

# Tutorial Tuesday

## Housecleaning

by Scott Holstad

I still remember how proud I felt when I finally got that 200MB (megabyte) hard drive for my computer. At last, enough room for all those cool programs. I knew I would never need more room -- I was set for life.

Yeah, right.

That wasn't too long ago, either. I've upgraded several times, and now I have a 2.1G (gigabyte) hard drive, much of it used. And I constantly find myself running across files and programs I want to ditch, as they're clogging up my system. How many times have you found five different versions of Netscape Navigator(TM)? Or the umpteen patches to your anti-virus software? What about those game demos you never play anymore? Yet, have you ever tried to ditch 'em? Not always that easy. You know why? When you install a program, all sorts of files end up scattered around your computer. When you drag your application's icon (or folder) to Win95's Recycle Bin or Mac's Trash, you don't necessarily delete everything. In fact, many parts of your program remain dormant in your system, littering your computer with possible conflicts, unnecessary duplicate files, and space-hogging garbage.

What to do? Undelete! Now, as is often the case, programs differ from PC to Mac. Rather than making Mac afficiandos wade through PC links, we've conveniently provided two sections for you: PC users click on the Windows link and Mac users on the Mac link. But, of course, we won't fault you if you choose to read both!



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# Tutorial Tuesday

## Uninstall -- Windows

by Scott Holstad

Windows apps dump DLLs (dynamic link library files) and VBXs (Visual Basic Extensions) all over your PC. Moreover, they usually modify your batch and INI (initialization) files. When you dump a program, you're often left with stray files. By **uninstalling**, rather than deleting, you can be better assured that such strays disappear along with the bulk of the program you're eliminating.

Windows 95 is the first version of Windows to include a decent uninstall utility as part of the operating system. It's located in the Control Panel's Add/Remove Software area. As soon as you click this option, you see a menu of software which you presumably installed through this same option. You can then choose any you wish to uninstall (by clicking its name), and Win95 does the rest.

However, Windows 95's uninstall utility is not 100% reliable. Thus, there is a need for a third-party uninstall utility. (And if you haven't migrated yet to Windows 95, you definitely need one of these.) The fact is, not all applications are Windows 95-compliant. Moreover, Win95 is a 32-bit OS, but many current applications are 16-bit. Win95 doesn't always catch these 16-bit apps, while most third-party utilities can manage this.

It's possible to snag quite a few PC uninstall utilities right off the Net. In Watch is a well-regarded shareware program. Its primary shortcoming is, like Win95's utility, it will only uninstall something it has observed being installed (obviously, then, it cannot remove anything installed prior to its own installation). You can find many more such utilities via Shareware.com. Some to think about include Winlight, Delta (although I haven't had much luck with this one), and WPCD (Windows Complete Program Deleter).

While you can typically find shareware/freeware utilities on the Net as good as their commercial brethren, this might be one of the areas where it's hard to top the commercial products. C/Net provides a great review of some of the better uninstall programs, such as Remove-It 95 and Uninstaller. My personal favorite, though, is Quarterdeck's CleanSweep 95. It has a clean, user-friendly interface, yet is quite robust. Not only will it help you uninstall, it'll find duplicate DLLs, as well as files which have gone unused for a certain period of time. It archives, moves files, and re-installs, all fairly quickly. Best, it's under \$100, so it's moderately affordable.

Look, it shouldn't be so hard to rid yourself of unwanted files, but nobody said life is fair. Get yourself a handy uninstall utility and clean house -- your computer will love you for it.



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# Tutorial Tuesday

## Uninstall -- Macintosh

by Scott Holstad

Used to be, ya didn't need an uninstaller with a Mac (still shouldn't, IMHO). When you dragged that icon into the trash, well, that program was history. Now, even Mac installations can sometimes get messy (may as well have been coordinated by Microsoft). You're dealing with extensions, and control panels, and preferences, and so on. Shoot, plug-ins alone can plop down anywhere! Have you ever tried to dump that old beta Netscape browser so you can install a fresh version? Okay, you dragged the folder into the Trash. Did you remember to open up your System Folder and snoop around? Open your Preferences folder? Ooh, what's that? Hmm, Netscape Installer Temp, Netscape Setup URL, and a Netscape folder. Well, to be truly rid of Netscape, you have to drag all these puppies into the Trash. Yep.

With now-common bigger hard drives and ever-growing programs, the risk of stray files also grows. Not too surprisingly, there is now a Mac uninstall utility. Maui Software's Yank is a nifty little utility (although I much prefer the PC ones -- guess I'm a PC snob). It uninstalls apps and cleans the Preferences folder of obsolete files. Furthermore, you can configure it so that it won't delete anything without your permission. At this time, however, I'm unaware of any additional Mac uninstall utilities.

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