Window Washer Help File

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http://www.webroot.com/
webroot@webroot.com

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1 – Overview

Window Washer is a very useful program for cleaning up the history of your activities on a computer.

Many people do not realize that Windows and other software programs store information about what they have done, what documents they have used, what web sites they have visited, and various other activities they have performed.   Therefore, anyone else can see what you have been doing on your computer, which raises several privacy concerns.   Furthermore, much of your activity information takes up valuable disk space, and recovering this space can be very beneficial.

Cleaning up the history of your activities can be a tedious chore of manually removing each history file or entry.   If privacy and disk space are to be maintained, this process must be performed every time you use your computer.   Window Washer can automate this process for you!   Window Washer will automatically run in the background and clean up whatever tracks you want removed, whenever you want.   You can have Window Washer automatically clean your files either when Windows is started or shutdown, as well as schedule timed cleanings. Window Washer integrates with the standard Microsoft Windows places where your tracks are kept, such as the document menu and the Recycle Bin.   It also integrates with popular programs like Netscape and ICQ.   What's more, with the flexible "Custom Items" feature, you can specify other files, folders, or registry entries that you would like to be automatically cleaned!

The shareware version will expire 30 days after the installation.   Please read the next section on how to register.

1a – Quick Start

After installing Window Washer, every time Window Washer is run there will be a little squeegee icon
next to your clock on the Windows Taskbar.   If you click once on the squeegee icon, a menu will appear.   Select **Wash Now** from the menu to wash all your items.   Select **Settings** from the menu to configure your wash items and other features of Window Washer.   Select **Quit** to close the Window Washer program.

2 – How To Register

Window Washer costs $29.95.

There are a few ways you can register:

- Register by secure online Web Page visit: http:/www.webroot.com/order1.htm

- Register by calling Toll-Free (within the US): 1 (800) 772-9383
  Or outside of the US: 1 (303) 554-6528

    For phone orders the Window Washer product # is: **4060**
    Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 10am – 6pm, Mountain Time.

- Register by Check or Money order - Mail to: Webroot Software, Inc.
                                                      P.O. Box 3531
                                                      Boulder, CO 80307

3 – Automatic Wash Options

3a – Wash on Windows Startup

Checking this box will cause Window Washer to automatically clean up your selected items every time Microsoft Windows is started.

3b – Wash on Windows Shutdown

Checking this box will cause Window Washer to automatically clean up your selected items every time Microsoft Windows is shutdown.

3c – Timed Washing

After checking this box, the pull down menu to the left of the box will become active.   Using the pull down menu, you can select the time interval in which you would like Window Washer to clean your items.   Time intervals range from every 15 minutes to once a month.   Once you have selected a time, Window Washer will clean your items automatically when the time is reached.

3d – Bleaching Files

This option instructs Washer to "shred" the files it washes by overwriting the file a set number of times with random characters.   This will render the files unrecoverable by utilities such as undelete and unerase. The default setting for bleach will overwrite a file 2 times, which is usually enough.   The higher the number of overwrites the longer the wash cycle will take.   Overwriting a file 3 times respects the DOD 5220.22-M directive for sanitizing a file on a Non-Removable Rigid Disk or a Removable Rigid Disk and overwriting a file 7 times respects the NSA approved seven-pass file erasure method.   You can set the number of times to overwrite a file by clicking on the INFO button next to the BLEACH WASH ITEMS checkbox.

3e – Verifying and Changing Default Directories

When Window Washer is installed it attempts to detect all the standard wash item directory locations, such as the Netscape or IE cache directory. Clicking on the **Change Default Directories** button will display a listing of all the detected paths to each standard wash item that is to be cleaned.   Below is a list of the standard directories as detected on most (but not all) system configurations:

Windows Document History: C:\Windows\Recent (for single user system
                                                    C:\Windows\Profiles\<username>\Recent (for multiple user system)

Temporary Files: C:\Windows\Temp (Note: All contents of this directory are purged during a wash so be sure that no files contained in this directory are needed.)

