Session 1450: Get on the Stick

A Road Warrior's Guide to Replacing Your Laptop with a USB Memory Stick

Portable Tools for traveling with (and living on)
USB memory sticks



SHARE 111

Summer 2008

San Jose, CA

August 09 - 15

Monday 8:00 AM.

Disclaimer Everybody has lawyers:



The ideas and concepts set forth in this presentation are solely those of the respective authors, and not of the companies and or vendors referenced within and these organizations do not endorse, guarantee, or otherwise certify any such ideas or concepts in application or usage. This material should be verified for applicability and correctness in each user environment.

Since this is mostly about windows . . . No warranty of any kind is available.



Rules of the Room

- MOST of this is about choices and limits
- Advice is free, Decisions cost money:
 - I'll give the advice
 - YOU have to make the decisions

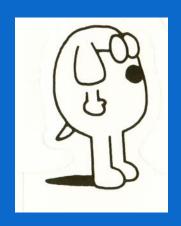
Rate quotes on decision making available after the presentation



This presentation

is structured and paced for Information Technology Professionals familiar with Microsoft Windows terminology and systems.

If you are having difficulty...



PLEASE LISTEN FASTER

When you can't take a Laptop Get on the Stick





No-Laptop Travel



My Reasons

- Heightened Security (random seizure)
- Country entry restrictions
- Carry-on luggage limitations
- Tired of lugging that nineteen pounds
- VACATIONS

? Got any other reasons ?



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The Main Issues

- TSA security restrictions
- TSA Random laptop seizure
- Country entry/exit restrictions
- Theft rates / hotel security
- Laptop / Toolkit Weight
 - Exhaustion / Stress / Annoyance
 - Bursitis / Rotator Cuff injuries





Europe on a Keychain

- June/July:
- Three week, three USB-drive vacation:
 - London, Paris, Rural France
 - Toolkit (2Gb)
 - Portable Apps (1Gb)
 - Photo Archive (30Gb)
 - Internet Cafes, Airports, Shops, Hotels



Security Issues

- If your PC is connected to the internet, it is vulnerable.
- If your stick is plugged into a PC, it is just as vulnerable.
- Develop a start-up security routine.
 You are the only one who will protect you.



Application Issues

- Most tools you use are generic
 - And easy to clone or borrow
- Some are specific to:
 - Vertical Markets
 - Business Discipline
 - Job Function
 - And may be harder to make portable



Data and Applications

- Identify your critical data
- Make it portable
 - Formats / Usability
 - Encryptions
 - Independence
- Organize around portable apps
 - You may have to learn a few new ones



Using the "Stick Method"

- If you're the sort that walks off without your cellphone, loses your car keys, or forgets the wife at the mall, then
- THINK TWICE about trying the stick method. A stick is small, and easy to leave "sticking" in someone else's computer. – or buy yourself a leash.

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The stick method

- Works for me (so far) in:
 - Internet cafes
 - (LHR CDG BWI MSP ORD SJC LGA)
 - Demo machines in Stores
 - Hotelling Offices with Desktops
 - (BP IBM Alcatel NIST)
 - Family and home machines
 - Machines in hotels / libraries



Information Issues

- Lots of software collects and sends information on your activities.
- XP is no different than web sites TURN
 OFF all the optional info transmissions
 IF you can find them.
- XP Anti-Spy is my favorite tool for this problem. AND it works from a stick!

Content Issues: Know Thyself



- Your Patterns of use are important
 - Places, networks, environments
 - Hours per day, Minutes per session
 - Volume of Data, Number of Apps
- Stand alone apps vs. network access
- Private / public / VPN network use
- Stability of your applications

Content Issues: Know Thyself



- You don't have to tell anyone else, BUT
- Tell yourself the truth about:
 - On-the-road app use
 - Critical vs. Convenient vs. Nice
 - Are you REALLY going to use it ??
 - Need for Data
 - Critical vs. Convenient vs. Nice
 - Data security level
 - Risk level
 - Loss consequence
 - Policy



Environment Goals:



- Stability
- Easy for YOU to use
- No data left behind
- 99 Percent less weight
- 9 Percent less effective
- FAST as possible
- Easy to Clean off



Application Strategy

- If You travel A LOT:
 - Should contain everything you might use
 - Backed up or Sync'd to a base station / HD
- If You travel occasionally:
 - Should contain most things you might need
 ON THE ROAD
 - Data re-synch'ed or re-copied before each trip or after major changes.



