

What is CCleaner?

- CCleaner is a small, effective utility for computers running Microsoft Windows that cleans out the 'junk' that accumulates over time: temporary files, broken shortcuts, and other problems.
- CCleaner protects your privacy. It cleans your browsing history and temporary internet files. Allowing you to be a more confident Internet user and less susceptible to identity theft.
- CCleaner can clean unneeded files from various programs saving you hard disk space, remove unneeded entries in the Windows Registry, help you uninstall software and select which programs start with Windows.

What can you use it for?

- From its name, you can guess that CCleaner is used to clean up your system.
- **Privacy:** Delete passwords, Internet files, configuration files, and System Restore points from a shared PC.
- **Security:** Clean out files from a PC you're giving away or selling. You can also wipe free space so the remnants of any files you deleted previously will be erased forever.
- **Speed:** Speed up your computer by removing unneeded files. Speed up boot times by reducing the number of programs that start with Windows.
- **Stability:** Enable Windows to run more smoothly with a clean Registry.
- **Space:** Free up hard drive space by deleting unnecessary files.

System requirements

- CCleaner will run on any PC running Microsoft Windows 98 or later. If you're running one of the following operating systems, you're fine to run CCleaner:
- Windows 7 (preliminary support - stay tuned for more developments)
- Windows Vista (all editions, including 64-bit)
- Windows XP (Home, Professional, Media Centre, Tablet Edition, 64-bit)
- Windows 2003 and 2008 Server (all editions).
- Windows 2000
- Windows NT4
- Windows ME (Windows Millennium)
- Windows 98
- Since CCleaner is a small, quick program there are no minimum memory or hard drive requirements.

About CCleaner's rules

- When you start CCleaner, you'll see two tabs (Windows and Applications) in the main window, each with several check boxes. These check boxes control many aspects of your system that CCleaner will clean.
- To tell CCleaner to clean a particular area of your system, select the check box.

Note: Depending on what programs you have installed on your Windows PC, certain sections and check boxes on the Applications tab may not be available.

Before you clean your PC:

- CCleaner will run well using its default options. You can change its settings extensively, which you might want to do if you want to keep some information, add more items to be cleaned, or make many other changes.
- Some things to consider changing before you run CCleaner's cleaning process (make these changes before you run the cleaning):
- To include or exclude files, folders, and Registry from the cleaning process,
 - To choose to keep certain cookies.
 - To change how CCleaner runs, including how secure the deletion is.
 - To change advanced settings for CCleaner's operation.

Note: CCleaner permanently modifies certain system and program files. Please be sure you know what the consequences can be.

Cleaning your PC

- CCleaner can clean unneeded files, settings, and Registry entries for Web browsers and many installed applications on your system, as well as Windows features.

Note: You should be logged into an administrator account to use CCleaner. You can still use it as a normal or restricted user, but Windows may prevent you from deleting certain files.

Changing CCleaner settings

- There are several settings you can modify in CCleaner that can make it more convenient to use on a regular basis. You can also change how secure CCleaner's deletion process is.

What it can and can't do

CCleaner has many abilities, but it can't do everything. Here's a list of what it can and can't do.

CCleaner can:

- Protect your Web browsing privacy on a shared or public computer by deleting passwords and other temporary Internet files, so that nobody will be able to see where you've been.
- Protect your privacy for many Windows applications by removing information about files and folders you've accessed using them.
- Remove traces of documents you've already deleted by securely wiping free disk space.
- Clean up the Windows Registry by removing information that's incorrect or no longer needed.
- Reduce memory load and speed up boot times by letting you specify which programs automatically start with Windows.
- Uninstall software easily - even when the Windows Control Panel Add/Remove Programs applet won't let you.
- Manage your cookies - tiny files on your PC that Web sites use to track your visits.

What it can and can't do

What CCleaner can't:

- CCleaner can't detect or remove viruses, Spyware, or malware.
- CCleaner can't defragment your hard drive.
- CCleaner can't recover deleted or corrupted files. Our other great free product, Recuva can!

Changing advanced settings

- If you're interested in streamlining CCleaner's operations, if you want to review certain logs, or change certain other behaviour, you'll find this section of interest.

Note: As the topic heading states, these settings are for advanced users. If you change settings you may enable CCleaner to run some tasks without asking you first. Please be careful!

