January 17, 2006
Installing and Using Microsoft Synctoy and CNET Folder Size.

I recently downloaded and installed two free programs that I have found to by very useful. The first one is a program from Microsoft named Synctoy_V1.4.msi. The second one is called FolderSize-2.3.msi.

The link to get Microsoft Synctoy_V1.4.msi is:
http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=e0fc1154-c975-4814-9649-cce41af06eb7&DisplayLang=en

The link to get Folder Size from the CNET Download Site is:
http://www.download.com/3000-2347-10522774.html

Overview of Synctoy
Increasingly, computer users are using different folders, drives, and even different computers (such as a laptop and a desktop) to store and retrieve files. There are new sources of files coming from every direction: digital cameras, e-mail, cell phones, portable media players, camcorders, PDAs, and laptops. Yet managing hundreds or thousands of files is still largely a manual operation. In some cases it is necessary to move files from one place to another; in other cases there is a need to keep two storage locations exactly in sync. Some users manage files manually, dragging and dropping from one place to another and keeping a mental card catalog in their heads. Others use one or more applications of one sort or another to provide this functionality for them. Now there is an easier way**;** SyncToy is a free PowerToy for Microsoft Windows XP that provides an easy to use, highly customizable program to help copy, move, and synchronize different directories. Most common operations can be performed with just a few clicks of the mouse, and additional customization is available without adding complexity. SyncToy can manage multiple sets of directories at the same time; it can combine files from two folders in one case, and mimic renames and deletes in another. Unlike other applications, SyncToy keeps track of renames to files and will make sure those changes get carried over to the synchronized folder.

Overview of FolderSize
Folder Size for Windows adds a new column to the Details view in Windows Explorer. The new column shows not only the size of files, but also the size of folders. It keeps track of which folders you view, and scans them in the background so you can see complete size of all files within the folder. It's very useful for cleaning up your disk. Once you get used to having that information available, a directory listing simply looks incomplete without it.

Installation.
Each of the above two files have an .msi extension which denotes that it is a Windows Installer File. To install a .msi file after it is downloaded, highlight the file from Windows Explorer, right click, then select install.