What is Application Control 2 ?

Imagine You have installed Your Windows just a few months ago. You did also install some Applications for writing texts, making calculations and drawing pictures. So far so good. A few days later, You bought a CD- ROM called "The Best Of WinSoft" with more than 250 Windows-programs, of which You tested just around 50. You installed these programs, tested them and decided, whether You like them or not. Most likely You liked just three of them, all the others were real garbage.

You might think now: "Hey, where is the problem? My filemanager and I are a great team, we delete that rubbish programs from the harddisk and gone they are!". Right in principle but false in detail. What You delete are the program's main parts in its directory. In most cases You may find out, that the applications' installation-procedures do more than just create a directory into which they copy all their files. Very often they copy files into Your Windows- and System- directory. These files are needed by the installed application and must stay there as long as You keep the application in your system. When You delete the application, You may delete these files, too - but You will not find them under normal circumstances. That means that You will not delete files in the Windows - directories, the now unneeded files remain there and the Windows-directories grow and grow...

If You do not want to make a list of all the files in the Windows- and System- directories before and after an installation, compare them and decide, which files are needed by several applications and which ones only by their original owner - then You have a problem. The problem is:

"How can one track installations and make save deinstallations?"

The answer to this question is "Application Control" and "Application Control Tracker". It will be Your "installation eye" and "bugbuster". "Application Control Tracker" surveys every installation of Windows- software. "Application Control" itself searches for cross connections between files, catalogues them and makes the deinstallations if You decide so.

How "Application Control" and "AC Tracker" work and how they are used will be described after the installation procedure and the following Quick Start.

Installation of Application Control 2

The Installation of "Application Control" is both easy and transparent. Just start the installation program from either Your Disk or CD-ROM.

If You received "Application Control" as archive-file (.zip, .arj, etc.), You need to unpack its contents before You can use them.

Then You have to start the "Application Control" setup from within Windows;
You'll get a new group called "Application Control 2" and ifew icons.

That's all You need to do for installation. Your "Application Control" package is now ready for use.

One tool - two programms
Installing applications
Deinstalling applications
Analysing applications

One tool - two programs

The "Application Control" package consists of two programs:"Application Control" and "AC Tracker".

"AC Tracker" is the smart little assistant of "Application Control". Or vice versa, if You want to see it this way.

"AC Tracker" is the tool, which surveys everything You do to Your Harddisk. No matter if You start an installation routine or just copy files - "AC Tracker" recognizes all of these actions and initiates the appropriate actions:

Starting an installation routine makes "AC Tracker" creating a new application - database - entry and tells "Application Control" to update the "SafeCheck" database, either directly (when "Application Control" is still running) or through a saved "Message" for which "Application Control" checks each time it is being loaded. Copying files just tells "Application Control" to update its "SafeCheck" database, the same way as above.

The "SafeCheck" update is being done right before You any function of "Application Control", that might need the latest "SafeCheck" data.

You may wonder, why the "Application Control" comes as two programs, seeming to make the whole deinstallation process more complicated.

The answer to this question is simple: "AC Tracker" is a tool using as little memory and resources as possible, leaving all the secondary functions for its big brother, who will be only activated for "special operations".

Not only that the resident part of "Application Control" is as small as possible, the separation between primary (tracking) and secondary (uninstall, edit, etc.) functions makes sure, that there are as little error- sources active as possible. So - it’s good for Your PC’s resources, it’s good for the stability of Your Windows - system - and thus it’s good for Your safety!

...and the best: it’s not a bit more complicated than using a single program.

Installing applications

The use of the "Application Control" - package is very simple. You start a program called "install.exe" or "setup.exe" - "Application Control Tracker" recognizes an installation procedure, pops up two small buttons ("Ready" and "Abort") on the bottom of the Desktop and surveys all modifications. When the installation is finished, You simply press "Ready" and "AC Tracker" updates its database, asks You for a program name and icon and gets back to standby mode.

Only if You start an installation-program that does not contain "setup" or "install" in its name, You have to wake up "AC Tracker" manually by double-clicking on its icon on the desktop an pressing the "Install" - button. Two small- buttons ("Ready" and "Abort") will then appear in the middle bottom of Your Windows - desktop. When the installation is finished, just press "Ready" and "AC Tracker" goes back to "standby" after updating its database and asking You for program name and icon.

Important: For "Application Control Tracker" to correctly autodetect installations, "AC Tracker" MUST be in standby mode, either through "autoload" or by minimizing "AC Tracker" with the appropriate button.

Welcome !

"Application Control" is one of the most sophisticated uninstallers money can buy.

The following pages will give You detailed informations about the using of "Application Control", so that You'll be able to make the most of it.

