

Re: Uninstall leaving broken icons on program screen

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/PocketPC/microsoft.public.pocketpc/2005-05/msg00206.html>

- *From:* r_z_aret@xxxxxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Tue, 03 May 2005 16:41:08 -0400
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On Mon, 2 May 2005 23:32:34 -0400, "Fr@nk" <fr@apaNOSP@AMwizard.net> wrote:

>
>"Wayne" <MeNotYou@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
>news:uEMYcmyTFHA.2996@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
>> I don't know if it's a bad/sloppy uninstall. I find this happens to me if
>I
>> decide to display the Icon on the start menu. Doing so moves the Icon from
>> it's original install point to the start menu. I'm guessing the uninstall
>> assumes it was deleted since it's not where it was installed too. Same
>thing
>> when I install things in windows that doesn't give me the option to tell
>it
>> where I want the short cuts, they are not removed if I move them.

I agree with you to some extent. The ideal would, indeed, for an uninstall to clean up all associated bits and pieces no matter where users moved/put them. But that can be very challenging, and cleaning up too thoroughly would rightly annoy users even more than leaving bits and pieces. If I move things after installation, I am quite willing to let uninstall off the hook. But maybe that's because I am a developer.

A short summary of the technology might help.

Most installation programs log everything they do, and most installers read this log to undo exactly what was done during installation. This service is usually provided by the installation package (e.g. InstallShield) a developer uses to put together an installation for a specific product. This mechanism is certainly a good first pass. It is very safe. It gives developers a lot of user-support for not much developer time. But it certainly doesn't handle anything added or moved after installation. It generally doesn't work for re-installation (because the second installation does less actual work, and thus puts less in the log).

So, many developers add a step. Deleting all files (data, settings,

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etc.) in the program's folders is usually safe, although I ask users, just to be sure . Deleting all shortcuts with their original name would probably be safe, and wouldn't add much work for developers or delay for users. But only if the search were limited. On a Pocket PC, looking only in the Start menu and subfolders makes sense. On my desktops (a bit off topic for this newsgroup, but...), I move shortcuts around a lot, so finding them would be challenging. I sure wouldn't want several minutes while an uninstall searched all my drives.

Pocket PC 2003 or Pocket PC 2003 SE added a new wrinkle. It limits the number of shortcuts in the top level of the Start menu, and moves any shortcuts added over the limit. So installations that routinely put shortcuts in the Start menu end up with icons moved after the installation, and thus not removed during uninstallation.

>>
>> --
>> Thanks
>> Wayne Sepega
>> Jacksonville, Fl
>>
>
>Wayne--
>
>I know what you're saying and yes, that's a sloppy uninstall program. To be
>really _good_, it should check to see if its programs' icons are _anywhere_
>on the device...and delete them. Not just if the icons are in the "default"
>location.
>
>When you say "I'm guessing the uninstall assumes it was deleted...", that's
>your clue. It shouldn't _assume_.
>
>Anyway...at least you can manually delete the orphaned icons. Seeya.
>
>
>Fr@nk
>

To reply to me, remove the underscores (_) from my email address (and please indicate which newsgroup and message).

Robert E. Zaret, eMVP
PenFact, Inc.
500 Harrison Ave., Suite 3R
Boston, MA 02118
www.penfact.com
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- **References:**

- ◆ **Uninstall leaving broken icons on program screen**
 - ◇ From: Pacobell77
- ◆ **Re: Uninstall leaving broken icons on program screen**
 - ◇ From: Fr@nk
- ◆ **Re: Uninstall leaving broken icons on program screen**
 - ◇ From: Wayne
- ◆ **Re: Uninstall leaving broken icons on program screen**
 - ◇ From: Fr@nk

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