

BUTTONS

These are the available Buttons:

Loads an EasyClean selection (*.ECS) file. This file contains all data about the selections you can do on the three selection pages under 'Select registry and drives'. (see [selections](#) too)

Saves an EasyClean selection (*.ECS) file. So you can retrieve a special selection. (see [selections](#) too)

If you load a result file (next button) your current selections will be overridden by the ones being used to build up the result file. So you can see which selections were used to generate the differences between two configurations.

If you leave EasyClean, you have the chance to store the current selections as default for the next start. If you do not save them, EasyClean will use the selections of the last startup. You can save any selection as next default. Use LAST.ECS to save the selection.

Load the results of a comparison. If you click the compare button, the results of this comparison will be saved using the given filename. You can retrieve this information later when you decide to uninstall a program.

Note: If you load a logfile, the selection, which was used during that comparison is loaded, too. This is the information for you to check, which selections have been used to build the comparison. This means on the other hand that you'll lose your current selection when you load a logfile.

Stores the current configuration to OldCfg.ECD (automatically). This is needed later, to compare two configurations. Please press this button BEFOR you install a new Software. (You don't need this button if you use 'chaining (incremental compare)').

Stores the current configuration to NewCfg.ECD (automatically) and starts to compare the current and the previously stored configuration. Therefore it asks you for the filename of the result file (logfile) which will contain the changes of both configurations. This filename should be the same as the installed program, so that you can retrieve the installation data, if you decide to uninstall the program.

This is nearly the same as the prior button, but it renames the NewCfg.ECD file to OldCfg.ECD after the comparison. So you don't have to store the current information again when you want to install the next program. If you use only this button, you will build a complete chain of all installation data between pressing this button.



Using this button, you can refresh your views. This will be done at startup of EasyClean automatically, so you can see the new folders and registry-keys to select them.

If a parent folder or key is chosen or greyed, all new folders (or keys) will be watched automatically, you don't have to explicitly select them.

(Please use 'Clear selections' from the 'file'-menu to update the list of drives, only folders will be refreshed using this button)

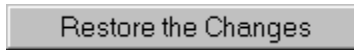


Using this, you can revert to the previous state and remove **all** changes with one click. This

means all changes to the registry, the filesystem and the systemfiles will be restored. Prior this action proceeds you'll get an information window to confirm the actions. If you are not sure, you can press 'Cancel' here.

Another way to get this result, is to click with the right mouse button on the very first entry in every result window.

Caution: This Command could be dangerous, perhaps files you still need will be deleted, or unwanted values are restored to the registry.



To remove changes and revert to the previous state just click with the right mouse button on a Item (either in the treeview or in the listview, see concept of EasyClean too).



this button starts the step-by-step wizard, which guides you through the program.