Impatient users will get a brief quick-start into "Application Control", whereas first time users of an uninstall- utility are getting some background informations about the necessity of this smart little program.

We wish You success in controlling Your Windows - installation

Contents

- Contacting the autor
- What is Application Control ?
- Installation of Application Control
- **Quick Start**
  - **One tool - two programs**
  - Example of installation / deinstallattion
  - Installing applications
  - Deinstalling applications
  - Analyzing applications
- The way Application Control works
- The Application Control Tracker interface
- The Application Control interface
- Tips, Tricks and Infos ...
- Final words

Deinstalling applications

Deinstalling an application is as easy as using the rest of "Application ontrol".
First You have to start "Application Control" itself, either "manually" or by licking on the "Run AppControl" - button within "AC Tracker".

Select the application to deinstall in the application window of "Application ontrol" (big window on the left side of the buttons) and press the "Uninstall" - button. Click on "OK" when the "Uninstall" - window appears and the application will be removed like an ill appendix in the hospital.

Analysing applications

To analyze the contents of an already installed application, start "Application Control" and press the "Analyze" - button.

Then You have to select the programmanager-group containing the application and double-click on its symbol in the group-list of "Analyzer" (the big list in the main window of "Analyzer"). Then the group - list will be replaced by the icon - list, which contains every icon, "Analyzer" found in the selected group. Double-click on the desired application or just select the application and press "Analyze".

For a deinstallation of the selected application press "Uninstall". To just export the gained information to the "Application Control" list press the "Export" - button.

Hint: You may analyze a whole group, but ONLY, if all the programs contained are located in the same directory.

Attention: if You use "Analyzer" for the first time we strongly recommend You to use the "SafeCheck" - function prior to the first deinstallation. Otherwise You risk the deletion of files, which You might need for other applications!

That’s all You need to know for a quick use of Your "Application Control" package. The more advanced options will be described in the following chapters.

See also:

The moment after - Analyzer

The way Application Control works

When You want to keep control of what an installation procedure is doing to Your Windows - directories, you must keep an eye on...

- created files and directories
- modifications in "win.ini" and "system.ini"
- created groups and icons in Windows' program manager

...and that's exactly, what "Application Control" (to be precise: "AC Tracker") does for You. It logs any of these modifications for preparing a clean removing of the according application.

But "Application Control" does even more ...

Guess You have installed some applications, which all use the file "vbrunn300.dll" in the Windows - directory. Now You remove (manually) one of the applications. You delete its path with the contained files, You delete its own INI - file and - maybe - You even find a modification in the "win.ini", which you can undo.

Then You remember, that the application once informed You about copying a file called "vbrun300.dll" into the Windows - directory - and You delete this file, because it belonged to the deleted application. Voilà, catastrophe is perfect. The file "vbrun300.dll" is a "Visual Basic" - file, that was needed by other applications, too. But You didn't know, deleted it and "killed" some of Your other applications, which depend on this file.

You may wonder, how You can avoid such problems. "Application Control" has the solution. It's a new feature called "SafeCheck".

See also

SafeCheck
Extended tracking
The moment after - Analyzer
Trash - the bad into the fire

SafeCheck

"SafeCheck" investigates all of Your drives, searches for certain Windows - files and cross-checks them for connections between them and certain applications in Your system.

Going back to the example above, "SafeCheck" would have found connections between "vbrun300.dll" and several other applications. Those connections then would have been logged into the "SafeCheck" - database for further use. Had You installed and removed the application via "Application Control Tracker", the cross links had been considered, resulting in a not deletion of the "vbrun300.dll" because of its links to other applications in the system.

To make a long story short: "SafeCheck" checks Your local drives (and optional network-drives) for cross- links of three special types of files with other applications or modules. These types are:DLLs, EXE-files and VBX-files (Visual Basic Extensions). "SafeCheck" checks ALL files corresponding to one of theses types. Files of that type, which are NOT EXCLUSIVELY used by an application You want to uninstall, will NOT be deleted by "Application Control".

So don’t worry about smart installation-routines - "Application Control" is even smarter!

Should You be one of the users who love the additional thrill of applications crashing down in agony, You may adapt the active "SafeCheck" mode according to Your risk preferences.

You may choose between "Advanced" (the recommended and safest) and "Basic" (the quickest and most unreliable).

See also:

SafeCheck mode: Advanced
SafeCheck mode: Basic

This mode works exactly the way described above. Files of the type "EXE", "DLL" or "VBX" are being checked COMPLETELY for used modules (of one of theses types). The modules found this way are being checked for used modules, too, and the results are being combined resulting in a complex "SafeCheck" database entry with references from even the module in lowest order to the main module (EXE - file).

