system uses two configuration files when started -SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI. Installation programs often change these files to alter a path, to load a driver, or to store configuration information.

Configuration information is particularly problematic because it leads to an unnecessarily large WIN.INI file; this information is not removed when a program is erased from the hard drive (when not using S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows).

Use the checkboxes to indicate whether these files should be monitored or not. If you click on a blank entry for the file location, a selection dialog box appears.

Using the buttons "SYSTEM..." and "WIN...", you can determine the location of these two files in your system. In most cases, these files should be in the Windows directory of the C hard drive: "C:\WINDOWS".

Other INI files

Use this area to specify other text files to be monitored. Change the contents of this list using the "Add..." and "Delete" buttons.

[Basics](#)

[Backup Categories](#)

Options Disk Drives

The monitoring of the disk drives serves to ascertain what, if any changes have been made to the file structure. For this purpose, complete information on all files is stored in a database to be compared to the current status after installation.

All changes to directories and files are noted (new, deleted, changes in size, date/time, attributes, and CRC checksums).

Note: A deleted file may not be restored unless it was previously saved! To protect particular files from an installation, select these files in the freeze options under "Single Files...".

see also:

[Option Other or Single Files...](#)

[Basics](#)

[Backup Categories](#)

The "OK" button closes the dialog box and accepts all changes to the various options. The "Cancel" button closes the dialog box and does not accept any changes made to the various options.

Accessible disk drives

This list contains all accessible disk drives in the computer system that DO NOT appear in the "Monitored Disk Drives" list.

Monitored disk drives

This list contains all disk drives for which a complete monitoring will occur.

Control buttons

The control buttons allow the transfer of one ("->" or "<-") or all (">>>" or "<<<") disk drives from one list to the other.

CRC monitoring on/off

This switch allows you to turn CRC monitoring for all files on the selected disk drives on or off.

When this option is on, a checksum is computed for every file both in the freeze process and in the analysis. This costs a fair amount of time, and should be avoided when it is not to be expected that an installation program will alter the contents of files.

Options Other or Single Files

In addition to text and INI files, it is possible to protect all other files from an installation. This dialog is used to indicate which files are to be saved.

The selected files are backed up in the freeze process and are compared with the same (potentially modified) files in the analysis.

Note: An uninstallation is only possible for these saved files!

Use the "Add..." and "Delete" buttons to alter the contents of this list.

The "OK" button closes the dialog box and accepts all changes to the various options. The "Cancel" button closes the dialog box and does not accept any changes made to the various options.

[Basics](#)

[Backup Categories](#)

Options Analysis

This dialog allows you to specify whether or not the CRC checksums will be used to verify against the freeze status or not.

When this option is turned off, the analysis runs somewhat faster, but may not notice some changes made on the disk drives.

See also:

[Basics](#)

[Options Disk Drives](#)

Uninstall Options

There is no dialog for uninstall options which can be selected before the uninstall process. You have to start the deinstallation and follow the dialogs:

[Uninstall Text Files](#)

[Uninstall INI Files](#)

[Uninstall Disk Drives](#)

[Uninstall Other/Single Files](#)

Text Files - File Selection

If text files are to be restored during an uninstallation, this dialog box occurs as the first of two.

This box contains a list of all text files that have been modified. A double click on a particular entry or selection of the "Edit..." button brings up the lines contents dialog.

[Text Files - Line Contents](#)

Text Files - Lines Contents

You find all changes of a text file in this dialog. There is a list box which contains the whole file and shows the changes.

In front of every line is a marker which gives you the information whether the line was deleted or inserted by the installation of the new software. Check the box if you want to store a line in the restored text file.

INI Files - File Selection

If INI files are to be restored during an uninstallation, this dialog box occurs as the first of three.

This box contains a list of all INI files that have been modified. A double click on a particular entry or selection of the "Edit..." button brings up the selection listings for "Topics" and "Subjects". Entry content may be changed from here.

[INI Files - Topics And Subject Selection](#)

[INI Files - Subject Data](#)

INI Files - Topic And Subject Selection

Two lists are presented for the INI file listed under "File Name":

n Topic list

This is a list of all file Topics that were modified. Click on one of these entries to get the Subject list.

n Subject list

This list shows all Subjects within a Topic that were modified. A double click on a particular entry or the selection of the "Edit" button shows the modified Subject contents.

[INI Files - Subject Data](#)

INI Files - Subject Data

The modified and/or current contents of the Topic or Subject of the file listed under "File Name" are listed here:

- n before
Contains the information as it was before the installation.
- n after
Contains the information as it was after the installation.
- n now
Contains any changes made since the analysis.
- n result
Contains the information as it will be restored. The contents of this field are determined as follows: if "now" is the same as "after", the contents of "before" are used. Otherwise, the contents of "now" are used.