Application Strategy

- If you can stand the sluggishness,
 Use the stick all the time
 - Verifies the apps work
 - Ensures current data
 - Develops backup & unplug habits
 - Keeps the bookmarks current
 - Portable is portable even in town

Data Strategy

- Only take what you need
- Secure it if losing it will get you fired
- Don't assume.
- Back it up.
- Test any needed synchronizations
- Don't assume.
- Back it up again.

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Security Strategy

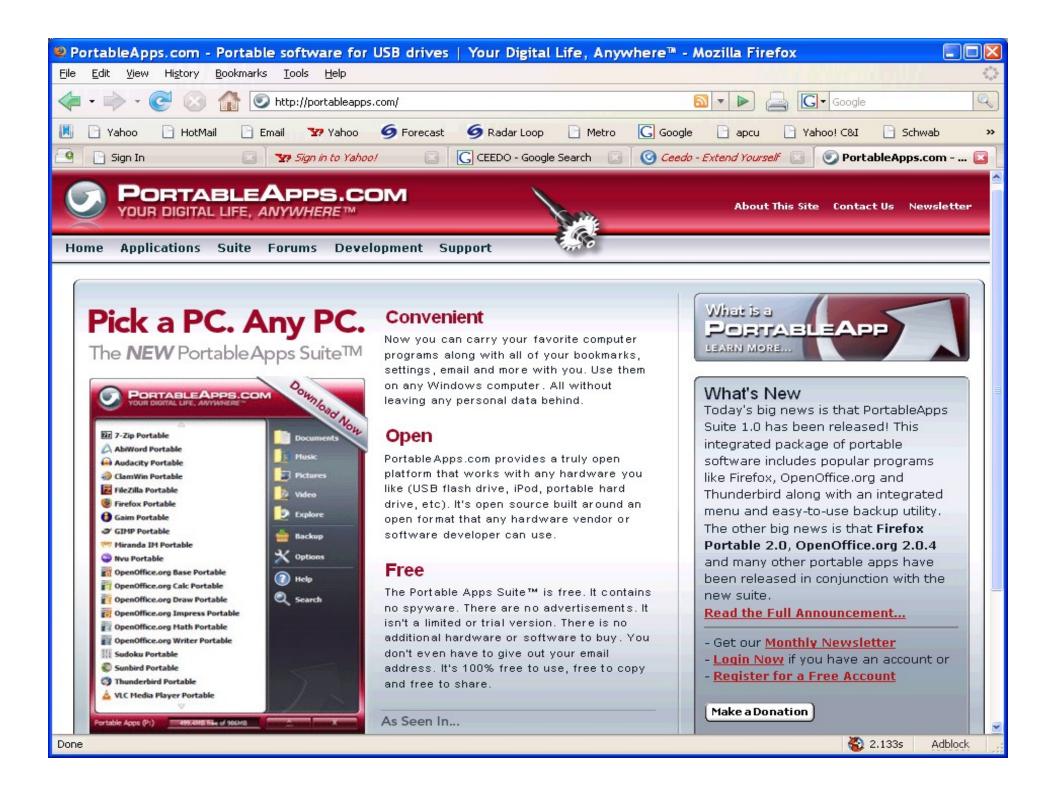
- Protect the stick
- Secure your data
- Encrypt if important
- Take your own scanners
 - Virus / Trojan / Spyware
 - And maybe a firewall
- Separate sticks for Apps & Data ??



Portable Applications

- Two competing USB Stick software tools
 - U3 and CEEDB
 - Software.U3.com
 - Ceedo.org
 - Neither one very good (yet)
 - U3 Getting Better
 - Both have stick-specific licensed clones
 - Lexar, Sandisk, Seagate, etc. offer them.
- LOTS of applications have been converted for use on ANY stick
- LOTS of tools and simple apps are stand-alone .EXE
- Go To Portableapps.Com to get started





My Kit is Based on the Portable Apps. Com Suite



The PortableApps.Com site is a SAFE place to start.

There are portable app collections all over the web.



Install and Customize



- Start with basic apps
- Use everything before you leave town
- Make sure data moves both ways
- Make a backup copy

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Basic Applications

- Browser
- Mail reader
- Spreadsheet
- Presentation tool
- Instant Messaging Client
- Text Editor / Word Processor
- Graphics Editor / Photo Tools

Plan and build your personal stick

- Decide on "Must Have" apps first
- Assure your data can move
- Build and TEST your environment

Back it up before you leave.



Test it Thoroughly

Invested thought and effort before you leave the house/office/country with a memory stick will avoid painful, frantic, last-minute efforts on the road / in front of the customer / in the motel late at night And so forth.

NOW – go build yourself one!

