DOWNLOADING & INSTALLING FREE PROGRAMS

How many times have you tried to download a free program by going to the web and tried to download a free program and found the download was free but when you tried to install the program, you found the program was not free after all and they wanted you to give them your credit card. Or you looked and looked and could not find exactly which program was free. Often they try to hide the free program so that you would get frustrated and finally buy the program.

One solution would be to go to the web and search for **"Ninite.com"**. When opening this web site, it is a program that allows for downloading upwards to 100 free programs. Programs for Web Browsers, Messaging, Media, Imaging, Documents, Security, File Sharing, are available. Examples of a few free programs include: Chrome, Safari, Opera, Firefox, Skype, Thunderbird, iTunes, Hulu, Java, Silverlight, Picasa, Paint.NET, Open Office, PDF Creator, Avast, Essentials, Malwarebytes, Spybot, and many others. There are many free programs that I am totally unaware of. I do not recommend downloading or installing programs that I do not understand or know about. A person should always search or "Google" the

program before selecting it. A computer user then chooses programs they want to download and install on their computer. You can download and install one program at a time or select multiple programs at one time. Select all programs desired by clicking on each and those selected will be downloaded and installed at one time after selecting a box at the bottom of the list which says "Get Installer", I keep **"Ninite.com"** on my list of favorites. All the programs are free except for "Office" which is a trial program. Try it!

New Members

Welcome to the following individuals who have joined the Computer Club:

Hugo Bustamante	Cathy Moulton	Richard Starr
Richard Clark	Donna Oehlert	Claryce Thomas
Paul Dicks	Mary Pumphrey	Amanda Thomas
Marvin Dodd	Lora Rolling	Delores Toppen
Mary Doyle	Elaine Roth	Virginia Weiland
Joel Ewing	Cheryl Royer	Jeannene White
Mark Hehl	Diane Schoenbaum	John White
Ivan Hirsch	Ed Shelton	Linda Williams
Jan Larkey	Claudia Shelton	Argie Willis
Sharon L. Larson	Vernon Sidler	

HOW TO USE A FLASH DRIVE TO

BACK UP DATA

"Flash drives are increasingly being used to back up data. Flash drives offer better security, portability and storage capacity than CDs or floppy discs. A flash drive's storage capacity usually ranges between 32 MB to 2 GB. Here is how to use your flash drive to back up data:

1. Determine the exact amount of data you need for backup. This will determine the appropriate size of the flash drive you should use.

2. Note that a majority of flash drives are plug-'n -play on the latest PC operating systems.

3. Plug the flash drive into the USB port of your CPU. Wait until the system detects the drive.

4. Go to "My Computer". Locate the flash drive icon and click on it. This will open the contents of the flash drive. If other data has been previously stored you can add to the drive or if you no longer want to retain the information you can clean the flash drive by formatting it.

5. Open the location of the files or folders such as "Documents" to find the data you wish to back-up. Find the flash drive in the left menu. By clicking on it you can either open it and if you right click on it you will find the format option.

6. Copy or drag the files or folders you wish to store on the flash drive. You can either copy or move the files or data to the flash drive. You can click on the flash drive to either expand it or see the files or folders now stored.

- Classes are currently free for members

- Check the web (www.bvcompclub.org) for dates and times

Sign-up at the General Membership Meeting on October 10tOK. To run System File Checker (hereinafter known as SFC because I'm tired of typing System File Checker) do this:

President De Laney has announced that she will be drawing one name from all computer club members at the conclusion of the clubs membership meeting and awarding that person $20.00 if they are in attendance. It's better than going to the casino!

7. Look for the plus sign (+) on the flash drive icon if you are transferring files without opening the drive's folder. Release the mouse as soon as the plus sign (+) appears. This signifies that the data is now copied to your flash drive.

8. Verify that the data/file is stored by double-clicking the file name in the flash drive explorer window.

9. Ensure you do not disconnect the drive directly from the machine after you have finished storing the files, as it may distort the data.

10. Go to the "Safely Remove Hardware" icon situated at the bottom of the Window's tray. Click "Eject" or the "Remove the Hardware Safely" option when finished.

11. Wait until the "It is now safe to remove the hardware" before unplugging the flash drive that now has the data stored."

The above article from web site: http://ww.ehow.com /how_2019968_use-flashdrive-backup.html

SYSTEM FILE CHECKER

"System File Checker, or SFC, is one of the best features of Windows; it is also one of the least used. And that's too bad. Many computer problems can be easily solved by running it, yet very few people use it. To be honest, we often forget about it too. It just so happens that this week we had a problem with one of our computers, used SFC to repair some system files that had been altered during one of our infamous experiments. Yes, we do things like that sometimes...
The System File Checker is used to scan for missing, altered or corrupted system files and to extract the original (correct) file and replace or repair damaged files. You will find SFC on Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7

Probably one of the reasons why SFC isn't more widely used is because it's not a simple point-and-click program. It requires users to run it from a DOS-like window and enter commands and use command-line switches. But before you decide to skip this tip – with all this talk of DOS boxes and commands and switches – don't skip this tip. Most of you could benefit from this tip, and with just a little patience, all of you could learn to run it. So, hunker down, and we'll make it as simple as possible.