To modify advanced settings:

In CCleaner, click the Options icon at left, and then click the Advanced button. Make desired changes as follows.

Item	Description
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only delete files in Windows Temp folders older than 48 hours 2. Hide warning messages 3. Close program after cleaning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selected by default. This prevents CCleaner from deleting temporary files that may be currently in use. 2. Useful if you want to run CCleaner in silent or batch mode. 3. Useful if you want to run CCleaner in silent or batch mode.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Show prompt to backup registry issues 2. Show detailed log of Internet Explorer temporary files/ Show detailed log of Firefox/Mozilla temporary files 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are prompted to backup your registry to a .REG file before CCleaner runs. Selected by default. 2. This will show a detailed list of all browser temporary files in the Cleaner status window. You can right-click the list to save it to a text file. <p>Note: If this option is cleared, the status window may still show many entries from Adobe Flash.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimize to System Tray 2. Save all settings to INI file 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Useful if you want to run CCleaner in silent or batch mode. 2. By default, CCleaner's settings are saved in the Registry. If you select this option, they will be saved to the

	<p>ccleaner.ini file in the Ccleaner program directory. You can use this option to copy your CCleaner settings to a new computer just by copying the ccleaner.ini file.</p> <p>3.</p>
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Also, once you've selected this setting, your desktop Ccleaner installation is now a portable installation. Simply copy the contents of the CCleaner program directory onto a USB drive and you can use it on any other PC.

Choosing which cookies to keep

- A cookie is a small file that a Web site can place on your hard drive. It contains information about when you visited the site, and may contain tracking and settings information.
- You may choose to delete cookies for privacy reasons. Be aware, though, that some sites may forget your login data if you delete their cookies. Others will simply replace the cookie the next time you visit.
- By default, when you run the Cleaner, CCleaner deletes all of the cookies for all of your Web browsers (Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Opera, and so on). There are two ways to keep cookies on your PC while still making full use of CCleaner.

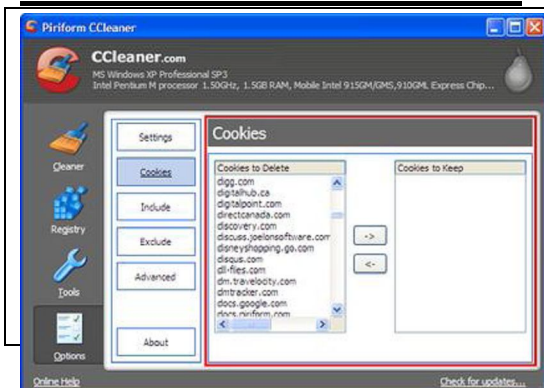
Option 1: To keep all cookies on your PC

- CCleaner, click the Cleaner 1. icon at left.
- On the Windows tab, under Internet Explorer, clear the Cookies check box.
- If you have no other Web browsers installed, you have finished. If not, click the Applications tab.
- Under each browser listed, clear the Cookies check box.
- From this point on, whenever you run the Cleaner, it will retain all cookies from these browsers.

Option 2: To keep certain cookies on your PC

- In CCleaner, click the Options icon at left.
- Click the Cookies button. The list may take a few seconds to load. This list displays cookies from all of the browsers you have installed on your system.

Cookies list in CCleaner.



- By default, all cookies are in the Cookies to Delete column.
- To keep cookies, move them to the Cookies to Keep column by selecting cookies and clicking the right-arrow button. You can select multiple cookies by using CTRL+click, or select a set of cookies in a row by clicking the first one and then SHIFT-clicking the last one.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note: If you use the method in Option 1 to keep all cookies on your PC, the cookies in the Cookies to Delete column will not be deleted.
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Internet Explorer files

- **Temporary Internet Files** - These are HTML files, images, JavaScript files, and other files that Internet Explorer saves as you browse so that if you go back to the page, it can quickly pull the files from the disk instead of having to request them again from the server. For more information, and to learn where they are stored on your version of XP, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporary_Internet_Files.
- **Cookies** - For a further discussion of cookies, please see the Choosing which cookies to keep topic.
- **History** - Internet Explorer stores pages you've visited and the time and date you visited them.
- **Recently Typed URLs** - Internet Explorer saves your recently-typed URLs so it can suggest them as you type new URLs with the same starting letters. This rule removes them.
- **Index.dat files** - These files function as an index for the browser, and store temporary information about URLs, search queries, and recently stored files to speed up browser operation.
- **Last Download Location** - Internet Explorer remembers where you downloaded the last file.
- **Auto complete Form History** - Once you've used Internet Explorer for a while, you'll notice that as you start typing letters into a text box on a form, it will present you with suggestions.