It is the safest of the two modes and the only one we strongly recommend to use! the by comparison relatively high runtimes when creating the "SafeCheck" database for the very first time are not representative for the much shorter update processes when using "Application Control".

Files of the type "EXE", "DLL" or "VBX" are NOT being checked COMPLETELY for used modules (of one of theses types). Only the fileheaders are being checked for modules!

This procedure results in the least complex and least reliable "SafeCheck" database entry with NO references at all, except the information about the existence of header-modules.

Extended tracking

The moment after - Analyzer

But what exactly is "Analyzer"?

Analyzer is a deinstallation - function, which needs to be used for installations, which were made without "AC Tracker". Guess, You had installed a bunch of Windows - applications and don’t know, how to delete some of them completely without removing files and INI - entries needed by other applications.

The "Analyzer" - function in "Application Control" checks Your system for applications (if You decide so) and either passes the gained information to the "Application Control" list for further use (deinstallation, edit, etc.), or it offers You a deinstallation - option. You don’t have to worry about the deinstallation - routine of the "Analyzer" module, because it uses the same fail-safe mechanism as the rest of "Application Control": "SafeCheck"!

Just let me say one thing about "Analyzer": If this little utility offers You something for deletion - just click on "OK", because it IS OK!

After these background informations about "Application Control", "AC Tracker" and "SafeCheck", You’ll now learn more about the "Application Control" - interface by reading what each button (in order of appearance) does.

See also:
Service | Analyzer ...

Trash - the bad into the fire

Up to now, we surveyed installations / modifications and analyzed / deinstalled old applications. There is only one question left: what about files, which cannot be allocated to certain applications, neither by using "SafeCheck" and the application database, nor by analyzing an existing application? Under normal circumstances the answer had been in many cases: "What’s up? They remain right where they are - on the harddisk!".

"Application Control" does not take it that lightly. With the help of the "Find unused files" - function You now can make "Application Control" search for files, which cannot be allocated to certain applications. Thereby the following important filetypes are being considered:DLLs, DRVs (yeah, drivers too!), INIs and VBXs.

To check these files for their dispensability "Application Control" checks Windows’ INIs and INFs, as well as the ones of other Windows - applications. The result of the checking informs You whether the files of the above filetype may most probably be deleted.

As You see - "Application Control" does not leave You alone with critical or unpopular tasks!

The AC Tracker interface

The main "AC Tracker" - window consists of the options - section and six buttons.

The "AC Tracker" options

- Autoload
- Extended Tracking
- Enable hotkeys
- Enable StandBy mode

The "AC Tracker" buttons

- Install = F12
- AppControl = Ctrl-F12
- OK
- Cancel
- Help
- Quit

Autoload

When "Autoload" is marked, "Application Control Tracker" will be started and put into standby mode each time You start Windows. This is the recommended method of starting and using "Application Control Tracker". It makes sure, that every standard - installation routine is recognized and logged. Enable "Autoload", if You haven’t already done so while the installation of "Application Control". Disabling "Autoload" means that You have to manually start "Application Control". This is NOT
recommended for safe use.

Extended tracking

What do You want to do, if You have to use an installation - routine, which is a pure DOS - program?

Don’t worry, just enable the "Extended tracking" in the options - menu of "Application Control Tracker", and it will be taken care of every changes made to Your System while You’re in the DOS - box.

"AC Tracker" then reads the filestructure before and after the installation process, compares the two lists and then considers the changes between these as the changes made by the installation routine. The thus acquired information will be stored in the application database. That’s all, and that’s safe!

Note: Enable the "Extended tracking" - option ONLY if You want to install Your software via the DOS - box;
You don’t need it with regularly Windows - Setups!

Enable hotkeys

"Enable hotkeys" allows You to disable the "Application Control Tracker" - hotkeys in case of any application using the same keys and thus colliding with "AC Tracker".

As mentioned later in the "Hotkeys" - section You may use the "F11" and the "F12" keys for quick access of "standby" and "install", the "ctrl + F12" - hotkey(s) to start "Application Control". Should You encounter any problems with applications, using the same keys for their convenience, You have the option of disabling them for "AC Tracker" via the "AC Tracker" options. You may choose there whether You want to use them or not.

Under normal circumstances they may remain enabled.

See also:
Hotkeys

Enable StandBy mode

The "Enable StandBy mode" option needs only to be deactivated, if You do ot want "AC Tracker" to recognize installation procedures. Standard file operations will be surveyed nevertheless. To temporarily disable "AC Tracker" You may also press the "F11" - hotkey.

Install = F12

When You expect some changes in Your system, either by an installation program (not using the words "setup.exe" or "install.exe"), or by Yourself (e.g. making temporary changes in "win.ini", "system.ini" or copying files), you have to put "Application Control Tracker" to "attention" by clicking on this button.

