

# An OPCUG Product Review

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## Really Uninstalling Software in Windows

by Alan German

The developer says that Uninstalr is a “fast, lightweight and accurate way to uninstall software in Windows.” The notion of accurate uninstallation is intriguing. The list of relevant program features includes deep analysis with respect to installed apps, fixing incorrect data from the installed apps listing, and detecting previously uninstalled software leftovers. The latter option is especially interesting as it suggests that an “uninstalled” program may not necessarily be completely uninstalled. Another feature of this program that may be useful in some instances is its ability to batch uninstall several apps at the same time.

Two versions of the program are available. The *Portable* download provides a single executable file that can be run from any computer. The *Setup* version uses a conventional process to install the program on a specific computer. For testing purposes, I opted to use the portable version of Uninstalr.

When the program runs it takes a couple of minutes to analyze the software installed on the computer and then lists the installed programs in alphabetical order, together with a summary of the number of associated files, folders, registry keys, registry entries, and the disk space being used.

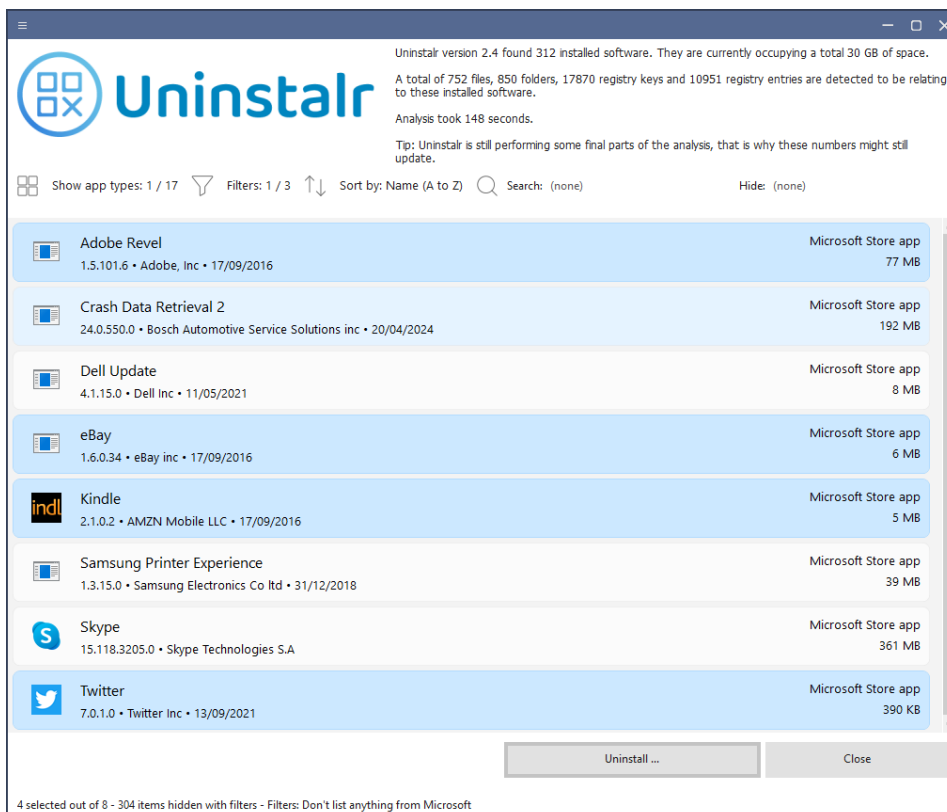
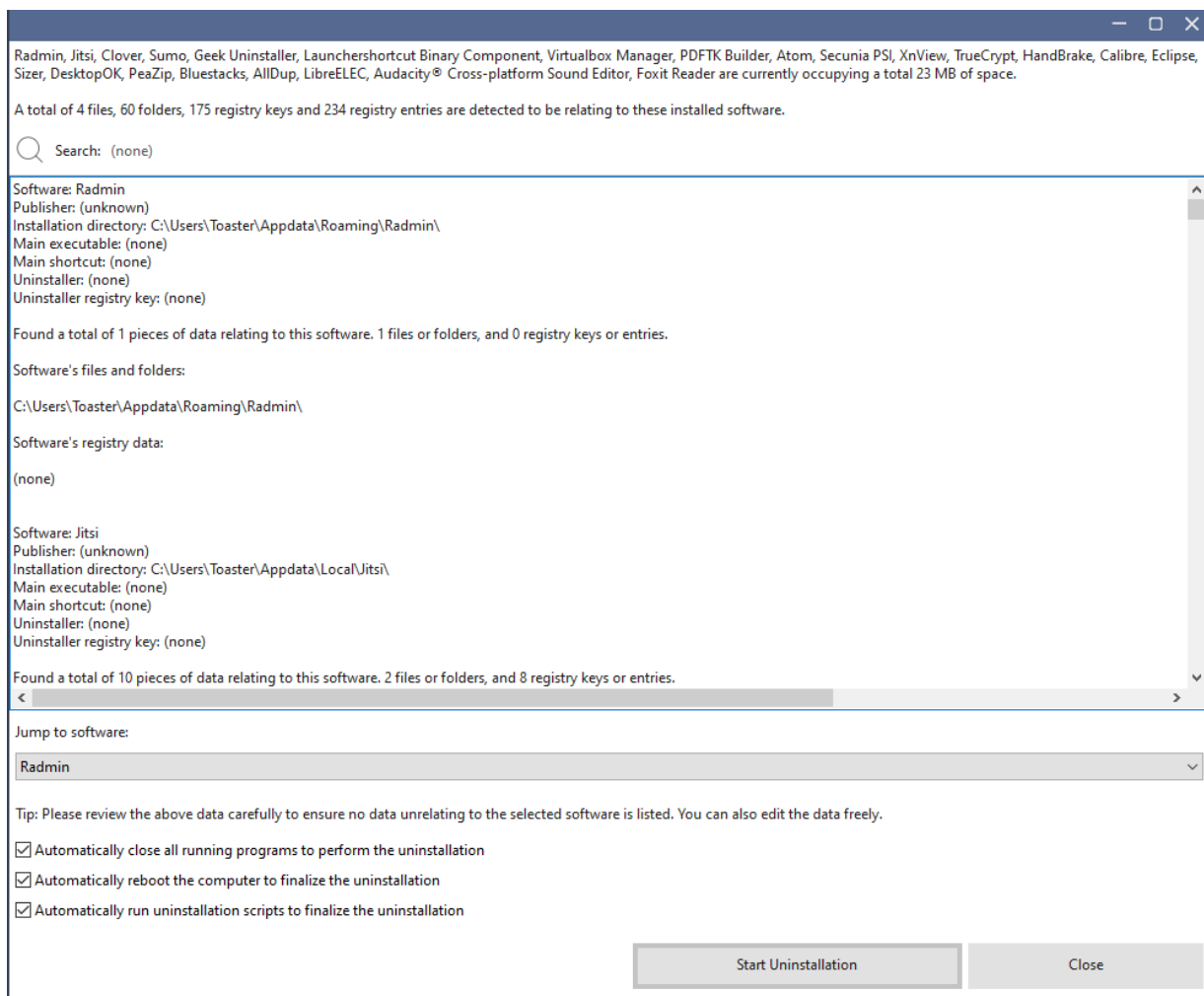