Note: Using this cleaning rule will also deleted your saved passwords.

To run CCleaner automatically when Windows starts:

- In CCleaner, click the Options icon at left, and then click 1. the Settings button.
- Select Run CCleaner when the computer starts.
- To check for updates to CCleaner automatically:
- In CCleaner, click the Options icon at left, and then click the Settings button.
- Select Automatically check for updates to CCleaner.

Note: You can always check for updates manually.

- To set which drives CCleaner will clean when wiping free disk space:
- In CCleaner, click the Options icon at left, and then click the Settings button.
- In the Wipe Free Space drives area, select the drive or drives.

To clean your PC:

- In CCleaner, click the Cleaner icon at left.
- Choose the Windows features you want to clean by selecting their check boxes (you can clean everything under Internet Explorer, for example, by selecting the check box next to the heading). When you select or clear certain options, warning text will appear. Read the text and click OK to dismiss the dialog box. For more information, see this section.
- Click the Applications tab.
- The programs listed on this tab will depend on the software you have installed on the system.
- Choose the applications or features you want to clean. For more information, see this topic.
- Click the Analyse button. CCleaner analyses the files and Registry keys belonging to the Windows features and applications you have selected. This may take some time.
- Once the analysis is complete, you can review which files will be deleted in the text window. To save the list of items to be deleted, right-click in the text window and then click Save to text file...
- Click Run Cleaner. You are warned that CCleaner is about to permanently remove files from the system. Click OK to proceed.
- When the cleaning is complete, CCleaner displays a report of deleted files in the text window. To save the list, right-click in the text window and then click Save to text file...

Note: If you have any problems while running CCleaner or afterwards, please see the Troubleshooting section.

Registry cleaning

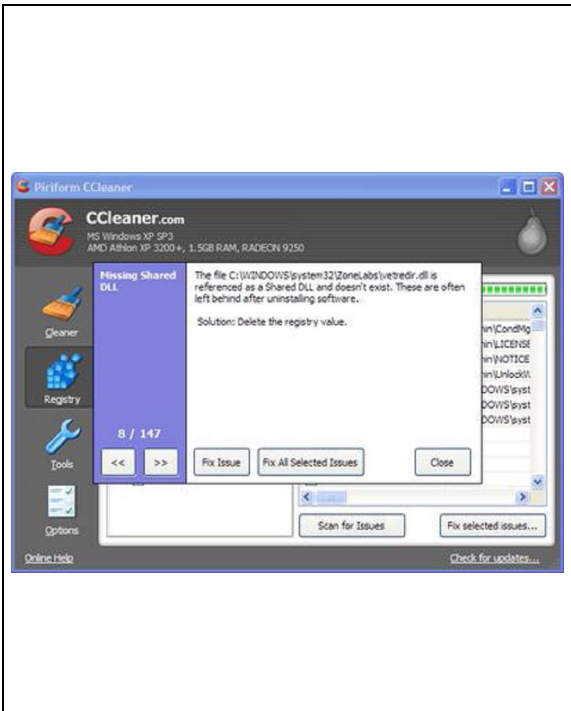
- The Windows Registry is a set of files that contains settings for your Windows PC - such as what program to use to open HTML files, when your antivirus program should run, or what desktop background you use.
- You can read more about the Windows Registry at Wikipedia.
- Over time, the Registry can become cluttered with missing or broken items as you install, upgrade, and uninstall software and updates.

To clean your Registry:

1. In CCleaner, click the Registry 1. Icon at left.
2. Optionally, select the items under Registry Integrity you wish to scan (they are all checked by default). This is for advanced users - we recommend you leave all the items checked.
3. Click Scan for Issues. You'll see a progress bar and a list of potential issues.
4. Once the scan is finished, you can review the list of issues (this is really for advanced users). Or, to save the list to a text file, right-click anywhere inside the list, and then click Save to text file...
5. Click Fix selected issues... to fix the Registry problems.
6. You are prompted to backup the Registry first. We strongly recommend you click Yes.
7. Choose a location where to save the Registry backup. The file name ends in. REG. Click Save.