The "AC Tracker" main Window will then be replaced by two small buttons ("Ready" and "Abort") at the bottom of Your Windows - desktop.

Click on the "Ready" - button when You're done making changes. In the following window You can enter a name and icon belonging to this installation, similar to the ProgMan's "properties". After clicking on "OK" the "Application Control" databases will be updated and the application's name and icon appear in the application list of "Application Control".

If You don't want any changes to be tracked and saved or if an installation procedure needs to be aborted, then just press the "Abort" - button. All changes will then be ignored by "Application Control".

As indicated by the button-label You may press the "F12" function-key anytime (even without having "Application Control Tracker" on top) to manually enable installation tracking.

Notes: The hotkeys must be enabled in the options menu of "Application Control Tracker" for the hotkeys to work.The "SafeCheck" database will be automatically updated the next time You start "Application Control".

Here comes the big surprise: if You press this button, "Application Control" ops up out of nowhere (or, to be more precise, out of Your harddisk).

..puts "AC Tracker" back into standby mode, if You did not disable the ccording option. All changes to options become active.

...puts "AC Tracker" back into standby mode, too (if You did not disable the ccording option), but ignores (undo) all option changes.

In case You don’t like reading printed manuals or You have lost Your anual-copy, You get the same information as in the manual with the on-line help. This help function works exactly the same way other Windows-helpfunctions do.

Quit

This is the button You might want to use least. Press this button ONLY if You've got a VERY IMPORTANT reason not to use "Application Control Tracker" any more (and believe me, there is almost none). Otherwise regard this button as a neat little menu - fill up.

Hotkeys

Assume You You’re starting an installation and forgot to put "Application Control Tracker" in standby mode. No problem, just hit the F11 - Key. This toggles the standby mode on and off. So if You don’t want "AC Tracker" to keep an eye on an installation, toggle the standby mode to off ("off" is written under the desktop icon).

Another hotkey, F12, allows You to begin an installation and manually put "AC Tracker" into attention. As You may remember this is only needed when an installation routine’s name doesn’t contain the words "setup" or "install".

Whereas the F12 - hotkey ("attention") is very useful, the F11 - hotkey should NOT be used! If You toggle around too much, You might end up with "Application Control Tracker" in sleep mode (the words "AC Tracker (off)" are written under its desktop - icon) and the next installation process gets by unprotocolled.

We recommend NOT TO USE the exit and the F11 - keys.

If You want to start "Application Control" without searching for its icon, just press "ctrl" and "F12". "Application Control" will be started automatically. Assume You You’re starting an installation and forgot to put "Application Control Tracker" in standby mode.
No problem, just hit the F11 - Key. This toggles the standby mode on and off. So if You don’t want "AC Tracker" to keep an eye on an installation, toggle the standby mode to off ("off" is written under the desktop icon).

Another hotkey, F12, allows You to begin an installation and manually put "AC Tracker" into attention. As You may remember this is only needed when an installation routine’s name doesn’t contain the words "setup" or "install".

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We recommend NOT TO USE the exit and the F11 - keys.

If You want to start "Application Control" without searching for its icon, just press "ctrl" and "F12". "Application Control" will be started automatically.

The Application Control interface

When You activate "Application Control" by double-clicking on its icon or selecting its task via the task- manager, a window with four main sections pops up.

At the top there is the usual application-bar with the system menu and a minimize-button. You will not find a maximize-button, because it does not make sense with such a small window.

The menu bar contains the less frequently used functions of "Application Control", such as "Update Safecheck" or "Exclude files...".

The big window in the center is the application list. It contains the icons, names and categories of the via "Application Control" installed software. You can select more than one application at a time, if You want to combine them.

Below this list are the buttons which allow direct actions with the application(s) selected in the application list. The Buttons are named "Uninstall", "Edit", "Contents" and "Combine".

At the bottom you see a status-bar which keeps You informed about the following details: - the position number of the selected application in the application list- the total of installed applications in "Application Control"- the actual date (day, month, year) and time- the number of directories and files created by installing the selected application- the amount of disk space in bytes used by the installed application- the changes made to INI-files (yes/no) and progman (icons).

See also:

The program menu

Buttons

Uninstall

Edit

Contents

Combine

Neben den Standardeinträgen finden Sie im System - Menü - nichts. Keine Spielereien an dieser Stelle.

Tja, was soll ich Ihnen über den Minimize - Button noch Neues erzählen? Ahh ja - er verkleinert ein Anwendungsfenster auf Symbolgröße. Das macht er selbstverständlich auch bei "Application Control".

Uninstall

To remove an application from Your system, You first have to select the appropriate icon in the application list of "Application Control". Then You click on "Uninstall". The following dialogbox asks You, whether You want to...