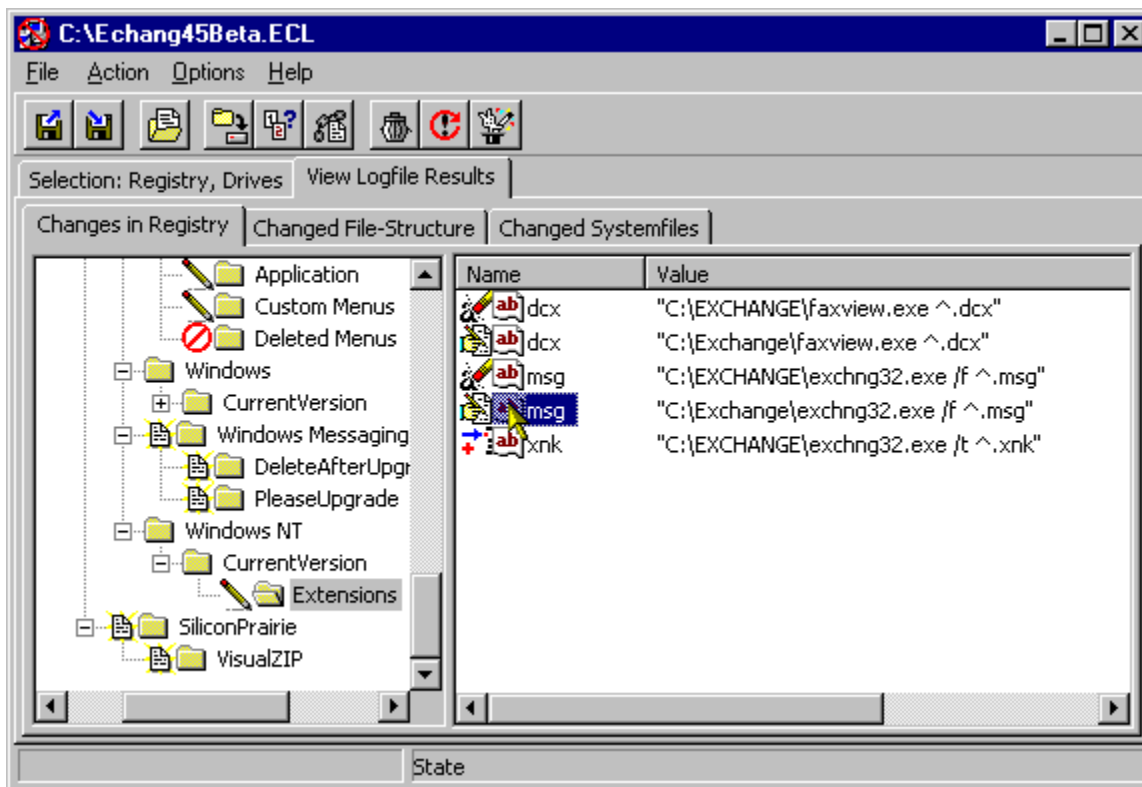
CONCEPT OF EASYCLEAN

The Concept of EasyClean is very easy:

(start the step by step Wizard  to do all these steps)

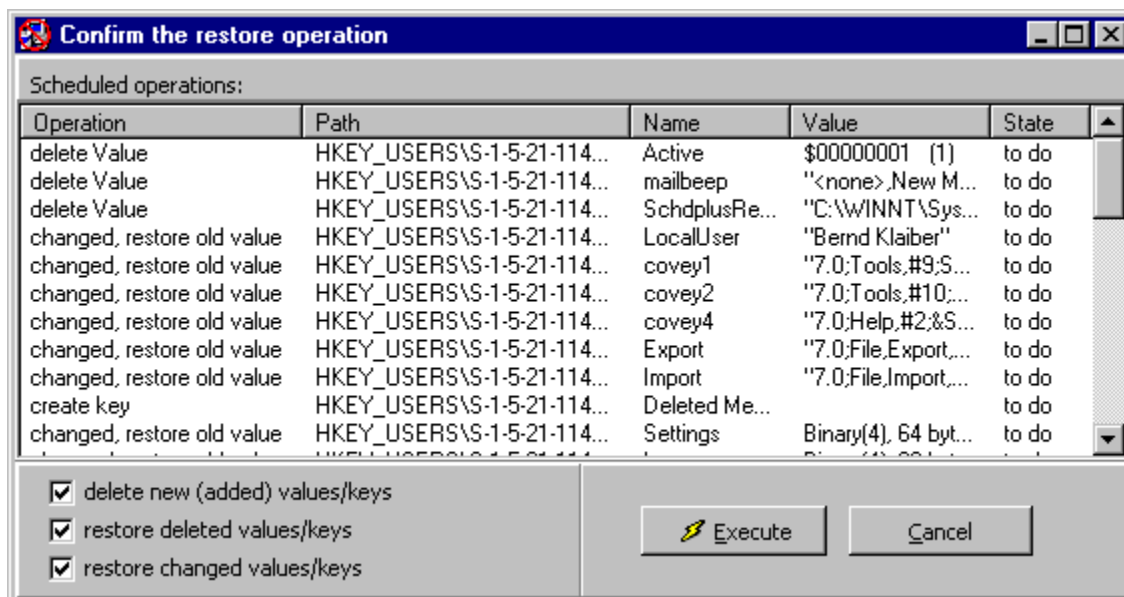
EasyClean divides his workplace in two main-screens (see [the 2 main screens](#))

1. You should select the items you want to watch.
2. You have to store a snapshot of the current configuration Use this BEFORE you install your new software. EasyClean will store all the configuration data. This is necessary to detect changes later during a comparison.
3. Install your new software or manipulate your configuration files. EasyClean can be closed first, you don't have to keep it running.
4. Now store the current configuration and compare this one to the old one(see 2.) (both steps are done with one click here). You have to specify a filename for this comparison. You can do this even a week later, so you don't have to do this immediately after installation. But then the list of changes will be very long.
5. Now you can see all the changes on the screen.