8. CCleaner displays the first Registry problem and a proposed solution. For example:

This dialog box shows an example of an issue found by CCleaner's Registry Cleaner.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do one of the following:• To fix all issues at once, click Fix All Selected Issues. We recommend this choice for most users. You will be prompted to confirm this selection. Click OK. Once all issues have been fixed, click Close.• Review the issue and proposed solution. To fix this specific issue, click Fix Issue. CCleaner will then go to the next issue. To skip this issue and go to the next one, click the >> button. You will have to repeat this process for all of the issues CCleaner found.• To stop making changes to the Registry, click Close. Note: If you do this by mistake, just click Fix Selected Issues... again.
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How to list installed programs

- You can easily create a list of all the programs you have installed on your PC in a text file.
- Why do this? Well, if you're upgrading your operating system, or you're buying a new PC, it's very handy to have a list the programs you installed on this one. It's really easy to forget about the 'little helpers' you use every day.
- Here's how to run that list:
 - –1. In CCleaner, click the Tools icon at left.
 - –2. In the Uninstall screen, click the Save to text file... button.
 - –3. Choose a location and type a name for the text file (the default is install.txt), and then click Save.
- You can open the text file with Notepad or any text editor. Print it out if you need a hard copy.

Note: The version numbers of the programs are often included in the list, but not always.

Applications tab

- The sections and items that show up in CCleaner's Applications tab depends on which applications you have installed on your Windows PC.
- If an application or type of application has many features (for example, with Firefox you can delete cookies, clear the download history, and so on), that application will have its own section, and you can select specific areas you want to clean.

- If an application is simply listed in the Applications, Internet, Multimedia, Utilities, or Windows sections with no details, the cleaning process will typically clear out document history (MRUs), visited URLs, and temporary files for that application.

Web Browsers (for example, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Safari)

- **Cookies** - Web cookies stored by each browser. Note that the cookie list in the Options section of CCleaner controls cookies for all browsers you have installed, not just Internet Explorer. For a further discussion of cookies, please see the Choosing which cookies to keep topic.
- **Download History** - A list of files you downloaded through ■ that browser.
- **Internet Cache** - HTML, images, and other files accumulated while you surfed the Web using that browser.
- **Internet History** - A list of the sites you visited and the dates on which you visited them.
- **Saved Form Information** - User names, passwords, search terms, and anything else you typed into any forms that appeared in the browser's HTML canvas.

Other applications and utilities

- **Applications** - These refer to third-party applications you've installed that don't fall under the Internet, Multimedia, or Utilities category. Some examples are CD/DVD-burning programs and word processing software.
- **Internet** - These programs include browser add-ons such as Flash and the Google toolbar, instant messaging programs, and firewalls.
- **Multimedia** - These programs are video players and editors, or video helper programs for Web browsers.
- **Utilities** - These include utilities such as Zip management, disk tools, and Spyware scanners.
- **Windows** - Some of Windows' own applications contain lists of recently-used documents. Examples are Paint and WordPad.

System files

- **Empty Recycle Bin** - If you select this check box, CCleaner will empty your Recycle Bin.
- **Temporary Files** - CCleaner will delete the Windows temporary files which are not in use. By default it only removes files that have not been accessed in 48 hours. This can be changed to clean all temp files in the Advanced Settings.
- **Clipboard** - CCleaner will clear the contents of the Windows Clipboard.
- **Memory Dumps** - When Windows crashes, it stores small memory dumps so that technical users can debug their systems. CCleaner will delete these files.
- **Chkdsk File Fragments** - These are clusters and chains that are left over after you run CHKDSK. Ccleaner will delete them.
- **Windows Log Files** - Windows logs many events and activities, such as access, policy changes, Internet use, tasks, and so on. As a result, the dozens of logs it creates are scattered across the system. They will all be deleted by CCleaner.

- **Windows Error Reporting** - (Vista only) Whenever a program crashes, Windows saves details of the crash to report back to Microsoft. This option will clean all the error reports from your system.
- **Start Menu Shortcuts** - This option will delete Start Menu shortcuts that are invalid (they point to files that no longer exist).
- **Desktop Shortcuts** - This option will delete desktop shortcuts that are invalid (they point to files that no longer exist).

