

## THE COMPUTER CORNER

### **No. 240: Uninstallers: Geek and HiBit.**

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664  
(262) 268-1949 [wb9rqr@att.net](mailto:wb9rqr@att.net)

Generally, uninstall programs are a nuisance. The one that comes with Windows (in the Control Panel) is terrible, and many of the third-party versions are not much better. They claim to do a good job in cleaning out a program, but many do not catch all the bits and pieces, such as references to the program left behind in the registry. No matter what version of Windows you run, if you uninstall programs from time to time, your registry, shortcuts, and other sites in your machine's software accumulate these bits and pieces. This can lead to anything from the "blue screen of death" to simple crashes to just slowing down your machine (and your work) because of invalid references left behind. When you uninstall a program, you want it gone, including every reference of any kind to it in your machine.

Back in June 2016, I wrote briefly about the then new Geek Uninstaller, mentioning that it is free, tiny, works beautifully, and really cleans out all the references to the program you are uninstalling. Nothing new here – it is still one of my two favorite tools for uninstalling software. You can get it at <http://www.majorgeeks.com/> (the software bears no relationship to the website though both have geek in the title). Look for it under Site Info (left panel), then Top Freeware Picks.

Now a new kid is on the block. Also available at majorgeeks is HiBit Uninstaller (current version 1.1.20). This terrific uninstaller is also free, small (2.54 MB) and you don't even need to install it with this portable version! Just download the ZIP file, unzip it to a site of your choice (such as the desktop), and click it to start. It will quickly present you with a list of all your installed programs, and right clicking one will begin the uninstall process. There is a tutorial available on majorgeeks, directly in the program description, that will make its use clear. I recommend you watch it to get an idea of the program's features. For example, there is a Tools menu in the upper right part of the panel that includes a drive cleaner, registry cleaner, applications manager, empty folder manager and much more. Majorgeeks rates it as 5-star and claims it is every bit as good, if not better than, the competition. I keep both the Geek and the HiBit Uninstallers on my machine, because I can't decide which is better! To me, Geek Uninstaller seems great when you just want to quickly dump a program, while HiBit seems perfect when you want to uninstall something and then do a little cleaning and maintenance. In the latter case, it seems to take the place of CCleaner, and it is a bit more aggressive (that is good because CCleaner is very conservative, sometimes too much so). Hey, try it. You'll like it!

Happy Computing!