To restore the old value, or to delete a file/dir just click with the right mouse button on an item (or

a tree) to see the following screen:(multiselect is allowed in the listview, like in the Explorer). Now EasyClean lists all restore actions, so you can confirm the restore operation.




First you will see a detailed List of the actions EasyClean will perform.

You are now able to choose just a group of operations, e.g. only operations to restore altered values.

Now press the 'Execute'-button and your old Configuration will be restored.

The status of each Operation will be shown, so you can see if the restore operation did work properly.

Another way to get this result, is to click 'restore all'  , you'll get the window shown above but **all** changes will be removed.

If you remove all the changes without looking what you are doing, the system can crash. Use this only if you know what you are doing.

That' s all, and its that easy.

CONTENTS

EASYCLEAN 32

EasyClean is a deinstallation system. It is a very powerful tool to obey all the software installed on your computer. EasyClean is designed and tested for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. The major strength of EasyClean is handling changes in the Windows registry. This should no longer be a grave for information!

This powerful tool is designed for advanced users, who wants to keep the registry, directories and ini-files clean.

THIS PROGRAM WILL DELETE FILES AND INFORMATION IN YOUR CONFIGURATION FILES. So it is not a tool for beginners.

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INTRODUCTION

During the creation of this helpfile, I tried to explain several concepts of the program and Windows. Some explanations might be a little complicated, excuse me. Unfortunately are the topics of software-in/destallation not so easy. I know that other products can do all the work by clicking one button. I think you know, where this 'one-button-concept' leads to... This software provides you with the complete information about whats going on on your machine.

Nevertheless you can press a 'remove-all'-button too.


This product is not like others, it can't perform miracles (like others can do). So I want to give you a look behind the scenes, so you can see yourself, what is possible and what's impossible.


The Author (Bernd Klaiber).

MENU COMMANDS

The Menu contains the same functions as the buttons, so here are only the additional functions announced:


(see [Buttons](#) also)


'File | Load selection' : 

'File | Save selection' : 

"File | Clear Selections" :

Use this to reset all the selections (normally the selections are saved in Last.ECS and restored at startup)

'Action | store current version' : 

'Action | compare (create logfile)' : 

'Action | Inkremental compare' : 


'Action | Advanced | Save configuration as'

This is a powerful function. You can store the current configuration with a name of your choice. (normally EasyClean uses only OldCfg.ECD and NewCfg.ECD to store this data)

'Action | Advanced | Compare two configurations'

Use this to compare two configurations of your choice. So you can obey all changes during a long period (you can use the normal compare function several times, then create a major logfile for a bunch of installations). Use this together with 'Action | Advanced | Save configuration as'.

'Action | refresh view' : 

'Action | remove all' : 

'Help | Help' : Here you can call this helpfile (or F1)

'Help | Info' : Version- and copyright-Info

'Help | Register' : Call this item to enter the registration key which you'll receive after registration.

QUICKSTART EASYCLEAN

You can QuickStart EasyClean, if you double click on a selection file (*.ECS), or on a logfile (*.ECL).

The file you clicked on, will be loaded automatically.

REGISTER - LICENCE AGREEMENT

If you register, you purchase the right to use EasyClean.

Please help to improve this Software and send me a bugreport (if you find a bug). I'll try to fix bugs and will offer newer versions to customers.

latest versions available at: <http://www.idv.de/homepages/bernd>

This is SHAREWARE.

This is a commercial product, which is protected by the german copyright law.

If you want to use this program you have to register first. Version 1,04 is freely distributable and is shareware. You can test version 1.04 for 45 days.