Any Size Can Play



• 256Mb = Browser

• 1Gb = PA Suite

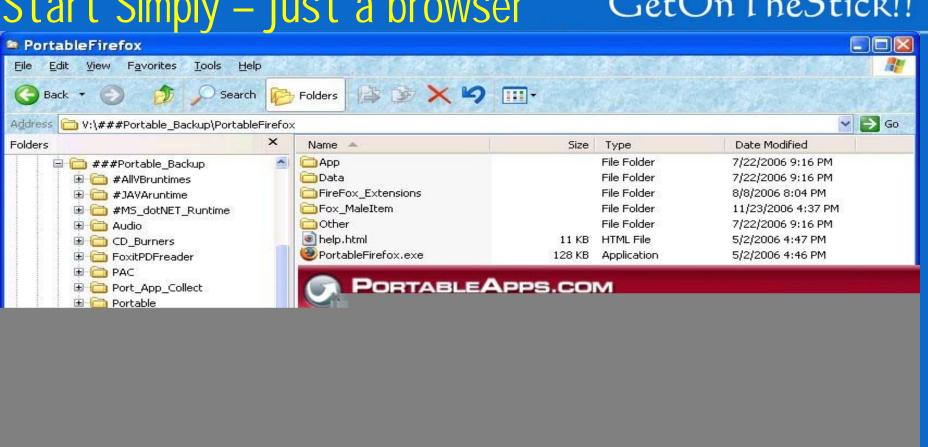


- 512Mb = Basic Set
- 4Gb = Full App Set



Start Simply – just a browser

GetOnTheStick!!



Start Simply



- PortableApps.com
 - Try their suite and add to it later OR -
 - Pick your own set from their list
 - PA suite is a good basic tool set
 - Site provides applications and advice
- Easy to add your own apps to a working "PortableApps" stick



U3 Is still out there

- Still harder to use (just a little)
- Packaging app available
 - Easy to use
 - More apps include ".U3P" installs
 - Some Mainstream tools available
- Getting much better

PortableApps - Suite





LA SA JumpOrive

Helpful Tools

- Goodsync
- Thinstall

PStart

- Stinger
- RootkitRevealer

- -- specific to sticks
- -- creates portable app
 - (Now called ThinApp)
- -- alternate launcher

- -- Standalone virus/trojan scanner
- rootkit detector from Sysinhternals

JumpDrive

Helpful Sites

- PortableApps.com
- PortableAppZ.blogspot.com
- Theinfobox.com
- NedWolf.com
- JohnHaller.com
- Software.U3.com
- Ceedo.org
- Programurl.com/Utilities
- Everythingusb.com
- En.WikiPedia.org/wiki/list_of_portable_software
- The Loose Wire Blog





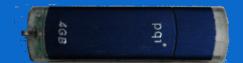
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My Sticks by Type



- Portable Applications
- Technical Toolkit





- Encrypted Data
 - (Under development)
 - (Still risky)



Encrypted Data Problematic



Still some problems with the hardware

Secure USB Memory Stick Hack

by Alan Parekh @ 5:04 am. Filed under Electronic Hacks, Complex Hacks



Not everything that costs lots of money and comes in a velvet case is good quality. Sprites mods has a good article about hacking a "secure" USB memory stick. It seems that the manufacturer broke all the rules when attempting to implement security.

"Seemingly, the checking of the password and the unlocking of the stick are two separate processes, both initiated from the PC. From the point of view of the stick, they're both separate processes and unlocking can happen just fine if no valid password is entered. This is a Big Flaw. As an indication to how big: The best sticks handle all the encryption to/from the flash themselves and don't keep a password at all: the fact that the data can't be decrypted without it makes it safe. The mediocre sticks store a password inside the flash-controller and check it against a password sent by the PC before unlocking the flash-memory. This way, the password can't be found by reading out the flash-chip maually. The bad ones do the same but store the password on flash. The Secustick is even worse than that: it stores the password on flash and lets the PC do the validation, while as soon as the stick gets stolen, the PC it is put into is completely non-trustworthy."

Thanks Geekabit.