- delete files and directories (from that application)
- restore INIs (win.ini, system.ini)
- delete Program-Manager groups and icons

You may select any of these three options, but only ones that are not disabled. That means: an application which didn’t change INI-files doesn’t need to be uninstalled with the option "Restore INIs" selected. Therefore this option is then disabled. The other two options follow the same principle. When satisfied with Your selection, click on the "OK" - button, otherwise click on "Cancel".

The application will then be removed, deleting all chosen items.

You may want to check the contents of "Application Control"’s database before blindly deleting files, paths, INI-entries, etc. Do so by clicking on the "Contents" - button from the main window of "Application Control" (see later in this manual).

Edit

The "Edit" - button does the same as the "properties" - dialog in Your Program-Manager. You may select the application’s icon, title, category and iconfile. With the "Select" - button You may select one of the icons from the chosen EXE - file.

Changes made here are only of cosmetic nature. Feel free to make changes here - but stop Yourself at other dialogues.!

Contents

Behind each man there is a woman who guides him (one says), and behind every application there are files which make them work (one doesn’t say, but it’s the truth - just look at Your applications).

If You want to check out, what "Application Control" has entered into its application - database, click on the "Contents" - button.

You will then see a new window with database entries belonging to the selected installation. In a combo-box below this window You may select between...

- files and directories (from that application)
- INIs (win.ini, systen.ini)
- Program-Manager groups and icons

If You think, that "Application Control" made a mistake and You want to delete an entry, You may either select the entry and press the "Remove" - button or You just double-click on the entry. If You want to add an entry, click on the "Add" - button and select a file to add.

Clicking on "OK" updates the database (subtracts the entry for the selected application) and closes the dialog. "Cancel" also closes the dialog but doesn’t make any changes.

You may save the database-entry for this application to a text file for further use.

Combine

As You may already know, "Application Control" creates separate entries for every application You install. It may be useful to keep just one entry in the application list, even though You installed several applications.

Let’s use two different examples for description:

1. You install the Win Word 6.0a fresh up. This results in the creation of a new entry in the application list of "Application Control". But after You have already installed Win Word 6.0, there are now two entries for just one application. The Win Word installation consists of the main installation and the fresh-up. Both are represented in the list, but only one is needed. It would be only logical to combine these two entries, leaving just one entry in the application list, containing the base installation as well as the fresh-up.

2. You install the complete CorelDraw! package - but Not at once. Instead, You install each application when You need it the first time. The results are six entries: Draw!, Paint, Move, Chart, Photo Paint and Ventura. You may want to handle the six programs as one big application, having only one entry in the application list, which contains the complete installation information.

"Application Control" allows the combination of application entries. This means that You select the entries You want to be "replaced" and let "Application Control" make one entry out of them. In the examples above You would have selected the entries "Win Word 6.0" and "Fresh-up 6.0a" and then clicked on the "Combine" - button. The same with Corel Draw!. Just select the six entries and then press the "Combine" - button.

How does it work?

You select several entries in the application list exactly the same way, You would do it with the Windows filemanager. Either hold the left mouse button and pull the mouse, or press the "Shift" or "Control" - buttons while selecting the entries. As soon as You have selected more than one entry, the "Combine" - buttons is being enabled. When You press the button, the "Edit" - window pops up and wants to know about the modified entry’s name and iconfile.

You may either change the presettings or accept them. After pressing "OK" the two entries are combined to one database entry, containing the whole informations of the former two entries. If You made a mistake, You may press "Cancel" in the "Edit" - dialog. The combination then will not be done.

The presettings sin the "Edit" - box represent the last database entry from the selected ones. If You don’t want to use the last entry as source of the new icon and name, You may change the settings.

Attention: Once You have confirmed the combination of entries, You cannot undo it! Therefore You should very carefully consider which entries You want to melt, and which You do not want to. Combined entries can be uninstalled only as a whole, that means that every part of the combined applications is being uninstalled, not just parts of it.

Back to the Corel Draw! example. If You combine the six application entries to one, You get one Corel Draw! - entry, which contains every information of the six database entries. If You uninstall Corel Draw!, You uninstall ALL OF THE SIX APPLICATIONS AT ONCE!

The combine-function therefore ist most recommended for updates or fresh-ups. But be

careful with combining applications You may want to uninstall separately at a later time.

Reminder: The "Combine" - button becomes active ONLY after You selected a minimum of two entries!

Service

- Analyzer ...
- Find unused files...
- Used DLLs
- Exclude files...
- Quit Application Control

SafeCheck

- Update
- Change mode...
- Networking...

Help

- Index F1
- About AppControl ...

Service | Analyzer ...