For to register your version of EasyClean you need a password. This password will be sent to you by e-mail via compuserve or internet, so there are no additional costs for shipping.

email: see the INFO-Window too

registrationfee: EasyClean

\$45 via Compuserve # SWREG 12657

or

\$45 or DM 65,-- via cheque (best is EuroCheque)

or

\$40 or DM 60,-- or SFR50,-- cash (sent in an envelope via mail)

to Bernd Klaiber, Ginsterweg 66, 75323 Bad Wildbad / Germany (Tel:07085 7124 from Germany (0049-7085 7124 from most countries))

or

EUROCARD/Mastercard accepted

Internet:

bernd.klaiber@idv.de (fastest way for me)

101626.363@compuserve.com

web: <http://www.idv.de/homepages/bernd>

CIS:

101626,363

If you are not able to use Compuserve email me or phone me and we'll find a Solution.

Every user accepts the following terms without exclusion, or has to stop using this Software.

DISCLAIMER - Licence Agreement

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But at last have fun with this useful (i hope so) software.

(Windows is a Trademark of Microsoft)

REGISTRY CONCEPTS

Since Windows 95 all informations (that have been stored in INI-files before) stored in the registry. This is a centralized database which is managed by Windows. The registry is a good invention but this leads into troubles too: every program does load his 'garbage' into the registry. A growing registry slows down your system and consumes disk-storage.

A lot of programs comes with their own deinstaller. Unfortunately are these uninstallers quick and dirty, test it yourself.

I don't want to talk too much about the registry, see several magazines like byte, pcpro... .

One thing I want to mention here:

You don't have to watch the Key:'HKEY_Current_User', if you watch 'HKEY_Users', because this is a part of it.

You don't have to watch the Key:'HKEY_Classes_Root' seperately, because this is part of 'HKEY_Local_machine'.

SELECTION

First you should select the items or drives you want to watch. Simply click on the small rectangle to select (or deselect) an item.

Notes:

EasyClean stores only the Keys and Drives which are grayed or selected.

This selection will be used while comparing the files (not while storing), so you can deselect trees, which should not be scanned (while comparison). Greyed items are watched too.

(see [Selections](#))

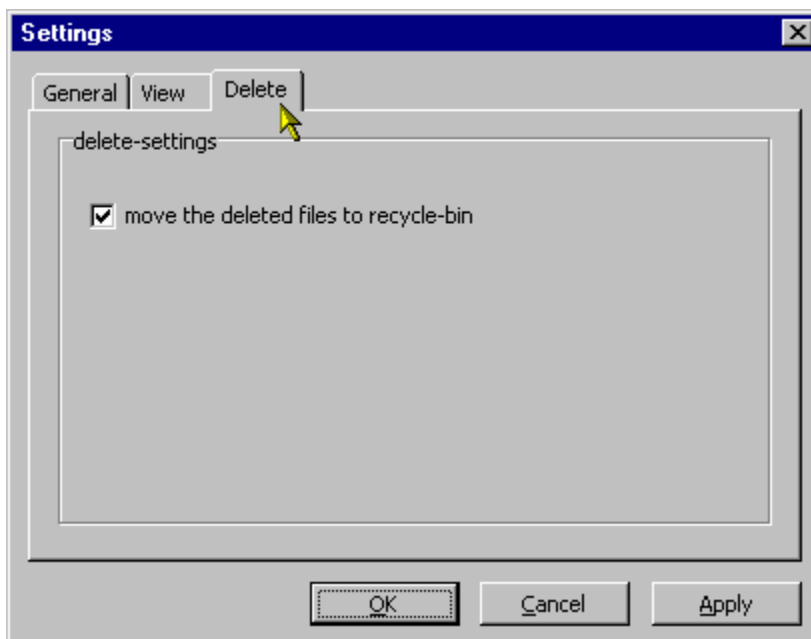
SETTINGS

On the settings page you can specify files which should not be checked. Sure you want to watch the Windows directory, so you have to select it in the drive selection window. There are some files, that change very often: WIN386.SWP or PAGEFILE.SYS, the Windows-Swap-File.

Just add these files on the Settings page for not to check this file.

You can also add these files to the list by using the right mouse key (popupmenu) in the DriveSelection Window (on the list of files). There is multiple file selection allowed. (use this way, either if you have problems with the ADD-Button: there can be an access violation error, or if you want to add many files)

ATTENTION: the list of files which should not be checked are saved with the selection file. So each time you load a result file this list will be overridden by that list, which was active while building the result file.



