

# Bug-Bytes

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## COMPARE FILES, CONVENIENTLY

LEARN TO COMPARE FILES HORIZONTALLY OR VERTICALLY



There are times when you may want to compare the files in two or more directories, or on different drives. For example, you might compare files on a networked drive with those on your main computer, or files in a backup directory with the original files. Another use is to drag and drop files from one directory to another to add files that are not in one directory with those from another directory.

Windows provides an easy way to do this in panes. Two or more windows can be opened simultaneously and displayed horizontally or vertically. The screen is split into two or more panes.

### HOW TO SET UP YOUR SCREEN

Click on *My Computer* and open the first folder that you want to compare with another folder. Click on the maximize button (toggle) to shrink the

window. Now open the second folder that you want to compare. Also, shrink that window.

Right click on the taskbar at the bottom of your screen and select the option to display the two windows horizontally or vertically. If you don't like one option, right click again on the taskbar and choose one of the other options.

### SELECT THE VIEW OPTION

Click on View and select the view that you prefer. I prefer the Detail view since it gives me the most information (folder/filename, size, type, date modified, etc.). Set the same view for each separate window.

### FLIP BETWEEN OPEN WINDOWS

Press Alt-Tab to toggle between the last two open windows, or click the window you want to select it.

### FINE TUNE YOUR VIEW

In Windows XP or ME, Click on View, Choose Details to select the columns that you want to see. Click on the Folders button on the Toolbar to toggle a tree view of the folders. You will have to do this for each of the open windows.

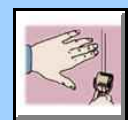
Double click on the Date Modified field to sort your data. Repeat to toggle between an ascending and a descending view.

### MAINTAIN YOUR FILES

Either the Horizontal or Vertical option, coupled with the Detail view, will help you review your files. Cut, copy, paste, paste a shortcut, copy or move to folder, print, delete, and rename files. The side by side or top to bottom panes will make comparing files and folders easy for you.

## SELECT A NEW DISPLAY WALLPAPER

YOU DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE



Windows wallpaper provides a visual background for the icons displayed on your Windows desktop. Choose from the list of sample background bitmap files shipped with Windows, or browse for photos or graphics that are more to your liking. To change your wallpa-

per, right click on a blank spot on your desktop and select Properties, Desktop. Click on each listed wallpaper in turn to see a small representation of how it will look. If you don't see something you like click Browse and navigate to your photo folder. Select a

photo. Then select the position option. Choose from Center, Tile, or Stretch.

*Stretch* expands the background on the screen from top to bottom and side to side with a bitmap image. *Center* places the object in the center of the screen often with a border around it.

*Tile* may create multiple images of the same image. It depends on the type of file you use and its native size in pixels (normally about 128x128 pixels).

Alternatively, use Google to find some new sources of wallpaper. Some sources are free and others require a payment.

Are you into whimsy? Checkout the free Peanuts cartoon wallpaper from [www.snoopy.com](http://www.snoopy.com), or from one of the many other cartoon sources. Click on

the wallpaper link, pick the screen resolution that matches your display, and right click on the image you want. Select *Set as background*.

Select "None" in Properties, Desktop, if you want just a solid color to show on your desktop. Click on the Color option and pick the color you want for your background. Click Other to fine-tune your color selection.

When you pick new wallpaper, pick

something that will make it easy to see your icons. Some patterns make it difficult to distinguish your icons.

In Windows XP, while you are in the Properties, Desktop dialog, click on Customize Desktop. Select or deselect from among the Desktop icons. Turn on or turn off the Desktop cleanup options.

Click OK and enjoy your new desktop look.

## REVIEW YOUR WINDOWS UPDATE OPTIONS



WINDOWS UPDATE HAS A NEW LOOK

Microsoft has changed the look and menu structure for Windows Update. Everything is still there but with a different look and some new options. Click on Automatic Updates, and More Options. Choose from Automatic or Manual update options, and access items that you have previously hidden.

Choose **Express Install** to download and install only critical and security updates for your computer. Choose

**Custom Install** to review all the downloads available for your computer (minus any marked to be hidden). For example, I hide the Journal View update since I do not anticipate that I will have a need to view files created by a tablet PC. Similarly, if you think you will never convert Euros, then you might want to skip that particular update.

## RESET YOUR OUTLOOK EXPRESS . . . . SECURITY OPTIONS



WINDOWS XP SP2 REVERTS TO FACTORY DEFAULT SETTINGS

When you install Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2), the update installs with a set of default settings. As a result you may need to reset your custom security settings.