Questions



Portable Tools

~ Collected So Far ~

The Sticks







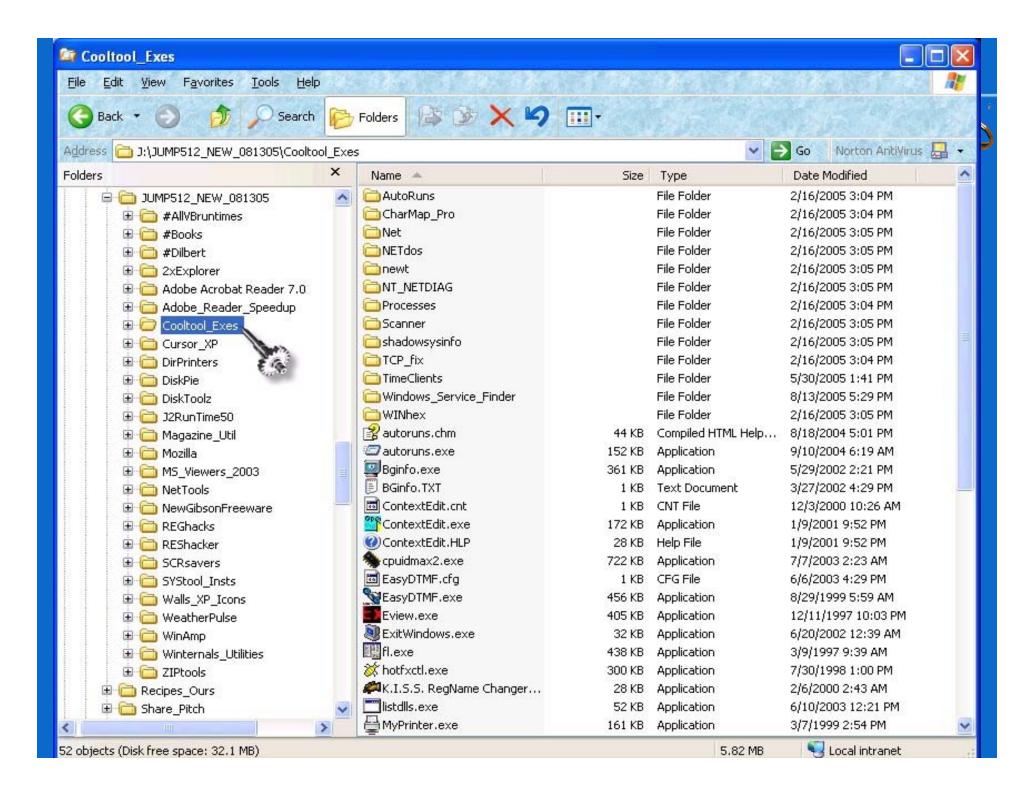






BETTER TO HAVE ONE AND NOT NEED IT THAN THE REVERSE!





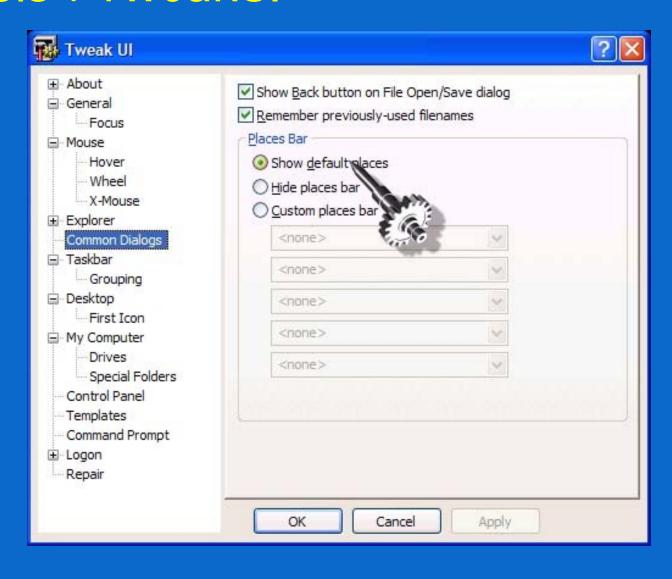


Tools for Defense

- A toolkit is essential for self-defense.
- Decide what you want to do before you select tools.
- A few tools can minimize surprises and improve life quality.
- There are LOTS of tool categories; not everyone needs a tool from each.
- A Sample toolkit is available as a starting point
- My favorites follow some freeware, some shareware, some purchased software.