Figure 1. Software installed from the Microsoft Store

The display includes options to show only certain file types, filter the list on pre-defined criteria, search for a file name, and hide files by partial file name. The *Show app types* option provides a checklist with various categories, most of which refer to apps installed from specific platforms such as Steam and PortableApps.com. Some other options are apps obtained from the Microsoft Store, and a category named Possible leftover. One of the available filters is *Don't include anything from Microsoft*. This is enabled by default and ensures that, for example, no Windows software is inadvertently uninstalled. The other filters optionally list only installed software packages that are larger than 10 MB, or which have been installed in the last 7 days.

Since I have not installed any apps from the Microsoft Store, I initially restricted the checked items to be displayed to the Microsoft Store app category. The result is shown in Figure 1. Some of the listings were clearly surplus to my requirements and likely resulted from software bundled with the computer when purchased. Adobe Revel, taking up 77 MB of disk space, is particularly useless as (a) I have never used this package (that offered photo storage in the cloud), and (b) the service was shut down in 2016! Note that Adobe Revel and three other items in the list, the eBay, Kindle and Twitter apps, have been selected and can all be uninstalled by simply clicking on the Uninstall button to activate the batch process.

My next foray into the program's features was to check the Possible leftover category. The resulting listings all appeared to be related to software packages that I had previously installed and subsequently removed. Clicking on the Uninstall button requested confirmation for their removal. A subsequent screen (Figure 2) provided a summary of the items to be removed, the disk space occupied, and specific properties of each software package. It's worth noting that just removing these software leftovers would provide an additional 23 MB of free disk space.



**Figure 2. Summary of software leftovers**

Uninstalr provides some useful options for uninstalling programs that are no longer wanted. The list resulting from the initial analysis can be reviewed for such apps and only those selected will be subject to batch removal. I didn't find the pre-defined categories of apps to be all that useful as many are related to software platforms that I don't use. The exceptions were the Microsoft Store that identified a number of bundled apps that I had never used and didn't need, and the possible leftovers that located and removed a number of disk files relating to previously uninstalled software that I didn't even know existed!

The program is freeware and can be run as a portable version on any computer without the need for installation. It provides a flexible, semi-automatic tool to aid in chasing down unwanted apps that are occupying disk space that could be better used for other purposes.

#### Bottom Line

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Uninstalr (Freeware)  
Version 2.5  
Macecraft Software  
<https://uninstalr.com>



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