

Complete Program Deleter for Windows

Version 1.4

Have you ever installed a program on your hard drive using the INSTALL (or SETUP, or whatever) utility that came with the program, decided that you did not like the program, and then tried to remove it? If you are like me (and most other computer users), you probably found that you only recovered a fraction of the hard disk space you had before you installed the program. This is because the installation procedure scattered dozens (or even hundreds) of files all over your drive. Some went into subdirectories created by the installation process itself, and some went into subdirectories that already existed, such as the \WINDOWS and WINDOWS\SYSTEM subdirectories. You may also have found that you did not recover all of your RAM memory that you had before you installed the program. This is because many of the installation programs modify AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, and SYSTEM.INI to load programs or drivers into memory automatically.

If you simply delete all the files you can file that seem to be related to the program you wish to remove, you may find additional problems. You may get error messages when you tried to start up your computer again, or tried to run Windows. You may even have found that you could not run Windows at all because it said that you were missing vital files. The reason for this is that the AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, and SYSTEM.INI files are still trying to load the files you deleted. After you delete the files associated with your program (those that you can find), these configuration files cannot find them when they try to load them. If you try to restore the AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, or SYSTEM.INI files manually, you may accidentally delete some lines necessary for other programs to run, making it impossible to run programs that you really need.

Complete Program Deleter is the solution to this problem. It will delete all the files installed by your program's installation program, remove all subdirectories created by that program, and restore the AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, and SYSTEM.INI files to their original condition. (Some restrictions may apply in some cases. See the "Limitations" section below.)

Paying for Complete Program Deleter

Before getting on to the details of how to operate Complete Program Deleter (CPD), a few words about money are in order. This program is being distributed as shareware. This does not mean that it is free. It means that you are given the program to try it out for a 30-day trial period to see if you like it enough to continue using it. If you do decide that CPD is worth using, you are legally, morally, and ethically required to pay for it by sending \$15.00 to:

Leithauser Research
4649 Van Kleeck Drive
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169-4205

If you install CPD on several computers, you need to register it for each computer. If you have a large number of computers, contact Leithauser Research for site licensing arrangements.

In addition to a clear conscience, you will receive a disk containing the latest version of Complete Program Deleter, in case any improvements have been made recently. This disk will also be full of other handy shareware programs created by Leithauser Research. (Be sure to specify that you want the Windows disk if you want Windows programs.) As with all shareware, you can try out these programs to see if they are worth paying for. In addition to all these incentives, if you pay for this program we will be able to afford to spend more time creating additional helpful shareware programs and also improving this one.

Regardless of whether you decide to continue using CPD, you are free to distribute CPD and the other shareware programs to all your friends and associates, provided that you include all

files that came with CPD (WCPD.EXE, WCPD.WRI, WCPD.GRP, QPRO200.DLL, WCPDREG.TXT, etc.).

Now that we have that out of the way, we can get on to the good stuff.

Installation

To install CPD, simply put all the files that come with the program (WCPD.EXE, CPD.WRI, REGISTER.TXT, etc.) in your Windows subdirectory. You can, if you prefer, put the QPRO200.DLL file in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM subdirectory instead, since this subdirectory is specifically designed to hold support files like this. Once you have these files in the proper directory, run Windows. Select New from Program Manager's Files menu. When it asks if you are installing a program group or program item, select Program Group and click on the Ok button. On the next windows, ignore the "Description" box and click on the "Group File" box. Type WCPD and then click on the Ok button. The Complete Program Deleter group will be installed.

Note: This program requires that the library VBRUN200.DLL be in either the WINDOWS or WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. This is a common Windows library available from many sources, such as CompuServe, GENie, America Online, or MicroSoft. Because it is so widely available and is a rather large file, it may not be included in the CPD archive that you receive.

Initialization

CPD will initialize itself the first time it is run, creating a file called CPD.INI. This process is normally invisible. CPD determines the name of your Windows subdirectory and stores this in CPD.INI. CPD assumes that your boot drive is drive C. If CPD cannot find your AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS file in the root directory of drive C, it will ask you what drive is your boot drive. Input the letter of the drive and press ENTER or click on the Ok button. CPD will then create the CPD.INI file. This entire process only happens the first time you run CPD.