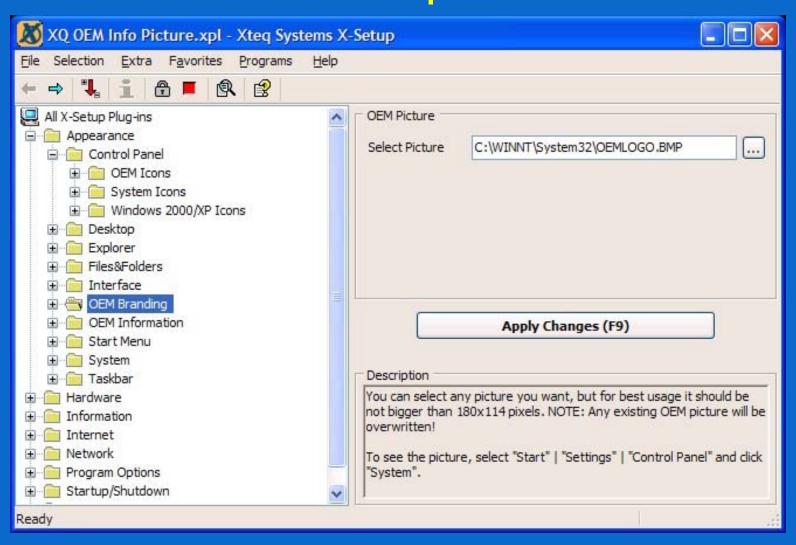
Tools: TweakUI





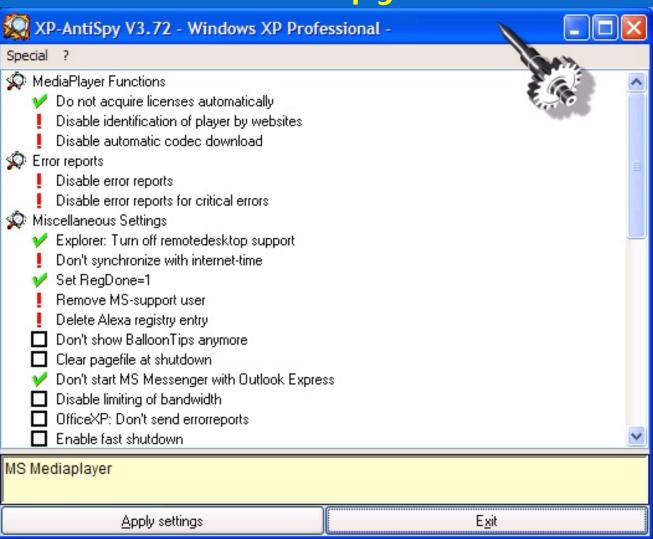
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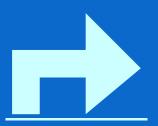
Tools: XTEQ x-setup



Tools: XP Anti-Spy







Tools: XP Anti-Spy



 Control of personal information is always important.



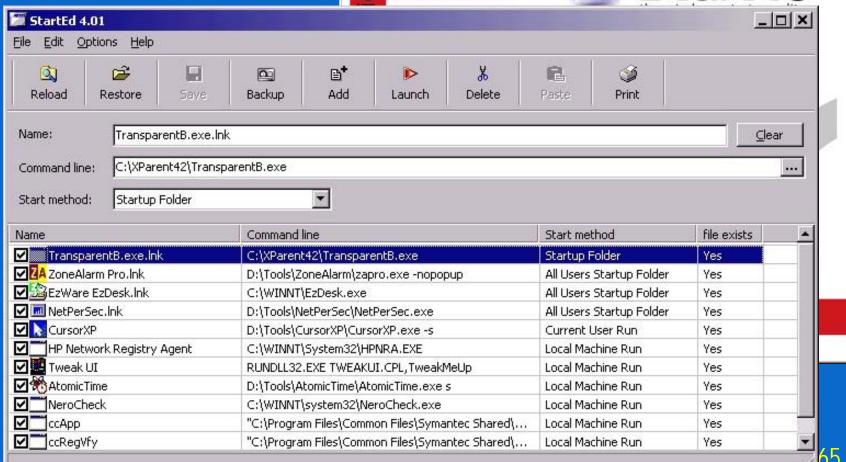
- Produced during the WPA paranoia wave . . . Still useful.
- MS does not always disclose collection and/or destination of information unless coerced.
- Other vendors will copycat.