For instance, open Outlook Express and click on Options, Security. Uncheck the box that says "Do not allow attachments to be saved or opened that could be potentially be a virus." unchecking it should be safe. You do run an anti-virus program don't you, and you keep it up-to-date?

Note there is a new option that says "Block images and other external content in HTML e-mail. Microsoft turns this on by default. Decide for yourself if you want this new option enabled. If it is enabled, every time you receive an

e-mail with an image, such as a picture from a friend, you will have to click on the new taskbar in Outlook Express to see the pictures. If you would prefer to not see every image, leave the new option checked. Otherwise, uncheck it.

See the following link for a discussion of the changes in Outlook Express, and their rationale, as a result of SP2.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2/ieoeoverview.msp>

- Warn me when other applications try to send mail as me.
- Do not allow attachments to be saved or opened that could potentially be a virus.

Download Images

- Block images and other external content in HTML e-mail.

## SP2 ADDS A POP-UP BLOCKER . . . TO INTERNET EXPLORER



INTERNET EXPLORER ADDS A POP-UP BLOCKER

Pop-up ads, banner ads, and contextual ads, along with ad server profiles, animations, and background sounds adversely affect the speed with which data is displayed on your screen. They are a visual nuisances and resource hogs. SP2 offers limited pop-up blocking protection for Internet Explorer, but not for anything in the trusted sites zone.

If you don't have a pop-up/ad blocker, the new service can give you some relief. However, if you want industrial

strength relief, purchase a third party product designed specifically for that purpose. Personally, I prefer the power of Intermute's AdSubtract. It blocks a long list of ad pests (not just pop-ups) making surfing much more fun. See [www.adsubtract.com](http://www.adsubtract.com).

For AdSubtract, or similar products, download a free trial. That's the best way to see if a product meets your expectations.

## YOU NEED A MULTI-PART SECURITY STRATEGY



THERE IS NO MAGIC BULLET ➡

You need to be proactive when it comes to your own security. Alas, there is no one product that will protect you from adware, pop-ups, banner ads, spyware, hackers (the reason for a firewall), viruses, worms, and trojan horses. What's out there are a series of products that are fair to very good at handling one or more of those pests, but not all of them. Some products combine more than one function as in an anti-virus module, a firewall, and a pop-up blocker, but in my experience, no one product is world-class or even good at everything. Fortunately, there are some outstanding free products. Here is a list of some of the free products by category.

ADWARE BLOCKER – *Ad-Aware SE* by Lavasoft. <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/adaware.html> This is the latest version. They also offer a paid version with extra features.

ANTI-VIRUS – AVG (you need to register to download it) [www.free.grisoft.com/freeweb.pcp/doc/2/](http://www.free.grisoft.com/freeweb.pcp/doc/2/)

SPYWARE BLOCKER – *Spywareblaster* <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/spywareblaster.html> and *SpyBot Search and Destroy*

<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>. Spywareblaster does a very good job of blocking spyware BEFORE it is installed on your computer. SpyBot S&D does a very thorough job of removing spyware that was previously installed on your computer and then inoculates your computer from a reinfestation by those sites.

HISTORY-TRACKS ERASER – *Iclean* trial version from

<http://www.asap-computers.com/download.htm>. Lets you selectively remove history files including the Internet Explorer cache. This is a product from Allume Systems (Formerly Aladdin Systems). A number of vendors include history track removing services in their products. Among them are products such as Norton Systemworks (Clean sweep), and Iola System Mechanic (Clean up your tracks) that include track eraser options in their bundled software offerings.

POP-UP BLOCKERS – *Pop-up blocker Free Edition* from PanicWare [http://www.panicware.com/product\\_psfree.html](http://www.panicware.com/product_psfree.html). The product handles only pop-up and pop-under ads. It does not handle banner ads, animations, flash, sounds and other ad pests.

Windows XP SP2 includes a new very limited pop-up blocker. Open Internet Express. Click on Tools, Pop-up Blocker. IF you don't have a pop-up blocker, check the box to enable the built-in pop-up blocker. Click settings and select the Filter level your want to use. Be sure to click on the Pop-up Blocker FAQ at the bottom of the dialog box to better understand what it can and can't do. Note that it will not block pop-up ads in your trusted sites security zone.

Intermute's *AdSubtract* is an editors choice for a complete ad blocking and cookie control package. It handles pop-ups, pop-under, and banner ads. With this and similar products, download a trial version and decide for yourself whether the product meets your expectations.