Operation

When you run CPD, you will see a title page asking for money (see the "Paying for Complete Program Deleter" section above). After you press ENTER or click on the Ok button to clear the title page, you will see the main menu. To make a selection from this menu, just click on the button of your choice. The options controlled by these buttons are explained below.

Quick Instructions

This option simply gives you a one-screen explanation of how to use the program. It is not intended to replace reading these instructions, which include information on safety procedures as well as much more detailed information on how to use the program. However, it does serve as a quick start to using the program and it can be a helpful reminder of the basic procedure while using CPD.

Create BEFORE File

When you are about to install a new program, especially one that uses its own installation, select this option. CPD will ask for the name of the program you are about to install. Type the name and press ENTER. You do not need to be precise about this name. Just type something short that describes the program. This name is just to refer to the program on future menus.

CPD will then ask for the drive that the program is being installed on. Normally this will be C, the default answer.

CPD will then create a BEFORE.DAT file for the program you are about to install. This file contains information about your disk configuration before the installation of the new program. This BEFORE file can be fairly large (several hundred Kilobytes), but it will not be on your disk long (see Create AFTER File below). CPD will display information on what it is doing as it creates this BEFORE file. After creating this file, CPD will return to the main menu. When you get back to the main menu, select the Exit option to exit CPD.

Note: You should completely exit any other Windows programs before you run CPD, especially if you plan to use the "Create BEFORE file" or "Create AFTER file" options. Other programs may create temporary files during their operation that can confuse CPD while it is listing disk files as part of the process of creating BEFORE or AFTER files.

Create AFTER File

After you create the BEFORE file and exited from CPD, install your new program using that program's installation procedure. Then run the new program to allow it to create any configuration files that it creates. Once you have done this, exit the new program and run CPD again. Click on the "Create AFTER File" from the main menu. CPD will then create an AFTER file that describes the changes that were caused by the installation of your program. This file will be several kilobytes in size. Because you can have many AFTER files (one for each program you install), the AFTER files are numbered, such as AFTER1.DAT, AFTER2.DAT, and so on. CPD will also delete the BEFORE file that described the configuration of your disk before your new program was installed. You can have only one BEFORE file on your disk at a time.

CPD will display a report of what it is doing as it creates the AFTER file. It also will display a report after it has created the AFTER file listing the changes it found on your disk.

Once you have created the AFTER file for your new program, you can either exit CPD from the main menu or you can immediately delete the program using the "Delete Program" option on the main menu if you have already decided that you do not want it.

It is very important that you create the AFTER file using CPD as soon as you have installed your new program and run it once. If you install or run any other programs between the time you create the BEFORE and AFTER files, any files created in that process and any changes in AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, or SYSTEM.INI will be lost if you decide to delete the program you have just installed.

Note: The creation of the AFTER file may take several minutes for very large drives or slow machines. During some periods of this time, no operations (such as hard drive access) may be visible, even though the program is working. CPD will not allow other Windows operations to occur during this time, to prevent the creation of files which can confuse CPD while it is storing file names. Your computer is not locked up. DO NOT reboot or otherwise attempt to exit CPD during this time. This could leave open files on your hard drive, with undesirable results.

Delete Program

If you decide to delete a program for your disk, run CPD and select this option from the main menu. CPD will show you a list of the programs that you have created AFTER files for. Select the program you want to delete from your hard disk and click on the Ok button. You can cancel the "Delete Program" operation by clicking on the "Cancel" button or pressing the Esc key.

Once you select a program to delete, CPD will load the AFTER file containing the information about the changes that were made in your hard disk when the program was installed. It will delete any subdirectories that were created when the program was installed, as well as any files these subdirectories contain. If the program's installation utility added any files to any subdirectories that already existed (such as the root directory or the Windows System subdirectory), it will delete these files also. Before doing this, however, it will ask you if you want to confirm deletion of each of these files in preexisting directories. If you Yes, it will ask for your

permission to delete each file by name before deleting it. If you select No, CPD will immediately delete all these files without asking for your permission for each file. Note that only files added to your drive between the time you created the BEFORE file for that program and the time you created the AFTER file for that program will be deleted.

