Synovative Technology
The Home of Do-It-Yourself PC Maintenance

November 2009 Newsletter

SOUP and your new NetBook

We have seen a new NetBook and we like the technology very much. The NetBook we tested was an ASUS eeePC with 2 GB of Memory and an 8 hour battery life. The machine was bought from Amazon.com. The 2 GB upgrade was a user installation process to replace the standard 1 GB of Memory (something we do not recommend for the casual user.) We were very reluctant to add lots of software as each new program might slow down an already "not so speedy" machine. We loaded AVG anti-virus, CCleaner, Filehippo Update Checker and SOUP. We then added Word and PowerPoint from Microsoft Office. We did not load the entire Microsoft Office suite.

One of the things that led to the selection of the ASUS NetBook was a comparison document on the web. You might want to read it at:

http://www.netbookcrunch.com/ratings/
http://compreviews.about.com/od/netbooks/tp/netbooks.htm

NetBooks are designed to provide web browsing and web based email with wireless access in a very small package. It weighs only a couple of pounds, is small in size and travels well.

NetBooks usually do not have any drive with removable media. No floppy, no CD reader/burner nor a DVD reader/burner. These devices may be purchased separately and connected to the NetBook via a USB connection. It is also possible to share these drives from your desktop for use by the NetBook.

Backup of documents presents an interesting challenge. One can use a USB attached second hard drive, such as the Western Digital "My Passport elite." But the second hard drive may be just one more thing that adds unwanted weight or gets "lost" in transit. We suggest that the network connection be used and that SOUP Backup use a "mapped" drive to your home desktop PC's second drive. When on the road there will be

no backup. When you return home the SOUP Backup process will work (over the wireless/wired LAN connection in your home.)

Windows 7

Microsoft has released a new version of their operating system, Windows 7. We are working hard to verify that SOUP does work on the released version of Windows 7. We expect to have SOUP working with Windows 7 before the end of the first quarter of next year. We will keep you posted.

What is the current version of SOUP?

SOUP 9.5.23 is the latest version.

Several enhancements have been incorporated in this version. A new compiler and changes to SOUP Configuration, StartUp Assistant and Backup and Shutdown.

The weekly job, in StartUp Assistant, will now allow you to re-scan and change the programs you run during the weekly job. You no longer need to run SOUP Configuration to do this.

Backup and Shutdown will now accommodate Quicken and Quickbooks backup folders for backup along with all your other backed up data. Create and set Quicken and Quickbooks backup folders in the root of your C drive. In SOUP Configuration, enable their backup and enter the path to these backup folders. Backup and Shutdown will then save all fo the backup files kept in these backup folders with the usual SOUP backup files to your second hard drive.

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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