Important note:

Even with tight controls, it is not absolutely guaranteed that a uninstallation will not result in an undefined situation. It is the user's responsibility to set the "result" field correctly!

Uninstall - Disk Drives

This dialog box offers two lists for the reversal of changes made on the disk drives:

- n The directory list
This is a list of all directories that were themselves changed (marked with a "+" or "-"), or are the location of some change (not marked).
When you click on an entry, a list with all modified files appears.
- n The file list
This is a list of all files within the current directory that were modified.

By clicking a checkbox, you may specify whether or not a file is uninstalled or not.

Important note:

The files marked with a red "-" (minus sign) may not be restored, since they were deleted by the installation program.

However, this list does not take into account the list of files that were saved in the freeze process.

see also:

[Others/Single Files](#)

[Backup Categories](#)

Uninstall - Other Files

This screen allows you to work on the changes made to all "other" files that were backed up. A list of all backed-up files is presented.

Clicking on an entry in this list displays the path, status, and the information for this file. The information displayed depends on the status of the file (new, deleted, changed).

Click the checkbox to specify whether or not this file should be restored.

System Options

Use this option to set all options that are valid for the entire program and its use.

Working path

The working path specifies which directory the freeze process uses to store the subdirectories for the compare state. Normally, this will be the directory in which S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows is installed, but any directory may be used.

The compare state directory names end with the extension "CMP". These directories are used to store all related backup files.

Options

Here you find the checkbox for "Notify by modified options on exiting?". This option asks you if you want to save the option setting changes that you have made before exiting the program. If this options is turned off, all changes are automatically saved.

Load/Save Options

Use this menu option to load or save program option settings.

Program options include all settings for the freeze process, all analysis options, all uninstall options, and all system settings for S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows. These settings are stored in Windows INI format.

The standard name for this file is UNINST4W.INI, and is automatically loaded when the program is started. If this file does not exist, the default values will be used.

If you change any option settings and do not save them, you will be reminded of this fact when exiting the program.

Help Contents

This option in the Help menu opens Windows Help and displays the overview of the S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows Help.

You can move to sub-topics from this page or use "Search" to skip to other chapters.

Using Help

This Help menu option opens Windows Help and displays information on how to use Help.

Registration Button

Click on this button to enter your license number, so that S.I.P.-Uninstall for Windows runs not as a demo, but as the full version.

The license numbers consist of three lines of user information and one code line. This code line is mathematically bound to the first three lines.

n NOTE: any changes cause the program to only work in demo mode!

Registration

This product may only be registered with S.I.P.-Software Solutions. To register, please print, fill out, and send in our registration form.

[Registration](#)

Change Comment

Use this option to change a compare state comment. Text may be entered or edited in the edit field.

Note: you get a new line by pressing the CTRL and RETURN keys simultaneously.

View / Print Results

This option is used to select a compare state to be viewed or printed.

see also

[Jump Label](#)

Analysis Protocols

Text Files

This protocol entry shows all deleted or new lines of both compared files. The numbers followed by a semikolon are the line numbers in the files.

INI Files

Here you can see all changes on topic or subject level.

Disk Drives

All new, deleted or changed files and directories are listed here.

Other Files

This analysis protocol shows all changed files and their changes.

Dialogs

The context-sensitive help is reachable from dialogs with the F1 function key.

Here is an overview of the dialog help screens:

[Analysis Option](#)

[Change Comment](#)

[Choose Directory](#)

[Error in Freezing](#)

[File Dialog](#)

[Freeze Options](#)

[Options INI Files](#)

[Options Disk Drives](#)

[Options Other/Single Files](#)

[Options Text Files](#)

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[Uninstall - Text Files](#)

[Uninstall - INI Files](#)

[Uninstall - Disk Drives](#)

[Uninstall - Other/Single Files](#)

[View/Print Results](#)

Choose Directory

This dialog box allows you to choose a directory. Double-click on the corresponding directory names until the desired path is displayed in the top line.

See also:

[System Options](#)

Dialog: Error in Freezing

This screen shows a list of any errors that occurred during the freeze process.

The lines consist of two entries; the filename that caused the error followed by a description of the error.

Error messages may occur in several cases. For example: when access is denied (in networks), when a file has been deleted between the time the options were set and the freeze process was started, or when a file is currently being used by another application.

File Dialog

This dialog let you select one or more files. The selection of more than one file is done by pressing the CTRL-key before and while pressing the left mouse button.