CPD will then look at the AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, and SYSTEM.INI files. For each file, there are several situations that can exist. The first situation is where the installation did not modify the file at all. In that case, CPD will not even mention the file. In the second situation, the installation process modified the file, but the file has not been modified since then. In that case, CPD will inform you that the original file can easily be restored and ask if you want to proceed. If you select Yes, CPD will restore the file to its original condition from before the new program was installed. If you select No, CPD will not restore the file.

The third situation is where the file was modified by the installation process and has also been modified since then. This would most likely occur if you installed another program after the one you are now trying to delete. This is the most complicated situation. In this case, CPD will display a menu that gives you three options:

1) Do not attempt to restore file - If you select this option, CPD will leave the file as it is now, with all changes made by the first installation and any changes made since then remaining.

2) Replace file with original file - If you select this option, CPD will remove any changes made in the file. This includes both changes made by the installation of the program you are deleting and any changes made since then. If you do this, programs installed since the one you are currently deleting may not function properly.

3) Attempt to restore file while maintaining recent changes - If you select this option, CPD will analyze the original file from before the program you are deleting was installed, the file immediately after it was installed, and the file as it is right now. It will attempt to remove the changes made by the installation of the program you are deleting and still keep the changes that were made afterward. This can be tricky, but it can be done. There will be a message above the menu describing CPD's analysis of the files. This message will either say that there is a high probability that CPD can restore the original file while keeping changes made since the installation, or it will warn you that there is a possibility that there is a possibility that the original file cannot be completely restored. The file can be generally be completely restored when lines were merely added to it. The situation where it may not be possible to restore the original file completely occurs when lines from the original file were either deleted or radically changed when the program was installed.

Despite all these disclaimers, I recommend that you select the third option. There are two reasons for this. First, CPD is actually very good at removing changes made during the first installation process while maintaining changes made since then. For example, if the installation process changed your AUTOEXEC.BAT's PATH=C:\DOS line to PATH=C:\DOS;C:\NEWPROG, CPD could restore it to PATH=C:\DOS. Second, CPD takes several precautions when it changes the file. First, it creates a copy of the file as it is now before making any changes in the file. This file will have the same root name as the file being restored and be in the same directory, but will have the extension CPD. For example, if CPD is restoring the AUTOEXEC.BAT file in the root directory, it will create a file called AUTOEXEC.CPD in the root directory before making the changes in AUTOEXEC.BAT. If CPD is restoring WIN.INI in the Windows directory, it will create a file called WIN.CPD in the Windows subdirectory. The CPD file will be the same as the file before CPD started making changes. If you find that CPD has damaged the file in some way, such as losing important changes made since the installation of the program you are deleting, you can always reverse the changes by deleting the file damaged by CPD (such as WIN.INI) and renaming the CPD file (such as WIN.CPD) to the old name. For example, if the AUTOEXEC.BAT file were not working properly after CPD tried to restore it, you would type

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DEL \AUTOEXEC.BAT
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REN \AUTOEXEC.CPD AUTOEXEC.BAT
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at the DOS prompt and AUTOEXEC.BAT would be back where it was before CPD attempted to

reverse the modifications made when it deleted the program you had installed.

An additional safety precaution that CPD takes is that if CPD finds any lines in the original file that are totally missing or changed beyond recognition in the current file, it writes this lines into a file with the same name and location as the file it is changing, but with the extension MIS. For example, if CPD found that some lines that had been in WIN.INI before the installation were missing from WIN.INI now, it would create the file WIN.MIS in the WINDOWS subdirectory. you could then manually reinsert them into WIN.INI if you wanted to. You could use WIN.CPD as a guide to see if it gives any clues as to where to put these lines by looking for similar lines in that file. Note: If you installed program A and then program B and then deleted program A and then program B using CPD, you would expect there to be missing lines from your files when you delete program B. These are lines deleted by CPD when it deleted program A. You do not want to put these back into the file.