To modify the Recycle Bin behaviour:

- In CCleaner, click the Options icon at left, and then click the Settings button.
- Select Add "Run CCleaner" and/or Add "Open CCleaner..." option to Recycle Bin context menu.
- If you select Add "Run CCleaner" option, you will be able to right-click the Recycle Bin to automatically run CCleaner.
- If you select Add "Open CCleaner" option, you will be able to right-click the Recycle Bin to start the CCleaner application.

To change CCleaner's deletion method:

- In CCleaner, click the Options icon at left, and then click the Settings button.
- Do one of the following:
 - Select Normal file deletion (Faster) to delete files more quickly, but less securely.
 - Select Secure file deletion (Slower) to delete files more securely, but much more slowly.

CCleaner's deletion method.

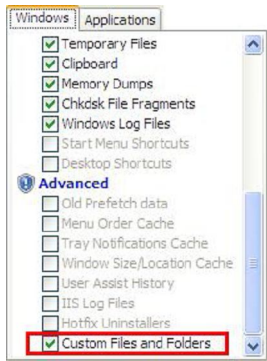
- CCleaner has four methods of secure deletion: a Simple Overwrite (1 pass), DOD 5220.22-M (3 passes), NSA
- (7 passes), and Gutmann (35 passes). A 'pass' refers to how many times CCleaner writes over the spot on the hard drive. The more times CCleaner writes to that spot, the harder the file will be to recover by any means.
- The drawback is that it will take CCleaner longer to complete the job.
- For more information, see the Wikipedia entry on the Gutmann method.

Including and excluding files, folders, and Registry entries

- You can choose specific files, file types, folders, and Registry entries to be included or excluded from Cleaner operations.

Note: If you add an exclusion, that file will never be cleaned, regardless of the selections you make on the Cleaner screen. If you add an inclusion, you must select the Custom Files and Folders check box on the CCleaner screen. (This will be checked automatically for you when you add a new file or folder.)

Including and excluding files, folders, and Registry entries

 <p>The screenshot shows the 'Applications' tab in CCleaner. Under the 'Advanced' section, the 'Custom Files and Folders' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box. Other items in the list include Temporary Files, Clipboard, Memory Dumps, Chkdsk File Fragments, Windows Log Files, Start Menu Shortcuts, Desktop Shortcuts, Old Prefetch data, Menu Order Cache, Tray Notifications Cache, Window Size/Location Cache, User Assist History, IIS Log Files, Hotfix Uninstallers, and Custom Files and Folders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The easiest way to work with includes and excludes is to select items in the Cleaner window that you want to clean, and then use the Options section to exclude specific files, folders, or Registry items from that list.• Then, use the Options section to include additional files and folders to be scanned by the Cleaner.
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To include files or folders in the Cleaner process:

- In CCleaner, click the Options 1. icon at left.
- Click the Include button.
- In the Include screen, do one or more of the following:
- To add a folder to the include list, click Add Folder. In the dialog box that appears, select the folder you want to add. To limit items in that folder to a specific type, replace the (*.*) in the dialog box with a file mask (for example, *.jpg to select all JPG files in that folder). Click OK.
- To add a single file to the include list, click Add File. In the dialog box that appears, select the file and then click Open. Note that you can only add one file at a time using this method.
- To remove a folder or file from the include list, select it, and then click Remove Selected.

Note: If you select a folder and the file mask is (*.*) then all subfolders will be included (The technical term is 'recursive'). If the file mask is changed to something else (*.tmp), then any subfolders within that folder will not be included. (The technical term is 'non-recursive'.)

To exclude files, folders or Registry keys from the Cleaner process:

- In CCleaner, click the Options icon at left.
- Click the Exclude button.
- On the Exclude screen, do one or more of the following:
- To add a folder to the exclude list, click Add Folder. In the dialog box that appears, select the folder you want to add. To limit excluded items in that folder to a specific type, replace the (*.*) in the dialog box with a file mask (for example, *.doc to select all DOC files in that folder). Click OK.
- To add a single file to the exclude list, click Add File. In the dialog box that appears, select the file and then click Open. Note that you can only add one file at a time using this method.
- To add a Registry key to the exclude list, click Add Registry. In the dialog box that appears, select the registry hive from the drop-down list and then enter the registry key path into the text box next to it.
- To remove a folder or file from the exclude list, select it, and then click Remove Selected.