## IT'S ANTI-VIRUS UPGRADE/SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL TIME!



MANY NEW PRODUCT UPGRADES ARE RELEASED IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER

Many anti-virus software vendors release their new products toward the end of the year. Some examples include Symantec's 2005 Norton line of products including its AntiVirus, Internet Security, and System works, Iolo's System Mechanic 5 (includes firewall), McAfee Internet Security Suite 2005, and Trend Micro PC-Cillin Internet Security Suite 2005 (includes firewall) among others. While there are many other 2005 software releases, software packages that include a bundled anti-virus product offer you a special opportunity.

### ANTI-VIRUS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Anti-virus subscriptions run for one year. You then pay a yearly fee to renew the anti-virus update service. If the anti-virus product is bundled with utilities, your update fee also entitles you to free updates for the utilities.

### JUST RENEWING YOUR AV SUBSCRIPTION MAY NOT BE IN YOUR BEST INTEREST

The anti-virus product you use depends on having an up-to-date AV engine PLUS the vendor's up-to-date AV signatures. Anti-virus vendors make major changes in their AV engines to enable their products to detect the latest types of worms, Trojans, blended threats, and viruses, AND they provide

the latest AV signature/pattern files.

Major changes in a product are indicated by the first digit of the version number. Minor changes are shown following the decimal place as in version 2.196. Just updating your signature files may not provide you with full protection. Such could be the case if you are using a 2002 or 2003 AV engine, even if you are using the latest pattern files. The older engines may not be designed to detect some of the latest types of threats.

### THE ECONOMICS AND ADVANTAGES OF UPGRADES

Consider these facts. The latest versions of products that bundle an anti-virus program in their suites, such as those by Iola, McAfee, Symantec, Trend Micro, and V-Com, include many useful changes to their utilities, bug fixes, new features, and enhancements. Yet with applicable discounts the utility bundles may cost little more than the price of just renewing your AV subscription for another year. For example, it costs \$24.95 to renew a Norton AntiVirus subscription on the Symantec web site.

However, at Amazon.com you can get Norton AntiVirus for \$49.95 less a \$35 mail-in rebate for a net of \$14.95, or

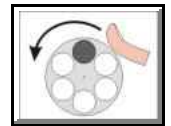
Norton Systemworks 2005 for \$69.99 less a rebate of \$30.00 for a net of 39.99. The shipping is free. Norton Systemworks includes a one-button checkup, a defragger, an expanded recycle bin, a history cleaning tool, and other utilities along with its anti-virus module.

Before you buy, be sure to check the terms of any rebate offers to see if you qualify for the rebates. You may find similar discounts at Costco, Staples, and other local merchants.

### STRAPPED FOR CASH?

### Do not compute without an anti-virus program.

Not using an AV program is the same as playing Russian Roulette with a loaded gun. It is not a question of whether you will get a virus, it is only a question of when. Click on the following link to download the free version of AVG 6.0 from Grisoft. They provide automatic updates of their signatures. AVG is a computer "Editors choice."

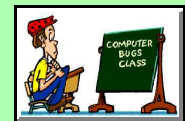


<http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/2/>

Grisoft also offers paid versions of their software (Version 7.0).

## THE CASE FOR DAILY DEFRAGGING

MINIMIZE THE TIME IT TAKES TO DEFRAGMENT AND MINIMIZE DISK READS AND WRITES



Files become fragmented as bits and pieces of the files are written to the empty spaces available on your hard disk at any particular time. The empty

spaces occur as files are moved, resized, or deleted, and temporary files are written to your hard disk and later removed. Defragmenting pulls all

your data back together so they are contiguous to minimize the time it takes your hard drive to locate those file fragments. If you are a heavy

computer user, it may benefit you to defrag daily. That way, your data will always be contiguous, or nearly so, and it will take only a small amount of time each time you defrag. If you defrag less frequently, say monthly, it may take many hours to defrag rather than just a few minutes.

Diskeeper is an editor's choice for a defragger ([www.diskeeper.com](http://www.diskeeper.com)). It

defragments in a small fraction of the time taken by the Windows built-in defragger. *Diskeeper* Home 9.0 version sells for as little as \$19.95 for those that qualify for their rebate. The product includes a "Set it and Forget it" setting whereby the product defrags in the background without any input from you. You can also schedule defragging at the dates and times of your choice.

If you are not sure whether the product is right for you, download the trial version. Diskeeper is designed to work with Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000, and XP.