There is one additional suggestion about deleting Windows programs. If you do decide to delete a Windows program using CPD, it is better if you first delete the icon or program group from Windows manually before using CPD to delete the files and correct the INI files. Deleting the icons is very easy in Windows. Most Windows programs create a program group when you install them. To get rid of this, first minimize the group to an icon. Then click on the group icon to give it the focus. Then click on the Program Manager's Files menu and click on Delete on the pull-down menu that appears. Windows will ask if you want to delete the program group, and you click on Yes. If the program is only installed as an icon in an existing program group, simply click on that icon to give it the focus, then click on Program Manager's Files menu and then the Delete option.

When you delete a program group or icon from Windows this way, Windows automatically adjusts tab order and other management activities internally. If you do not delete a program group before using CPD to delete the program, the next time you run Windows, you probably will get a message saying something like "Group File Error. Cannot open program group file C:\WINDOWS\FILENAME.GRP. Do you want Program Manager to try to load it in the future?" There will be a Yes and a No button on this message. You should click on the No button. If the program was only an icon instead of a program group, the icon will still be there when you run Windows. If you click on it, you will get an error message saying that Windows cannot find a necessary file. You can delete the icon as described before. As I said, it is generally easier to delete the icon or program group from Windows before using CPD to clean up your disk.

Delete AFTER file

If you have used a program for a while and decided that you want to keep it, you can delete the AFTER file that allows CPD to delete the program from your disk. This saves disk space, reduces clutter in the CPD menus when it asks you which program to delete, and eliminates the chance of you accidentally deleting a program by choosing the wrong program from the menu.

If you choose this option from the main menu, CPD will display a list of programs that it can delete. Select the one that you have decided that you will not be wanting to delete with the cursor keys, and click on the Ok button. CPD will delete the AFTER file for that program from your disk. This program will no longer appear on the list of programs under the Delete Program option, and you will no longer be able to delete this program from your disk using CPD.

It is a good idea to remove old programs from the CPD menu in this way, since it gets progressively harder to delete old programs without endangering changes made by more recent installations as you add more and more new programs.

Delete safety backup files

As described above, CPD creates safety backup files when it modifies one of the configuration files (AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, or SYSTEM.INI) while deleting a

program from your disk. Files with the extension CPD are complete copies of the file as it was before CPD deleted the program from your disk. Files with the extension MIS contain lines that were in the original file before you installed the program you used CPD to delete and which were missing after you installed it. You will not usually have any of these MIS files. CPD only creates an MIS if it is unable to safely replace the missing lines into the restored file, which is rare.

Once you have used CPD to delete a program and have tested your computer to make sure that everything (including Windows) is working properly, you have no further need for these files. As is befitting a program used to delete unwanted files from your disk, CPD will delete all these files if you choose this main menu option.

Exit

This option on the main menu obviously exits CPD.

Limitations

As was mentioned previously, there are several limitations on the ability of CPD to restore your drive. These limitations are as follows:

1) If the installation of a program overwrites an existing file on your hard disk by installing a new one with the same name, CPD cannot restore the old file. (For that matter, neither can any other method. Once a file is overwritten it is gone, gone, GONE.) For example, if you had a file called ROUTINES.DLL in your Windows System subdirectory and the new program overwrote that file with a file of the same name, CPD could not recover the old ROUTINES.DLL file. It will just leave the new one in place, in hopes that this is just a more recent copy of the same file.

2) Suppose that you create a BEFORE file, install program A, create an AFTER file, and then install another program. Suppose further that Program A installs a file (probably in the Windows System subdirectory) and that Program B either overwrites that file with an identical file or sees that the file already exists and therefore does not reinstall it even though it needs that file. CPD has no way of knowing that program B uses that file, since it sees that the file was installed by program A, not program B. If you use CPD to delete program A, it will delete that file. Program B will then not work properly. You would then need to reinstall that file, either by copying the file from program B's disk or by reinstalling Program B entirely. This situation is not very likely to happen, but you should be aware of the possibility in case a program suddenly stops working properly after you have used CPD to delete a previously installed program.