Note: If you select a folder, any subfolders within that folder will be excluded as well.

Advanced Windows files

CCleaner can remove these advanced Windows files:

- **Old Prefetch Data** - (XP only) To run quickly, Windows uses prefetch files to store information about programs that you frequently use. The Cleaner deletes old prefetch data for programs that no longer exist or haven't been used in a long time.
- **Menu Order Cache** - When you drag and drop items on the Start menu into different locations, Windows stores this information in the Menu Order Cache.
- **Tray Notifications Cache** - This cache stores information about any items that have ever appeared in your System Tray, and whether or not you have set them to Hide, Hide When Inactive, or Always Show.
- **Window Size/Location Cache** - When you open and close Windows Explorer, Windows records folder settings for window position, sort order, columns, folder type, toolbar toggles, and search result views.
- **User Assist History** - User Assist History is a built-in monitoring feature of Windows that records when you access programs, shortcuts, Control Panel applets, and possibly even Web sites.
- **IIS Log Files** - Microsoft's IIS server keeps logs of its activities on your system.
- **Hotfix Uninstallers** - (XP only) Every time you download and run a Hotfix from Microsoft, Windows stores an uninstallation program for that Hotfix on your system.
- **Custom Files and Folders** - This setting relates to CCleaner rather than any part of Windows. If you select Custom Files and Folders, CCleaner will use the information in the Include and Exclude part of its Advanced section to add or ignore files, folders, and Registry keys while cleaning.

Wipe Free Space when you delete files from your hard drive, Windows only deletes the reference to the files, not the files themselves. Over time, the contents of the files will be overwritten as Windows writes new files, but it's possible to recover some or all parts of deleted files. You can prevent this by using the Wipe Free Space option. For more information, see this topic.

Managing auto-starting programs

- When you install a program, often it will set itself up so that it starts every time you start Windows.
- This can be a real pain, because having a lot of programs start that way means it takes longer for Windows to start and the memory used can slow your PC to a drag.
- Not every program has to start automatically. You may decide to let some do so - like messenger programs.
- For the others, CCleaner gives you a way to stop them in their tracks.
- Windows keeps a list of programs to start automatically in the Registry. You can do one of two things with each item in this list:
 - Disable it - the item will still be in the auto-start list, 1. But it won't run.
 - Delete it - the item is deleted from the auto-start list.
- Why would you choose to disable the auto-start instead of deleting it? Sometimes you might want to remove an item, but have the option to add it back in later if you change you mind.

To control which programs start with Windows:

- In CCleaner, click the Tools icon at left, then click the Startup button.
- In the Startup screen, you'll see a list of all items that have been set to start automatically with Windows. Those that have been disabled will be greyed out and will state "No" in the Enabled column.
- Do one of the following:
 - •To prevent a program from starting with Windows, select the program entry and click Disable.
 - •To prevent a program from starting with Windows and to remove it from the auto-start list, select the program entry and click Delete.

Uninstalling programs

- CCleaner can uninstall programs just like the Add/Remove Programs part of Windows' Control Panel.
- CCleaner is better, though, because once you've installed a lot of programs, the Add/Remove Programs applet takes a long time to start. CCleaner lets you see a list of all your programs right away.
- Another reason CCleaner is better is that you can simply delete an entry in the Programs to Remove list. Why would you do this? Say you uninstalled the program before, but it didn't quite uninstall itself correctly and it's still listed as an installed program. Or say you deleted the program folder manually without running the installer.
- Either way, you can delete the entry in the installed programs list. Note that deleting the entry doesn't uninstall the program. It's like taking an item off a restaurant menu - doing so doesn't delete the dish from the kitchen!

To uninstall, delete, or rename a program:

- CCleaner, click the 1. Tools icon at left.
- In the Uninstall screen, select the name of the program you want to uninstall from the Programs to Remove list.
- Do one of the following:
 - Click Run Uninstaller to run the program's uninstaller.
 - Click Rename Entry to give the program a new name in this list only.
 - Click Delete Entry to remove the programs uninstall entry, without uninstalling it. (This is recommended for advanced users only, for when a program has been removed but the uninstall entry remains.)
- To save a list of all programs to a text file, click Save to text file... See here for more information.