

Synovative Technology

The Home of Do-It-Yourself PC Maintenance

August 2009 Newsletter

Weekly Update - FileHippo Update Checker

There are times when the FileHippo Update Checker seems to finish early. For example, when you update JAVA, the update process requires that you close all browser windows that are open, including the Update Checker window. When you do this, the FileHippo Update Checker list is lost. Before you click OK on the SOUP continuation window, you should consider starting the FileHippo Update Checker from your menu system to make sure that all updates have been processed.

Anti-Virus Protection - a plug for Norton Antivirus 2009

From time to time we review our decision to use AVG instead of Norton Anti-Virus. Users with AVG have had a few virus infections this year. We believe that they all came from Trojan horse type viruses. We have not seen the same impact with Norton Anti-virus. Yes, we use both. Yes, neither has allowed a virus on any of our machines.

What we like about Norton Anti-virus is its mini-update process. Unlike AVG that builds a group of updates and performs a daily update, Norton Anti-Virus will perform several mini-updates during the day. This technique reduces the impact on your system's performance that these update cause, especially at start up.

If you migrate to Norton Anti-Virus, the base product is all you really need unless you have children and want parental controls. Then you would need Norton Internet Security. Norton 360 is overkill. The Norton products come in a 3-pack (good for up to 3 home PCs) and is priced under \$50 at Costco.

Windows 7

Microsoft plans to release a new version of their operating system in October. It is currently referred to in the press as Windows 7.

What does this mean to you?

- If your internet experience is currently too slow, just upgrading to Windows 7 will only make it slower.
- If your PC is sluggish now, upgrading to Windows 7 will only make it slower.
- The bottom line is DO NOT Upgrade an old XP machine.
- Windows 7 is a lot like Windows Vista. Find a friend with Vista installed and have a long look at it and MS Office 2007.

What options do you have?

- Before you give up on Windows XP, make sure you have at least 1 GB of main memory. If you have less, you may find that this addition of memory will speed things up.
- Before you upgrade a Windows Vista machine, make sure you have at least 2 GB of main memory. If you have less, you may find that this addition of memory will speed things up.
- Do not buy closeout, low end or inexpensive PCs and expect to upgrade to Windows 7 and have the performance you desire.
- If you decide you need more speed, buy a new PC with Windows 7 and MS Office already installed. Then realize that it will get slower as you add programs.

Checking your memory size

It is quite easy to check your current PC memory and determine by how much main memory can be increased. Yes, some older machines may hit their maximum at low values and may not be upgradeable..

Surf to <http://www.crucial.com> , the home page for Crucial, a PC memory vendor. Click on the "Scan My Computer" button. The web site will then download to your PC a program to perform the scan. (You may need to give the download permission to occur.) Follow the on-screen directions and you should quickly know how much memory is inside your PC and what your options are for adding more memory.

If you want to increase your memory you have a couple of choices:

- Buy it from Crucial and install it yourself
- Print the Crucial report and take it and your computer to your favorite computer store to have the upgrade performed.

What is the current version of SOUP?

SOUP 9.5.22 is the latest version. If you are not running this version, we strongly suggest that you run the SOUP Web Update Utility to get it. IF you have any issues getting this update, simply uninstall your version of SOUP and download the current version from the Download page of the Synovative web site.

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Contact Tech Support, using the Request for Support program, if you have any issues.
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