There are only slight differences in these instructions for different versions of Windows. In Windows XP you can run this without opening the Command window with administrator rights, while Vista and Windows 7 users will need to open the Command window as an administrator. While you may be the only person who ever uses your computer, on Vista and Windows 7, you're not, by default, an Administrator. Somewhere in Microsoft's big brain, they've decided Windows is safer if users aren't administrators by default. This must have occurred to them after Windows XP came out. But that's a discussion for another day.

Before you start to run System File Checker, make sure you have your Windows installation disk inserted in your CD/DVD drive. If you want to repair or replace missing, altered or damaged files, that's where Windows is going to get them. If you're one of those who doesn't have a Windows installation CD, the restore (or "recovery") disk that came with your computer should work for you.

Plan on at least 45 minutes to run System File Checker. It may not take it that long but sometimes it can even take longer. Whether or not SFC tells you to, you should reboot after you've run System File Checker, especially if it has repaired or replaced any files.

OK. To run System File Checker (hereinafter known as SFC because I'm tired of typing System File Checker) do this:

Windows XP users – Press the Windows Key + the "R" key. In the Run command line type CMD and press enter.

Windows Vista and Windows 7 users: Click Start, All Programs, System Tools, Accessories, and right-click on "Command Prompt" and select "Run as administrator". This is important. If you don't do this, you won't be able to do any of the following.

OK. Now that you're all sitting there with a big black box on your screen (we hope), you need to type in some commands. DOS stuff is not very forgiving, so you have to type these commands exactly – and spaces are important too.

To run SFC so that it scans and replaces/repairs altered, missing, or damaged Windows System Files, type the following at the cursor:
SFC /SCANNOW

(Note: there is a space between SFC and the backslash, see it? Good. Don't forget that space!)

Here are some other commands and switches you can use with SFC such as SFC /SCANFILE and SFC /SCANVERIFY

There are other SFC commands and switches you can use, but for us and most of you, the only command you'll need to use is:

SFC /SCANNOW

So there you go. Try System File Checker to check the integrity of your Windows system files. It works well and can fix some of those common, nagging Windows errors."

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IN WINDOWS 7 & VISTA, HOW DO I CREATE A SYSTEM REPAIR DISC?

1. From the Start menu, select "Control Panel".
2. Click "Backup and Restore", and then on the left, choose "Create a System Repair Disc".
3. Select a drive, and then click "Create Disc".

Note: *System Repair discs contain security-sensitive information; keep them in a safe location.* **This method is very easy!**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

"**John:** There are a lot of different software programs that claim they can erase files and data from the hard drive so that they cannot be recovered by anyone. Have you ever used any of these programs and if so which ones would you recommend?

Our Answer: There is one free program which works well and it is one which we have used for many years. It's called "Eraser" and there is nothing simpler to use. You can download "Eraser" free (no spyware or adware of course) by going on the web.

When you delete a file from Windows, it is not really deleted. Deleting a file simply frees up the space that the file occupied so that space can be used for other things. In other words, deleting a four-megabyte file simply tells Windows that the four-megabytes of space once occupied by that file is now available for use. The file still exists and can be recovered. You can never erase a file, you can, however render it virtually unrecoverable by overwriting it many times with data. This is how Eraser works. It overwrites the space occupied by the deleted file many times with random characters, effectively rendering the deleted file unrecoverable. The more times the freed space is over-written the less likely it could be recovered.

The FBI and some law enforcement agencies have access to expensive powerful software recovery programs that can even extract data from damaged hard drives. The reason why most law-abiding citizens would want to thoroughly erase data is to prevent the recovery of passwords, social security numbers and credit card information from their hard drives. Anything you type or do in Windows leaves a trail somewhere. It's best to

Renew your membership now!

Join the Bella Vista Computer Club and receive computer club member benefits (free classes until January 1st, open house assistance for your computers and information to help you use your computer). A real bargain at $20.00/year for a member and $10.00 for a spouse.

COMPUTER CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS

November 2011: "Addressing Envelopes and Xmas Letters"

December 2011: "Windows 8 Program"

Be sure to plan to attend each meeting and bring friends and neighbors on the second Monday of each month.

(**Questions & Answers continued:**

erase all sensitive information before selling your computer. Simply deleting the files is not enough."

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