Netscape User Profile: C:\Program Files\Netscape\Users\<user name> (for Netscape 4.x)
                                             C:\Program Files\Netscape\Navigator (for Netscape 3.x)

Netscape Cache: C:\Program Files\Netscape\Users\<user name>\cache (for Netscape 4.x)
                                             C:\Program Files\Netscape\Navigator\cache (for Netscape 3.x)

Internet Explorer Cache: C:\Windows\Temporary Internet Files (for single user system)
                                                    C:\Windows\Profiles\<user name>\Temporary Internet Files (for multiple user system)

Internet Explorer Cookies: C:\Windows\Cookies (for single user system)
                                                    C:\Windows\Profiles\<user name>\Cookies (for multiple user system)

Internet Explorer History: C:\Windows\History (for single user system)
                                                    C:\Windows\Profiles\<user name>\History (for multiple user system)

AOL Program Directory: C:\America Online 4.0 (Note: You will not need to set this unless you have
                                                    America Online installed on your system.)

To change any of the above detected directories, simply click on the **Change** button located next to the directory and then browse to the new directory and click on **OK**.

If you want to reset all the directories back to the original detected directories, click on **Re-Detect All**.

When you are through verifying or changing your default directories, click on **Done**.

3f – Command Line Washing (support for System Agent: Task Scheduler)

You can use the Windows System Agent: Task Scheduler to automate cleanings for Window Washer.   Simply add the full path of the "autowash.exe" file to the Task Scheduler.   For example: "c:\program files\washer\autowash.exe" would be a valid path for an automated wash from within the Task Scheduler.   Also, entering "c:\program files\washer\autowash.exe" at the DOS prompt or from within a batch file would also be valid.   The "autowash.exe" file instructs Window Washer to wash all selected items and then close itself after washing is completed.

4 – Default Items

These are items that are automatically integrated into Window Washer.

4a – Windows Document History/Streams

This cleans the history of recent documents that you have opened.   The document history is stored under the Microsoft Windows Start Button under the **Documents** menu item.

Using this option will also clean "streams" in Windows 98.   Streams store information in the Windows registry about what a user has been doing on a system, such as which programs they run, what images they view, and which files they open.

4b – Windows Find History

This cleans the history of files you have searched for using the **Find** program.   The **Find** history is stored under the Microsoft Windows Start Button under **Find**, then **File/Folders** menu item.

4c – Windows Run History

This cleans the history of files you have run using the **Run** command.   The **Run** history is stored under the Microsoft Windows Start Button under the **Run** menu item.

4d – Windows Temp Directory

This cleans the Windows temporary directory (usually located at C:\windows\temp).   This directory should not be confused with the Internet Explorer "Temporary Internet Files Directory".   The Windows temporary directory stores temporary files that are used during installation of programs and at other various times.   Cleaning this directory regularly is generally a good idea. (Note: All contents of this directory are purged during a wash, so be sure that no files contained in this directory are needed).

4e – Recycle Bin

This cleans out all of the files that are contained in the Recycle Bin.

Special Note: This cleans all the Recycle Bins on all drives on your computer (including any network drives you have mapped).

4f – Netscape

If you have Netscape installed on your system, you can use this option to clean up Netscape cookies, cache, history,

and trash mailbox.   Checking this box will bring up a sub menu allowing you to select which Netscape items you would like cleaned: cookies, cache, history, and/or trash mailbox.   NOTE: You must close Netscape before Window Washer will be able to clean the Netscape History items.

4g – Internet Explorer

If you have Internet Explorer installed on your system, you can use this option to clean up Internet Explorer cookies, cache, and history.   Checking this checkbox will bring up a sub menu allowing you to select which Internet Explorer items you would like cleaned: cookies, cache, and/or history.   There is also an option to exclude cookies from being washed.   This option is helpful if you visit sites that store useful cookies that you wish to keep.

Internet Explorer Wash Item: Clear IE database files option:

Normally the TIF directory does not appear empty after a wash.   This is because the IE cache database file still stores pointers to the files that were there.   After washing, when you view the TIF directory you will still see the pointers from this database while the actual files are gone.

This option clears the database by opening the IE Internet Control Panel and automatically clicking the **Clear History** and **Delete Files** buttons.   This will make the TIF directory appear empty immediately after a wash.

