

*"There are two types of computer users:
those who backup,
and those who WILL..."*

EVACopy

by

Or Ben Shabat

Version 5.0

Version 5.0

The Resident feature allows EVACopy to remain resident (as a tray icon) and to automatically initiate a backup job when the user is idle for some time (default is one minute). Via the tray icon menu you can also initiate a backup job manually, browse folders, review and restore earlier versions of files, change program settings, etc.

From now on, you need to start EVACopy just once, and it will remain resident. If you wish to make EVACopy start automatically when Windows starts, move EVACopy shortcut from the desktop (or from wherever it is) to the Startup folder in the Windows Start Menu.

FileDigger was replaced by LaRve (**L**ist **a**nd **R**estore **V**ersions), a friendlier and more comprehensive restore tool. A GUI configuration tool (EVAConfig) was also added.

Version 4.3

- If no source-destination pair is defined (i.e. if EVACopy is launched for the first time), the user can select the folders, and they are stored in the settings file.
- FileDigger updated to version 1.1:
 - Removed some useless code leftovers
 - Bug fix: if no item selected, Open & Explore display a 'please select' message. This bug fix was made obsolete by next change:
 - Main destination instance (most recent backup) is included in the results list.

Version 4.2

- User note is limited in length, according to the longest path in the evacuation folder, to make sure that the longest path is still shorter than 254 characters.
- If too long paths are detected after evacuation, the user is warned. User note is not limited in this case, but it will be appended to the log file name only, not to the evacuation folder name.

Version 4.1

- Errors lists were separated – different errors list for every pair, and different files saved to the temporary folder.
- The additional tools FileDigger and TLPD were added to the archive.

Version 4.0

The settings file was practically redesigned from scratch, allowing unlimited pairs, descriptive names, and simpler yet more powerful exclusion rules. So take a deep breath...

General

- 1) Use of UNC paths was tested. *Thanks Antonio !*
- 2) If files&folders are excluded after they were backed-up at least once, they are evacuated.
- 3) Bug fix: 'upon completion' action is executed even if an error occurred in any pair other than the last one. *Thanks Bill !*
- 4) Added option to use a progress indicator – file count in tray tooltip.
- 5) Upon completion, if errors occurred, the program can display an errors list. The errors list is also saved to a file in the temp folder.

Logging

- 6) Log modes were re-defined: "errors" mode is cancelled, details were stripped from "full" mode and added to the new "debug" mode.
- 7) For better readability (both by human and by software), the syntax of the log file entries was changed:
 - Not absolute file&folder names, but relative to src & dst.
 - A separator can be added between file&folder name and the action taken.
 - Single-quotes enclosing file names are replaced by double-quotes.
- 8) In "changes" mode, the log 'settings summary' is stripped, and now includes only paths and mode settings.
- 9) If nothing was evacuated or copied, and no errors occurred, and the logging mode is "changes", the program can be set to delete the useless log file.

Settings File

- 10) If the settings file that was specified in param1 doesn't exist, the program is redirected to use the default settings file. Default evacopy.ini can accept or decline redirections, and inform or not inform the user about it.
- 11) Exclusion rules can be applied to all sources or specific source.
- 12) Added ability to exclude folders and files by names and/or extensions.
- 13) Descriptive names are assigned to src-dst pairs, to be displayed in the user note dialog.
- 14) Descriptive names appear also in tray icon tooltip and in the log file.
- 15) [Paths] and [Exclude] sections are re-arranged into [PathsX] and [Evac] sections, to enable limitless pairs and simpler exclusion syntax. New section [PathPredef] allows predefinition of paths.
- 16) Also (due to syntax complexity), in 'debug' logging mode, [PathsX] data is displayed as parsed by the program. After this is done, the user can abort the program (before anything happens).

User Note

- 17) Source path is now specified in the user note dialog. Unfortunately, this forces right-click user note to be disabled, but it's not a very useful feature anyway.
- 18) User note is prefixed with the default word "before", so you can write a note referring to the actual status of your files, rather than the earlier status.
- 19) User note can be added to the evacuation folder name (if not empty), as well as to the name of the log file.
- 20) Invalid filename characters in the user note are replaced by underscore.

Version 3.3

- More internal macros were added as environment variables.
- The users manual (EVACopy-Manual.pdf) was updated with a new section explaining the environment variables and the settings file more thoroughly.

Version 3.2

- Bug fix: if a directory with an extension is moved, an extra dot is appended to the name. This is an AutoIt bug. It's supposed to be fixed in AutoIt v3.3.1.1, but that is still beta.

Version 3.1

- Ability to detect file changes by size, not only by modify time.
- Ability to use environment variables and internal macros in the settings file. See the manual for details.
- Name of settings file added to the log file, true/false parameters displayed as yes/no.

Version 3.0

- Several (up to 9) source-destination pairs may be specified in the same settings file. This is for replacing other methods for several pairs, like batch file, several settings files, several shortcuts with different parameters, etc.

Version 2.21

- Added remark about the Quick Start guide and the web site if source and/or destination paths are not defined, for example when the program starts for the first time.

Version 2.2

- Emergency break dialog box, notifying user what the source, destination and evacuation paths are, and allowing the user to cancel the emergency break.
- Section of parameters & settings was rewritten.
- Enable exclusion of files by minimum or maximum size
- Enable exclusion of files by attributes

Version 2.1

Emergency Break:

Double-click the tray icon to pull the emergency break and terminate EVACopy while running. This results in an exit code 9 and the action upon completion, if defined, is disabled. You are also notified where the log file is, in case there's an error in the paths EVACopy was using while you stopped it.

User Note:

Right-click the tray icon to type a short note regarding the current backup. This note is added to the name of the log file, i.e. the log file name will be:

"EVACopy-log-YYYY-MM-DD-hh-mm-Note *user note.txt*"

Keep your note short, and remember that the note should be relevant to the status of the files **prior to this backup!** i.e. if you modified a document because your boss asked you to, so when you perform a backup after that change, your note should be something like "before changes my boss wanted".

The UserNote setting is introduced to the settings file. By default (=no), the user note input box is displayed only after a right-click. When changed (=yes), the user note input box is displayed regardless of right-click (or absence of it).

Version 2.0

Use a tray icon to replace informative GUI messages:

- Icon appears – meaning: EVACopy started.
- Icon disappears – meaning: EVACopy ended.
- Icon tool tip (on mouse hover) displays current phase.

Note: Error messages still appear in GUI, and require user acknowledgment.

Balloon tips are not used. There's no need, and they don't work on Windows 9x.

The use of a tray icon makes the "Verbose" and "WaitAtEnd" options (see settings file) obsolete. However, they were not removed. They were marked by double semicolon, as an indication in case I want them back. The code lines that handle the cancelled GUI messages and the two mentioned options were marked in the same way as well.

Version 1.1

Log file (all modes) now includes some more information:

- Start and end times of each phase (the EVAC phase and the COPY phase)
- Paths of the source, destination and evacuation folders
- Action to be performed upon completion
- Exit code

This info can be used for performance assessment and for easier troubleshooting.

Version 1.0

Version 1.0 was the first public release, with very basic features: only one source-destination pair, and a basic log file. Much has changed since, as this document describes; but the basic algorithm that EVACopy uses hasn't changed at all, much to my delight.