After clicking on this menu item, a window with four main sections pops up.

The big list is the group- / icon list. It contains the ProgMan’s groups and icons (after a group was chosen) with their names, paths and filenames.

You can select only one group / icon at a time.

Below this list you’ll find a status-bar, which keeps You informed about the following details:

- the description of the selected group / icon in the group / icon list
- a) the number of icons, that the selected group contains (group - list)
  b) additional information to an application / icon (icon - list)

Below the status bar You’ll find the buttons which activate several functions of the "Analyzer" module. You’ll now learn more about the "Analyzer" - interface by reading what each button (in order of appearance) does.

Buttons

Analyze
File
Help
Back

The Analyze - button

Before You can use the "Analyze" - Button, You must first select either an application - icon or a program group, which contains several programs located in just one directory.

A group is being selected by a double - click. The analyzing of an application begins after You have either double - clicked on the appropriate icon or have selected it and then clicked on "Analyze".

While the analyze - process is in progress, the mouse - pointer will change to a running analog - watch, indicating the analyze - routine is still working. When the analyzation of the chosen application or file is finished, You will be presented a list containing the following information:

- PIF - file (".pif"): the Program Information File used to start the application

- Main program (".exe"): path and filename of the ".exe" - file You chose to analyze

- DLL (".dll"): the Dynamic Link Library, a program - module, which may be used by more than one application) which is being used by the application You wish to be uninstalled. DLLs are described as

a) is used,
b) is not used
c) may be used or
d) loaded.

To make sure about the usage of the DLLs, You should run "SafeCheck" prior to the first deinstallation (ONLY necessary if "AC Tracker" is NOT always in standby - mode!). A "loaded" DLL is currently being used by one of Your running applications!

- Help file (".hlp"): the help - file which is used by the application to give You online

- Annotation file (".ann"): a file containing the annotations You made in the Windows Helpsystem.

- Initialization file (".ini"): a very important file which initializes an application at startup - time by giving system- or userspecific information needed by the application to be executed in a specific way

- Configuration file (".cfg"): just like an ini - file, just with another name (to avoid boredom?)

- Data file (".dat"): what do You think it may contain? Right, important data for the execution (the non - lethal one!) of the application

- Section: the section in the "win.ini" or "system.ini" which has been changed by the application

- Load entry: entry in the "win.ini" - section "load=" used to autoload the application

- Run entry: entry in the "win.ini" - section "run=" used to autoload and activate the application

- OLE object (win.ini): the Object Linking And Embedding - information needed by Windows

to manage OLE - requests

- Association (win.ini): the connection - information between a file - extension and the associated application. This information is needed to start the correct application after double clicking on a filetype in the filemanager

- Program directory: the program directory of the chosen application or file (who may have guessed?)

- Associated files: files that may be created by the application (documents, graphics, etc.). The hint "selectable" means, that if You select this entry and then choose to uninstall the application, "Analyzer" will check Your system for files with the given extension(s), list them for You to select / deselect entries and after the confirmation deletes those files

- Program icon: very hard to describe... Let’s say: it is the icon representing the application or file in the ProgMan

- Program group: the ProgMan group containing the application’s icon

Those are the informations You get by analyzing an application. You now may select entries for deinstallation. Entries, of which the "Analyzer" module is sure they can be removed without any danger, are indicated by a green light and are preselected.

The other entries, of which "Analyzer" is unsure about their connection to other applications or is certain about their connection, are being presented by a red light and are not preselected. We recommend NOT to select a "red entry" unless You are ABSOLUTELY sure that it is save to do so.

Under normal circumstances just press "Uninstall" after the analyzation.

After You have analyzed (to be precise: "Application Control" has analyzed) an application or file, You may either uninstall the application, change the selections in the "Analyzation results" - list (by clicking on entries or using the "Default", "Mark all" or "Unmark all" - buttons) or just leave this list by clicking on "Back".

Attention: Should a DLL appear in the list, which is marked as "may be used", then You should start
"SafeCheck" at once! The reason is, that the "Analyzer" - module marks a DLL with this comment, if it has
no data about it in the "SafeCheck" - database, so that it needs a refresh!

Under normal circumstances, this might ONLY happen, if the "AC Tracker" is not autoloaded.

File

The "File..." - button allows You to select a file from one of Your drives for analyzation, which is not represented with an icon in the ProgMan.

After pressing this button a filedialog appears, in which You may first select a filetype- Executables: *.exe- Libraries: *.dll, *.vbx- All files: *.*

After You made Your selection there, You may browse for a file of the selected type, select it and press "OK" (alternatively You my double - click on the file). The "Analyzer" module will then start checking the selected file.

You will then get informed about the results in the "Analyzation results" - window.

