

RevoUninstaller

This is a small, *free* program which I feel everyone should consider having on their computer.

Normally when a person wants to delete a program from a computer they go to Control Panel and use the Windows Add/Remove feature to remove the program. When one uses this feature it will trigger the program's own uninstaller to remove itself, if it has one, or Windows will remove it. Unfortunately, a program's built in uninstaller, and the Windows uninstaller, seldom go into the Registry to remove all of the Registry entries that have been placed there, nor do they remove all of the folder entries that have been created. A classic example of this are Symantec products (Norton Anti-virus, etc.)

When one uses RevoUninstaller to remove a program it will initiate the program's own uninstaller, if it has one, and then after the program has uninstalled itself, RevoUninstaller goes two steps further and checks for left over registry entries and folders. As an example, I recently removed a Norton Anti-virus program from a club laptop and after Norton had removed itself RevoUninstaller found an amazing 1,339 Norton entries in the Registry that the Norton uninstaller failed to remove, along with a number of folder entries. The problem here is that if *all* of the registry entries are not removed you may find yourself with error messages that later pop up, regarding the removed program. This can be very typical of Symantec products.

To use RevoUninstaller simply click on the RevoUninstaller icon. The program will open and show you all of the programs installed on your computer. Select the program you want to uninstall and click on that program's icon.

After selecting a program to uninstall, and saying “yes”, the “Uninstall Mode” screen will appear, giving you the opportunity to select which “Mode” you want to use. The “moderate” mode is selected by default, but I suggest that you select the “Advanced” mode. Although it says that this is the slowest mode, I find that RevoUninstaller runs quite quickly, and I use “Advanced” as I want to remove every bit of “garbage” that the program I am uninstalling has left behind.

There is one thing that you want to watch out for when using RevoUninstaller: If a specific program is removed by its own uninstall program (which many times is quite normal) it may ask you to “restart” your computer to finish the uninstall. **DO NOT** do an immediate restart. Bypass that step and let RevoUninstaller continue its cleanup of the registry and folders before you restart your computer. If you do restart your computer before RevoUninstaller totally finishes its work, the selected program will be removed, but the registry will not be cleaned.

RevoUninstaller is safe to use as it always creates a “Restore Point” before removing a program. This, then, gives you the opportunity to restore you computer back to the configuration it was before you removed a specific program, in case you made an error.

I first read about RevoUninstaller in a Smart Computing article and I have found it to be a very reliable, helpful program. As mentioned, RevoUninstaller is a *free* program and can be found and downloaded at www.RevoUninstaller.com. Be sure to download the *free* version and not the *Pro* version, which you must pay for. The *free* version works just fine. Give it a try, I think you'll be happy you did.