Internet Explorer Wash Item: Downloaded Program Files Directory

This directory is where Internet Explorer stores Active X and Java applets that have been downloaded from the web. Checking this item will instruct Window Washer to clean out this directory.

Internet Explorer Wash Item: America Online Cache/Drop Down Menu

If you have America Online installed on your system, this option will clean out the Drop Down List and Cache that is displayed at the top of the main AOL window.

4h – .CHK Scan Disk Files

The Windows utility **Scan Disk** creates .CHK files at the root directory of drives.   These files usually contain junk data and can be erased to help keep drives clean.   This option will have Window Washer erase the .CHK files (if they exist) for you.

4i – MS-Office Tracks (MRU)

If you have MS-Office 97 installed on your system, this option will clean up the "Most Recently Used" (MRU) lists that are stored.   The MRU lists contain links to the last 5 or 10 items that have been used and   are found in MS-Office applications under the OPEN, SAVE AS, Insert Picture, and other options.   This will clean the MRU lists under Word, Excel, Access, Photo Editor and PowerPoint.   The actual documents or files themselves are not removed, only the references to these items in the MRU are removed.

5 – Custom Items

Custom Items allows you the flexibility of adding files, folders, and registry entries to be automatically cleaned for you.

5a – Adding or Editing

Click the **Add** button if you wish to add a new custom item.   If you wish to edit a current item, highlight the item on the **Custom Items** menu and then click the **Edit** button.

Files and Folders

Check this box to clean files or folders.   Then click on **Select**, located on the right.   You will then see the **Add** files and folders screen.   Browse through the directories by clicking on the directory box.

ADD FOLDER - Select an entire folder to be cleaned by highlighting the folder in the directory list box (top left) and then clicking on the **Add Folder** button.

INCLUDE SUBDIRECTORIES - Check the **Include Subdirectories** box to include cleaning of all folders below your selected folders.

ADD FILES - Select files to be cleaned by highlighting them in the file list box (top right) and then clicking on the **Add Files** button.

REMOVE FROM LIST - To remove files or directories from your cleaning list, highlight the files and/or directories in your Cleaning List (bottom middle) and then click on the **Remove From List** button.

DONE - Click on **Done** when finished.

Registry Entries

WARNING: THIS IS INTENDED FOR ADVANCED WINDOWS USERS ONLY.   IF YOU ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH EDITING AND CHANGING REGISTRY KEYS DO NOT USE THIS FEATURE.   YOU COULD RISK DAMAGING YOUR WINDOWS INSTALLATION.

ADD – Adds an entry to your list of registry entries to be cleaned and brings up the **Add Registry Entry** Window (see below).

REMOVE – Removes an entry from your registry entries list.   Highlight the entry you wish to remove and click on **Remove**.

DONE - Click on **Done** when finished.

Add Registry Entry Window

How to add a registry entry:

Example: Let's say we want to remove the value "THISONE" from the registry entry Hkey_Current_User\Software\Washer\Example1

1.   Select the TOP LEVEL KEY OF REGISTRY ENTRY TO BE ERASED at the top of the window.   For our example we would click on **Hkey_Current_User**.

2.   Type the sub-key path in the edit box at the middle of the window.   For our example we would type **Software\Washer\Example1**.

3.   Select whether Window Washer should delete the entire sub-key (EXAMPLE1) or erase a specific value contained within that sub-key.   For our example we want to remove a specific value, not the entire key, so check **Erase Value Within Sub-Key**.

     (If you are erasing an entire sub-key and not a specific value, just click on **Done** to save your entry).

4.   Type the value that you would like to erase within the **Sub-Key**.   For our example, the value is "THISONE".

5.   Click on **Done** to save your entry.

5b – Deleting

To delete a **Custom Item** from your list, click on the item you wish to delete and then click on **Delete**.

6 – Washing

Click on **Wash Now** located at the bottom-left of the main window.
You will see the status window as Window Washer cleans through your selected items.

Note: You will not see the status window while Window Washer is washing during a timed washed or during a Windows startup wash.

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Webroot Software, Inc.
P.O. Box 3531
Boulder, CO 80307