Feature: If you are NOT a Programm Manager user, just drag a shell item and drop it on the Application Control icon ...

Go back to the "Application Control" main window.

Service | Find unused files ...

This function resembles a "Trash" function, only that this one does not take the trash out of Your home - this task is still up to You.

But our "Trash" ("Find unused files...") is capable of checking Your Windows - System for files, that are most likely no longer being used.

When You click on the "Trash" - button, "Application Control" asks You, if You want the "SafeCheck" database to be updated prior to checking for unused files. You should always click on "Yes" for the greatest safety.

The "Trash" - module then scans Your drives for...- the "oemsetup.inf" to check for drivers- the "win.ini" and "system.ini" to check for installed drivers- other "ini" - / "inf" - files for drivers used in certain applications- DLLs, DRVs, INIs and VBXs...and checks the "SafeCheck" database for informations about the usage of these modules

"Application Control" then decides, whether there are files, which "Application Control" may assume to be unused. These modules then are listed in the "Unused files" - list. You may then either change the presettings by using the "Mark all" and "Unmark all" buttons, or by simply clicking on an entry to deselect / select it.

If You do not want to make changes or deletions You may leave this window by clicking on "Cancel". When You are sure that You want to delete files, click on "Delete" for "Application Control" to delete these files.

Attention: for safety reasons we STRONGLY RECOMMEND to make backups of these files to a temporary directory, so that You can always undo these changes.

Info: A later version of the "Application Control" package will include automatic backup and restore routines! "Application Control" cannot differ between a module which used just SOMETIMES (e.g. the "vbrun200.dll") and ones which are used NEVER! So ALWAYS check the list before making backups and deletions!

We will improve the "Trash" - check algorithm with every release of "Application Control" to make it as save as possible.

Service | Used DLLs ...

This button leads to a function in "Application Control" which best shows the abilities of the "SafeCheck" module. As described above, "SafeCheck" checks three types of Windows - files for cross-links to other files. In the "Used DLLs" - window You can select a DLL from the combo-box below the DLL - window.

The DLL You choose there will be checked for links to other modules which use this DLL. Those modules (.exe-, .dll- and .vbx - files) will be listed in the "Used DLLs" - window above the combo-box. By clicking on "Save as..." You may save these informations in a text file.

Service | Exclude files ...

You may have files in Your directories of which You already know, that You do not want to delete them, even if the application, that copied them to Your harddisk, has to be uninstalled. It may, for example, be a Visual Basic file, such as "vbrun300.dll", or a "readme" - file which You do not want to miss. You can exclude these files from deinstallation by selecting "Exclude files..." from the "Service" menu item.

A dialogbox will then be opened which shows the files already selected with this option in a "Excluded files" list. New files are being added by pressing the "Add..." - button. The following file dialog allows to define a filetype and select specific files to exclude. The there selected files will then appear in the list box. Selected files, that have to be removed from the exclude list, are being deleted from the list by pressing the "Remove" - button.

Confirm Your selection with "OK" or undo them with "Cancel".

Quit quits the application just as any quit function should quit when quit is pressed for quitting an application.

SafeCheck | Update

If You've read the notes about "SafeCheck" above (the way "Application Control" works), then You might guess what happens by clicking on this menu item: right, "Application Control" starts its "SafeCheck" - function.

You don't know what "SafeCheck" means? Just read the chapter mentioned above and You will feel much safer about deinstalling Your Windows - applications! (...and I will know that I didn't write this manual for nothing).

See also:
SafeCheck

error

SafeCheck | Networking ...

When You’re logged-in in a network, You may choose network drives to "SafeCheck" them in addition to Your local drives.

Savechecking network drives may take a longer time, because the transferrate is sometimes low and the drives do often have a much greater capacity than local drives.

After clicking on the "Network" - item, a dialogbox appears, which lets You select drives, which are being considered to be network-drives by "Application Control". The drives You select there are then being included in the SafeCheck - database.

If You are logged-in in a network, You may want to install applications using a "Server installation" and a "Workstation installation". That means, that every user has its own configuration files and drivers, but the main files are being used by all users together. If You do not only install the software on Your workstation, but also make the server-installation, You may encounter problems when You want to undelete the application from just Your system. "Application Control" tries to delete EVERYTHING that’s listed in the database for the specific software entry. But deleting the common files from the server is most likely NOT what You intended to do. Therefore You need a mechanism that allows "Application Control" to differ between common and user specific files. With usual installation routines this may be done by testing whether a file is write protected or not. If You have done the "Server-installation" (e.g. by typing "setup /a" or using a specific option in the setup - menu) properly, then there will be a common application directory on the server which is set to "read only". Only Your private INIs and drivers in Your path are accessible for just
You and therefore may be deleted any time, therefore without the need of write protection.

