AutoSaveIt!

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I have written AutoSaveIt! because, like many of us on a network, generate files locally on the hard disk, and want to daily back them up onto a server, which in turn this gets regularly backed up onto a tape.

In general, I do not like programs that need a lot of setup and typing (especially with directory paths), and that prompt dialog boxes for every entry. I have tried to make this program as simple and intuitive as possible to use and setup. Just point and click!

I have looked at various backup programs, or even event-driven utilities, but none of them is as easy to setup and change as AutoSaveIt! You still have a lot of typing to do to setup the file and directories paths. Having worked in a non-engineering environment, I can see that may be easy for MIS personnel, but not for the majority of users on the network, most of whom, have just grasped the use of e-mail, spreadsheet and word processing programs! This program will enable MIS managers to let everyone else on the network decide when and what to backup on the server(s).

AutoSaveIt! will minimize the amount of setup, typing (specially with directory paths), and dialog boxes prompts for every entry. The intent is to make it as simple and intuitive as possible to use and setup. Just point and click!

It makes the task of baking up data on a network as easy as possible, and lets the single users on a network decide what to backup and when.

AutoSaveIt! will copy directories and/or files from one place to another, at the time set with the alarm clock. Typically, it will copy directories from the local hard disk to the server's hard disk.. AutoSaveIt! will also copy subdirectories, if so specified.

NOTE: To run, this program needs VBRUN300.DLL in your Windows directory.

Manual
Setup
Operation

Exit AutoSaveIt! Help

Setup

Directory Setup

The directory setup is made as easy as possible by using mouse commands.

1   Select the path clicking with the mouse on the drive, directory and, if necessary, file. You should see the full path on the top right hand corner of the window.

2   Click with the mouse on the box with the directory to be backed up from or to. This will transfer all the selected file/directrory information to the selected box

3   Repeat for all directories, as needed.

4   Set the time in HH:MM (24-hour) format.

5   When done with the selection, click on the "Set" command button. That's it!

To perform the backup immediately, without waiting until the set time, it is possible to type "N" (or "n" - for "Now") in the time selection box.

AutoSaveIt! checks the settings every minute and, at the set time, performs the backup. This will occur daily. It is also possible to set selective backup of all files created or modified after a particular date. To select this option, check the "Select with Date" option. You can then select the date as follows:

n   Specified Date: First, enter the date (in MM-DD-YYYY format: e.g. 04-10-1993) in the box in the "Save Files From:" section. Then select the "Specified Date" from the drop-down box on its left. From this time forward, all backups will be performed from this date.

n   Today: Select "Today" in the drop-down box in the "Save Files From:" section. All backups will be done from the current date.

n   Previous Day: Same as for "Today", but using the previous day date. In other words, all backups will be retroactive to the day before the backup is performed.

n   Previous Week: Same as for "Previous Day", but AutoSaveIt! in this case will backup all files changed or created during the week before the date when the backup is done.

n   Previous Month: Same as for "Previous Week", but using the previous month.

n   Last Backup: When this option is selected, AutoSaveIt! will search in the AUTOSAVE.LOG file for the last backup performed, and will save all files created or changed since that date.

NOTE: If the program does not find the AUTOSAVE.LOG file, it will perform a complete back up of all files. This is equivalent of a backup without the "Select with Date" option checked.

When AutoSaveIt! is left running day after day, it will automatically find out, depending on the setting, the current day, or the previous day, week or month, or previous backup. Once you set the program, it will not need to get re-set. Just make sure it is loaded in Windows and forget about it.

NOTE: If you work regular hours during the day and plan to set the backup time after midnight, you should not select the "Today" option. This will only select all the files updated from the new day (i.e. from after midnight). You should select instead the "Previous Day" option.

In other words, say that on July 7, at 5.00pm before leaving work, you set the program to backup automatically during the night (e.g. at 2.30am) the files changed during the day.

If you select the "Today" option, only the files changed after July 8 will be saved, of which there will be none. The "Previous Day" option will instead save the files changed on July 7.

AutoSaveIt! uses the DOS XCOPY command. When it tries to back up a directory that does not exist on the destination drive, the program will stop, prompting you for input. Should this happen, just open up the iconized DOS shell window , and type "D" (no ENTER key press is necessary) when the following message appears in the DOS window:

```
Does XXX specify a file name
or directory name on the target
(F = file, D = directory)?
```

You can also edit the individual directories for specific files with wildcards, such as *.WRI, *.DOC, *.SAM, etc.

Ideally, once you have setup the programs, you should place the file in the Startup folder of the Program Manager, and run it minimized. You can do this by selecting the "Run Minimized" check box in the "File Properties" menu of the Program Manager.

The selective backup from a certain date is done with the "XCOPY /D:date" option.

Save Subdirectories

AutoSaveIt! will also "Save Subdirectories", if this option is selected, with the "XCOPY /S" command. Empty subdirectories will not be saved.

Check Archived

AutoSaveIt! has also an option "Check Archived", which will first save files with the archive attribute set, and then reset the attribute. This will prevent files from being archived twice, if they have not been modified. When a file is modified (e.g. with an editor), the archive flag is set, and AutoSaveIt! will know to save it.

When this option is selected, AutoSaveIt! will use the "XCOPY /M" command.

Operation

All AutoSaveit! operations are saved in the AUTOSAVE.INI file, which is automatically created and placed in your Windows directory. AutoSaveIt! also generates an AUTOSAVE.LOG file, with all the information about the backup.

AutoSaveIt! relies on the correct operation of the DOS XCOPY command, and is therefore independent of all networks operating systems and DOS versions.

Should you have any problems, check the correct operation of XCOPY.

You may also try to run XCOPY in the Windows DOS shell.

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