Settings:

Use the Menü Options|Settings to change the settings of EasyClean:

'General'

You can also specify the path to your autoexec.bat and config.sys (C:\ by default).

You can specify the string which will be shown for the standard key, and an empty key of the registry.

'View'

On the second page ('view') you can choose several color settings. This is only funny stuff without deeper sense.

'Delete'

On the third page you can choose the deletion settings:

You can move the file to recycle.bin while deleting.


NOTE: All these settings are saved persistent when you leave the dialog pressing 'OK'. The size

of the windows and the positions of the bars are saved automatically when you leave EasyClean.


SO CAN YOU TEST EASYCLEAN

This is an instruction to test the power of EasyClean:


1. Start EasyClean and choose the areas to watch (perhaps use 'File | Clear selection').

Don't forget to select the drive you want to use during installation. Press now .

2. Install a big software (like Office 97) on your computer.
NOTE: this must be the first time you install this software on this computer.
Now start the program (see [start program after installation](#)).

3. Now create a logfile . Now you can see all the changes on your system.

4. Start now the uninstaller that ships with the installed software. And try to remove the software with it.

5. Create now another logfile . Now you should see, which parts the uninstaller did not remove. If there is not much left, it was a good uninstaller. But usually there are a lot of files and registry entries left. You can now use EasyClean to remove even these parts.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problems can be caused by destroyed, crippled or manipulated files.

First thing you can do is to clear the selection list (File|Clear SelectionList).

If this is not enough, please delete (or rename) the following files manually:

LAST.ECS (the current selection file)

OLDCFG.ECD

NEWCFG.ECD (configuration files)

now restart the program.

If you need more help, you can contact me via email:

Internet:

Bernd.Klaiber@IDV.de (fastest way)

101626.363@Compuserve.com

CIS:

101626,363

VERSION HISTORY

Version 0.97 Beta: first public release for real Betatesters

Version 0.98 Beta:

sometimes an empty key is still left in the registry, this one will be deleted now too
much better presentation of the Confirm-List (that list you'll get if you choose 'remove the changes')

Version 0.99 Beta:

Now you can see more System Folders (e.g. Recent, Recycled) (they were checked in earlier versions, but you were not able to deselect these folders)
New File-Format for the Result and Selection files: the NotToCheck Filelist is stored in these files and not in the registry
Add Files to the NotToCheckList with a right mouseclick (multiselection possible) in the Drive-Selection Window
The 'delete'-key now works to delete a file from the NotToCheckList on the page settings
Sometimes there was an error if a TreeView didn't show the very top item - corrected
Performance is better now, because EasyClean does now only save the keys of the registry which are selected (or grayed), so you can deselect the key 'HKey_Users' to improve performance

Version 1.01 First Final Release:

EasyClean is running with Windows NT 4.0, too.
Now you can refresh your view
You can choose to save the selections
Now each restore operation has its own error-handling, so you can continue, if a operation fails. All results can be viewed after the restore operation.
Some small bugs corrected

Version 1.02 Final:

Helpfile does now only show Bitmaps with 16 colors (a proper view for systems running only 256 colors).
Bug while registering fixed
Bug while previewing the restore set (wrong Key was displayed) fixed

Version 1.03 Final:

step by step Wizard guide you through (only for beginners).
you are now able to move deleted files to RECYCLE.BIN
new drives (e.g. mapped drives) are updated in the view (at startup or refresh button)
splash screen added

Version 1.04 Final:

restore all command button

Version 1.04.1 Final:

'corrupt registry'-error solved
some smaller bugs corrected

VERY EXACT WATCH FUNTIONS

As you will see, EasyClean is very exact while checking for changes, even a changed filedate will be noticed.

These are the information which will be noticed:

Registry:

- deleted Keys
- new keys
- deleted Values
- new Values
- changed Values

all changes can be restored to the prior situation.