Tools: StartEd



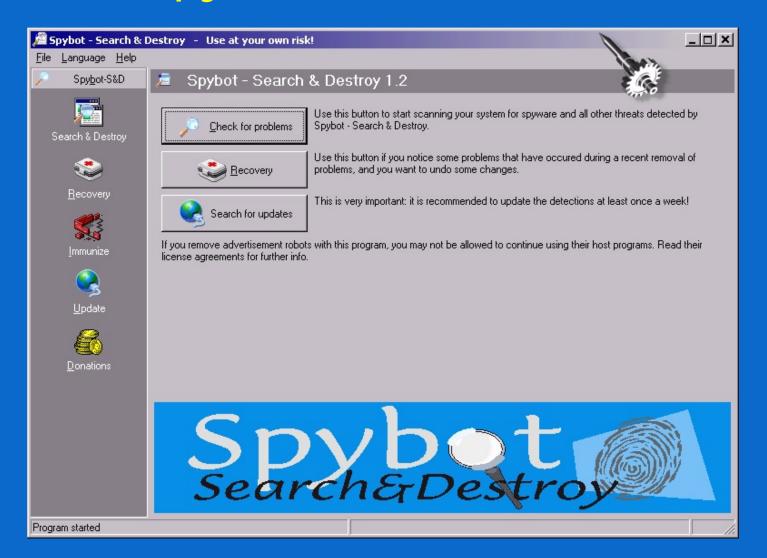
SMARTER, FASTER, AND BETTER THAN MSCONFIG





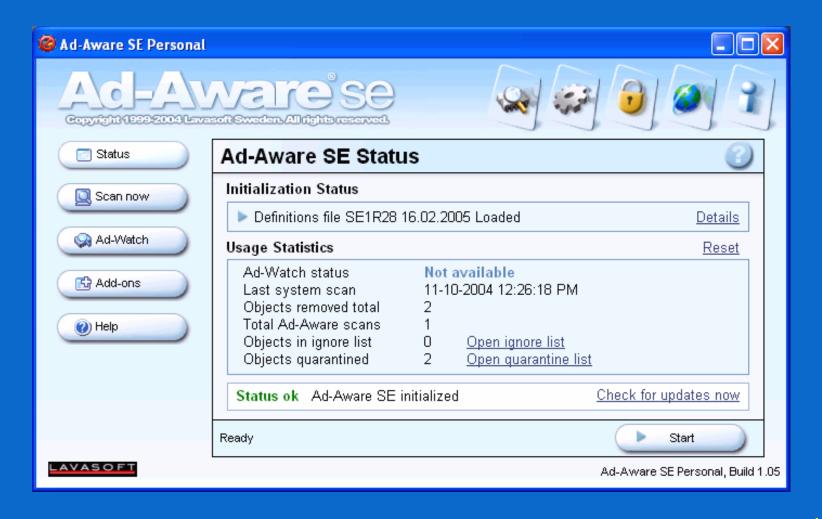
Tools: Spybot





Tools: AdAware SE

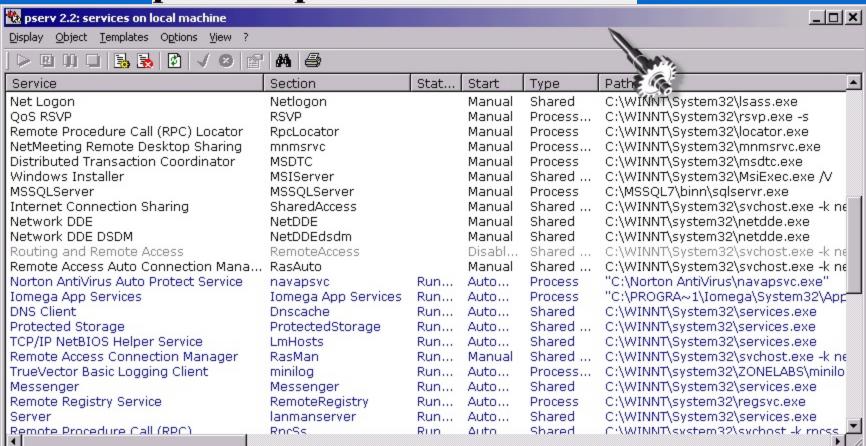




Tools: Pserv

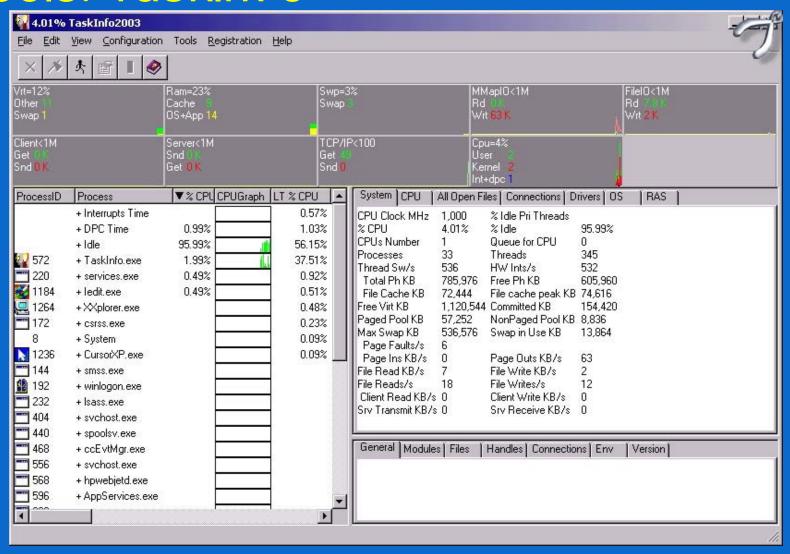


p-nand-q.com



Tools: TaskInfo





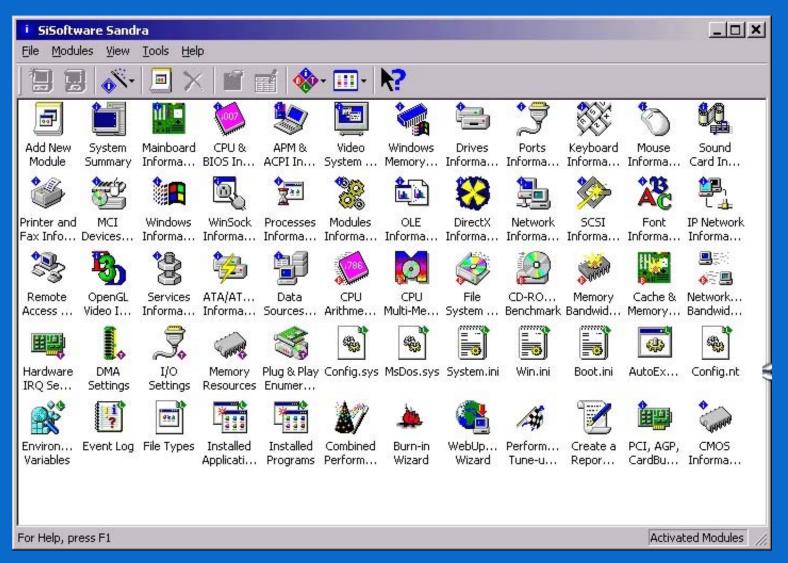
Tools: Fresh Diagnose





Tools: SiSoft Sandra





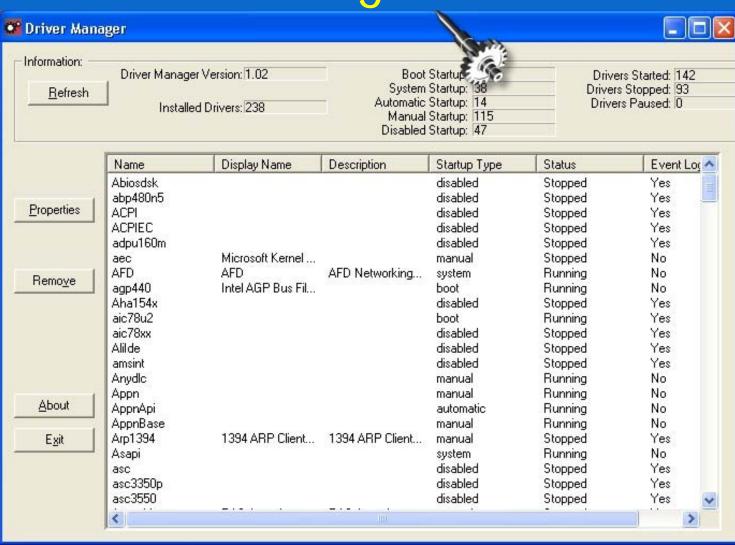


Tools: TCP Network Optimizer

SG TCP Optimizer (Windows XP)	X	
<u>File H</u> elp		
Settings Other Settings MaxMTU Latency (PING) Registry		
O Dialup O DSL O DSL (PPPoE)	Cable Modem	
Network Adapter selection		
Realtek RTL8169/8110 Family Gigabit Ethernet NI	IC <u>▼</u> MaxMTU: 1300	
☐ Don't modify Network Adapters☐ Modify All Network Adapters	IP adress : 10.230.250.142	
TCP Receive Window : 256960	Time to Live (TTL): 64	
MTU Discovery : Yes 🔻		
Black Hole Detect : No	TCP 1323 Options	
Selective ACKs : Yes	☑ Window Scaling	
Max Duplicate ACKs : 2	☐ Timestamps	
 Current settings Optimal settings Ocustom settings 		
Special Colors	Apply changes <u>E</u> xit	