When You click on "Network" and the drive list appears, You see the option "Don’t delete read-only files". This option, when enabled, checks for write protection on network drives and makes sure, that these directories and files are NOT being deleted from the server.

Attention: Before uninstalling applications which access common files, check ALWAYS the contents of the entry to avoid problems with improper installation routines (which did not set the read only - flag).

You should ALWAYS leave the checking option ("Don’t delete read-only files") enabled!

The "Network" - button is disabled when no network is detected.

If You want to get some background informations about the programmer or the version of this utility, feel free to hit the "About" - button (be assured, curiosity doesn’t kill the cat here).

Example of Installation / Deinstallation

Assume You have installed a little shareware utility named "Al’s wordfinder" written in "Visual Basic". It is the only and first (but not the last) visual basic program you have installed. The program created a directory named "alsword", copied files into it and put the "vbrun300.dll" in Your Windows’ directory.

The installation routine was recognized by "Application Control Tracker" (You hear a whistling tune and the two buttons pop up). After the correct installation You pressed the "ready" - button (in the "AC Tracker" - window at the bottom of Your desktop) and confirmed the next dialog window. "AC Tracker" then went back to standby.

After the 30 day trial period you want to buy the complete product and remove the trial version from Your harddisk.

You activate "Application Control" (double clicking or switching via Task Manager) and select the appropriate icon. After You made changes before, "Application Control" first updates its "SafeCheck" database and application list.

Because You’re a careful being You select the "Contents" - button and investigate the database entries for "Al’s wordfinder". In the filelist You see the "vbrun300.dll", which You consider as useful for further installations of shareware products depending on this file (but not always having them included in their archives).

Therefore You click on the "c:\windows\vbrun300.dll" - entry an then click on the "Remove" - button. The file "c:\windows\vbrun300.dll" from then on is no longer located in the "Al’s wordfinder" database entry.

After pressing "OK" you click on the "Uninstall" - button. "Al’s wordfinder" is now removed from Your system, the "vbrun300.dll" stays in the Windows directory (just the way You wanted it to).

You see - there is no problem in using "Application Control". Under normal circumstances it does all the work for You. You just have to let it proceed and watch the clean up. It sounds easy? It IS easy and it IS SAFE!

Tips, Tricks and Infos ...

FAQ

Q.: When I activate an installation program with "AC Tracker" active i the background, the installation procedure crashes with an error-message. I have to quit "AC Tracker" for using the setup -routine. How can I start the setup with "AC Tracker" running and in attention?

A.: First deactivate ("Sleep mode") "AC Tracker" using the "F11" - hotkey. Then start Your installation - routine. When it is running, activate "AC Tracker" by using the "F12" - hotkey. That should work fine in almost any case.

Compatibility

The "Application Control" - package runs fine with...- OS/2 Warp 3.0- Windows 95, but ONLY in the "Extended Tracking" - mode, due to our problem of not already knowing some of the essential function calls in Windows 95 (YET). Attention: The "Application Control" package is NO Windows 95 - application. Therefore we CANNOT guarantee for a faultless running of "Application Control"!

Final hint

If a lot of installing / uninstalling is being done in Your System without "AC Tracker" being active (standby), You should start "SafeCheck" from time to time. It may be a good idea to "SafeCheck" Your system every three months (in that case).

Further versions of "Application Control"

This version of "Application Control" (containing "AC Tracker") is the "Light" - version. That does NOT mean, that it is cripple-ware or that essential functions are either not included or do not work properly. "Light" in this case means, that it is a free trial version, that may be used for a certain period to check out whether it is useful for You or not. If You like what You got, You are encouraged to buy the extended version, which does have no time limit and which will contain further enhancements which may be useful.

Some of the planned enhancements are:- improved "Trash" - check- improved "Analyze" module- backup and restore option for critical operations- improved support of PC Tools desktop- support of Norton desktop- enhanced network abilities- support of Windows 95 and NT

Certainly, to increase Your readiness to acquire the next version of "Application Control", the amount of applications, that can be tracked, is limited to a maximum of ten. This should be a number great enough to allow You an adequate testing of this utility, parallel to preventing unlimited using of this product without ever paying its creator for his months of programming and privations.

If You have any suggestions of how to make the "Application Control" package even better or if You have special needs, please write to us. We would be also glad to get informed about any errors or trouble You encounter when using "Application Control". Even though we tested "Application Control" on several platforms, we cannot totally exclude any errors.

We hope that You found sufficient information in this manual to efficiently use "Application Control" and that You consider this tool as helpful as we intended it to be.

Live long and prosper,
Your "Application Control" - team.

PS: now You are a "Trakkie", too...

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