Drives:

- deleted directories
- new directories
- deleted files
- new files

changed files (size, date and attributes)

only new files and directories can be deleted. Deleted files can **not** be restored

Infiles:

EasyClean is watching win.ini, system.ini, config.sys, and autoexec.bat:

- deleted Keys
- new keys
- deleted Values
- new Values
- changed Values

all changes can be restored to the prior situation (Win.ini & System.ini). This will not work for Autoexec.bat and Config.sys, these ones have to be restored manually.

WINNT USERS ONLY

EasyClean is running on NT 4.0 now, too. (it should work with 3.51, too, but I didn't test it). NT is using the security concept even in the registry, Win95 does not. So it can happen, that EasyClean reports a changed value, but you can't restore it, because you don't have the necessary trustees.

In most cases you can manage this problem if you login as ADMINISTRATOR.

WINDOWS NT AND WIN 95 THE SAME TIME

For Users who use both platforms, it is recommended to use two separate Folders to run EasyClean.

If not, EasyClean will be confused, because the stored files do not match the current structure of the registry. It is also better to separate the result-files.

SELECTIONS

EasyClean can watch the configuration selectively. So you should specify exactly, which information should be watched.

This is very important to now, because if you do not select any information items, EasyClean will not report any changes.

A nice feature: When you press the Control key while expanding or collapsing a branch this will lead into a recursive action, so you can expand all children (and their children...) too.

Notes:

It is recommended not to select the branch: HKEY_USERS, **and** HKEY_CURRENT_USER, because if a program changes the registry under HKEY_CURRENT_USER, the same changes will be done automatically under HKEY_USERS\active user'. If EasyClean then tries to change both changes, there can be unknown effects.

Better do not watch for the following path:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\SharedDLLs. Proper Installation routines will increment the counter for a common used DLL. In most cases such installation routines have a deinstall-function itself, which decrements the counter properly.

The following case will lead into trouble:

1. You store the configuration.
2. The installation routine will increment the counter.
3. You run the compare function of EasyClean. This reports the following: New Value: Dummy.DLL : 1.
4. You install another program which increments the value from 1 to 2.
5. You want to deinstall the first program with EasyClean. Now EasyClean will delete the whole entry, because this is the prior situation. So be careful not to remove the whole branch HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE.

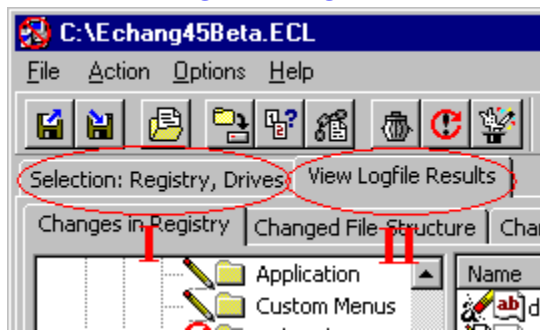
In both cases you can select the critical branches and see which changes are made. But if you click the root with the right mouse to remove all changes, then there will occur these strange effects.

START PROGRAM AFTER INSTALLATION

After the installation of your new software you should run it once before you return to EasyClean. Most of the programs store their settings not only during the installation but during the first start. To log these modifications too, it is recommended to start the program once, open some windows... then return to EasyClean and create the logfile (resultfile).

Note: Don't forget to return to EasyClean while you are experience all the new features of the installed program. You have to create the logfile which is needed for a later deinstallation.

THE 2 MAIN SCREENS



EasyClean has two main screens:

I: Selection: Registry, Drives - Specify here, which areas of the system should be watched. This Window divides itself in these areas:

Registry - the windows registry database (see [registry concepts](#))

Drives - the filestructure of your computer. All harddisks and folders are shown here.

Systemfiles - Ini-files like 'Win.ini', 'System.ini', and startfiles like 'Config.sys' and 'Autoexec.bat'

Options/Icons - the meaning of the icons is shown here

To select a branch (key) just check the small box. If the checkbox is grayed, at least one of the subkeys is selected, but not all subkeys.

II : View Logfile Results - Here you can see the changes and restore the changes.

This area is again divided into 3 subareas which correspond to these ones of the first main area (see above).

To restore a special branch of the tree just click with the right mouse-button onto the left part of the window. To restore a single value, click the left part of the window. You will see a context-menu where you can choose 'remove changes'.