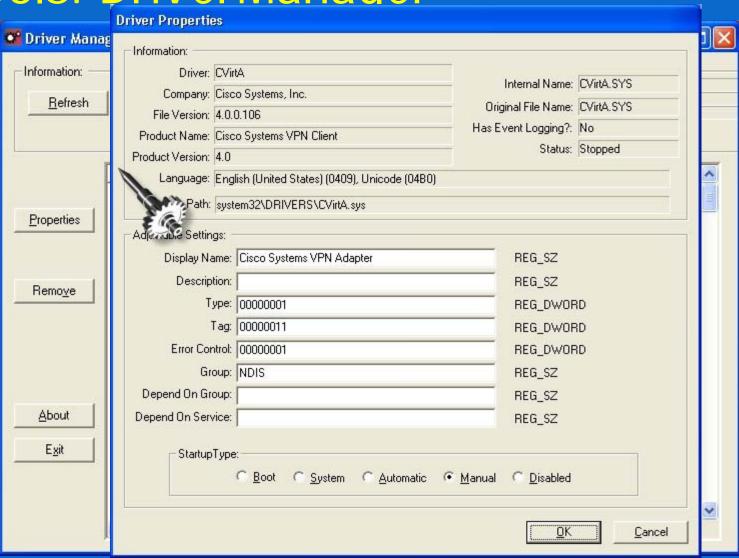
Tools: DriverManager





Tools: <u>DriverManager</u>





DE JumpDrive

Tools: GRC.COM

- Steve Gibson still writes in Assembler
- Several single-use utilities
 - UPNP shutoff
 - Vulnerability tests
 - Raw socket switchoff
 - Network Neighborhood on/off
- All fast, clean & safe
- GRC.COM/download

ToolKit Websites



- Don't forget Microsoft:
 - MS Antispyware beta
 - MS Memory Diagnostic
 - MS Reg Clean
 - TweakUI (and others in XP Powertoys)
 - The Resource kit tools
 - OP Sys Built-in Tools

Tools: MS Management Console map

Certificates	certmgr.msc
Indexing Service	ciadv.msc
Computer Management	compmgmt.msc
Device Manager	devmgmt.msc
Disk Defragmenter	dfrg.msc
Disk Management	diskmgmt.msc
Event Viewer	eventvwr.msc
Shared Folders	fsmgmt.msc
Group Policy	gpedit.msc
Local Users and Groups	lusrmgr.msc
Removable Storage	ntmsmgr.msc
Removable Storage Operator Requests	ntmsoprq.msc
Performance	perfmon.msc
Resultant Set of Policy	rsop.msc
Local Security Settings	secpol.msc
Services	services.msc
Windows Management Infrastructure (WMI)	wmimgmt.msc
Component Services	comexp.msc

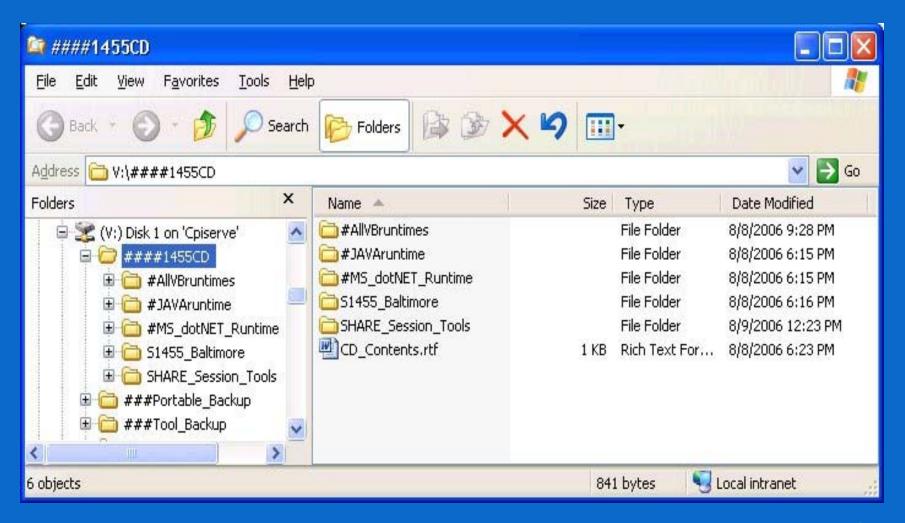


ToolKit Website Pointers

- TweakUI
 - http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.mspx
- XTEQ X-Setup
 - http://www.xteq.com/products/xset/
- XP Anti-spy
 - http://www.xp-antispy.org/
- StartEd
 - http://www.outertech.com
- Spybot S&D
 - http://www.safer-networking.org/en/download/
- Adaware SE
 - http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/
- PServ
 - http://p-nand-q.com/download/pserv_cpl.html
- TaskInfo
 - http://www.iarsn.com/taskinfo.html
- FreshDiagnose
 - http://www.freshdevices.com/freshdiag.html
- SiSoft Sandra
 - http://www.sisoftware.co.uk/dload/sware_figure.php?&a=&langx=en
- TCP Optimizer
 - http://www.speedguide.net/downloads.php
- Driver Manager
 - http://www.l5sg.com/products/downloads/drivermanager/index.php

Session Handout CD





Session Toolkit