This potential problem is the reason you have the option of having CPD ask you for permission to delete any files placed in subdirectories that the program you are deleting did not create when it was installed. Judicious use of this option should help avoid this problem. Just press N when CPD asks if it should delete any file that you think might be used by any program you installed after the one you are deleting. In addition, this option allows you to keep any files that you might find useful later. For example, any programs created by MicroSoft Visual Basic 2.0 require a file called VBRUN200.DLL. If you find that your program has installed this file, you might want to keep it when you delete the program because you may later acquire a different program that needs it but does not have it in the package (a common situation with shareware programs).

3) The same situation as described in #2 above applies to alterations in the AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, and SYSTEM.INI files. That is, if program A makes a change and program B would have made the same change, CPD has no way of knowing this when it reverses the changes made by program A. It would reverse the changes made by program A and program B may not work properly. That is where the *.CPD file can save the day, by renaming it to the original name as described above.

4) Windows sometimes can create complex relationships between all the files (mostly INI files) that it uses. Deleting a file from Windows can have broad effects, and CPD cannot always

anticipate all these effects, especially if you use some third party Windows desktop programs instead of the normal Windows Program Manager. Trying to have CPD do all the work of deleting a Windows program could theoretically cause conflicts between these files. That is why it is STRONGLY recommended that you remove the program icons and group using the normal Windows procedure described above. Then you can use CPD to delete the programs files from your hard disk and clean up WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI, which deleting the Windows icon and program group does not do.

5) Changes made by CPD in WIN.EXE or SYSTEM.INI may not take effect until you have exited Windows and started it again. Changes made in AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS will not take effect until you have rebooted your computer.

As you can see, most of the potential problems that could develop using CPD are the result of using it to delete programs after you have installed other programs. For this reason, CPD is most effective when used to delete a program within a reasonable period of time after the program has been installed. However, CPD can be used at any time after the program has been installed, and is much more effective than attempting to delete a program by hand or using most competing products. CPD will not delete files created by other programs after the AFTER file was made (such as data files), unless they are put into a subdirectory created during the installation of the program you are deleting, which would be EXTREMELY unlikely (like impossible).

**** DISCLAIMERS ****

Complete Program Deleter has been tested and every effort has been made to make it safe and effective. It has been found to be safer and more effective than trying to delete a program by hand or using a competing product that costs far more. However, any removal of files or modification of configuration files (AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI, and SYSTEM.INI) does contain a certain inherent risk. This risk must be borne by the user of the Complete Program Deleter. The Complete Program Deleter is provided "AS IS". In no event shall Leithauser Research or any person associated with the creation or distribution of this product be responsible for any damages, including but not limited to loss of business profits or loss of information, that results from the use or misuse of the Complete Program Deleter.

Sorry about that folks, the lawyers made us say that. However, CPD is believed to be safe and effective when used as directed, subject to the limitations described in the above section on "Limitations".

Update Report

This is a report on the differences between the various versions:

Version 1.2 - First public release (1.0 and 1.1 were beta versions).

Version 1.3 - Fixed a bug that caused the program to not work if the Windows subdirectory was not on C drive or the subdirectory name was not WINDOWS. Also corrected minor mistakes in the documentation, such as referring to files by incorrect names.

Version 1.4 - Adds code to make absolutely sure that BEFORE and AFTER files are placed in the Windows subdirectory. In previous versions it was theoretically possible for those files to be put in other subdirectories under some unusual circumstances.

Bug Reports, Suggestions, Requests, etc.

I am very interested in hearing about any problems you may have with this program. I am also interested in hearing any suggestions anyone may have for improvements or additional features. I can be contacted at the postal address given near the beginning of this document for

sending shareware payments (notice how I subtly inserted a reminder about shareware payments again). I can also be reached at the following EMAIL addresses.

GEnie: D.LEITHAUSER
America Online: Leithauser
Compuserve: 74046,1556
Internet: 74046.1556@compuserve.com

In emergencies, I can be reached by phone at 904-423-0705. The best times to call are from 11 AM to 11 PM Monday through Saturday, 2 PM to 11 PM Sunday.

Custom Programming

One of the functions of Leithauser Research is creating custom programs to customer specifications. If you would like a DOS or Windows program created to your specific needs, either for your own use or for resale, please contact David Leithauser at Leithauser Research at one of the above postal or EMAIL addresses.