

Willow Valley Computer Club

November 2023 | Newsletter | Volume 24, Issue 6

Programs are at 2:00 pm the first Thursday of the month (except July-August) in the Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.

****** This month the November meeting will meet at 10:00 am at North auditorium on Manor Campus.

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Computer Club Leadership

- President: Al Williams
- Vice President: Susan Culbertson
- Secretary: Gary Staton
- Treasurer: Lee Wermuth
- Previous President: Sid Paskowitz

Committee Chairpersons

- Apple SIG: Dick Beidleman
- Computer Room: Lee Wermuth
- Newsletter: Susan Culbertson
- Publicity: Ann Willets
- SmartLife: Al Fulvio
- Training: Bill Skelly
- Webmaster: Sid Paskowitz

Director

- CCTC: Cathy Thorn

Advisors

- Bruce Mawson
- Tony Poulos
- Bob Scala

President's Pen by Al Williams

Welcome to the Computer Club's November Newsletter!

We are pleased to announce that our new website is ready for you! The website is designed to provide technology resources for all Club members, regardless of level of skill. You'll find a Calendar that displays all of the Computer Club's training classes and monthly presentations. There's a Get Help section that lists our volunteers who can help you. Would you like software application advice? It's there. Want help with your printer or computer? There's more. Check it out.

Go to wvcomputerclub.org and check out its multiple features! Then, let us know what you think. Contact us at wvcomputerclub@gmail.com We do this for you!

In this issue of the Newsletter, you'll find an article about *SpaceSniffer*. Do you have an SSD drive and want to know if you're filling the drive's space up? Want to know how much space is available on that USB drive? *SpaceSniffer* will tell you. It's free, easy to install, easy to use, and easy to understand. It will tell you how much space is being used in a drive, by a folder, and by a file. Take a look!

~Al Williams

**Willow Valley IT Update
William Patch & Kiet Hong**

**WVCC Monthly Program
Nov 2 @ 10:00 am
North Auditorium (Manor Campus)**

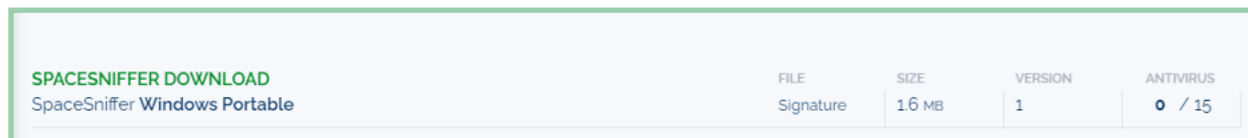
Space Sniffer

by Al Williams

Find lost space on your disks the easy way.®

I make backups of documents and I make images of my hard drives. I do so because I might inadvertently delete a document that I need or a hard drive might fail making it impossible to access anything on the hard drive.

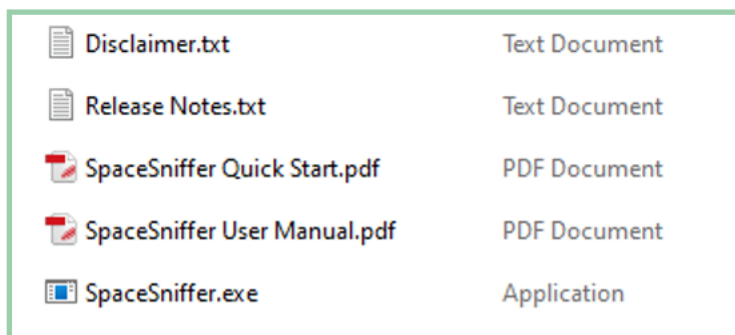
On occasion, a computer will report that a hard drive or a USB drive is too full to back up an additional document, or image. The disk management console in Windows does display total space usage but it does not display detailed folder or file information. There are software apps that will display that file and folder information. I've tried several. However, my favorite continues to be SpaceSniffer. I'll explain how to use it and then perhaps you'll also want to try it. SpaceSniffer is made in Italy. It is available for download at http://www.uderzo.it/main_products/space_sniffer/index.html. It doesn't install like most software apps do because it is designed to be portable. The SpaceSniffer download is at <https://www.fosshub.com/SpaceSniffer.html>. Scroll down to SPACESNIFFER DOWNLOAD (see the screenshot below) and then click on the text to the left. SpaceSniffer will be downloaded.



SPACESNIFFER DOWNLOAD	FILE	SIZE	VERSION	ANTIVIRUS
SpaceSniffer Windows Portable	Signature	1.6 MB	1	0 / 15

Figure 1 SpaceSniffer Download Selection on Web Page

The downloaded file is a zip file. There are multiple apps that will unzip a file. After unzipping, just click on the unzipped SpaceSniffer executable inside the new SpaceSniffer folder (see Figure 2 below) and SpaceSniffer starts. You'll also find Quick Start information and a User Manual inside that folder. The Quick Start pdf shows all the icons on the tool bar and explains what they do. The 30-page User Manual is very readable. It describes more SpaceSniffer features than I am going to describe in this article. It will help to review it.



Disclaimer.txt	Text Document
Release Notes.txt	Text Document
SpaceSniffer Quick Start.pdf	PDF Document
SpaceSniffer User Manual.pdf	PDF Document
SpaceSniffer.exe	Application

Figure 2 The Files Inside the Downloaded SpaceSniffer Zip File

After the first time that you start SpaceSniffer, Windows will remember SpaceSniffer's name and location. To start SpaceSniffer again, type SpaceSniffer in the *Search* window. See Figure 3 below.

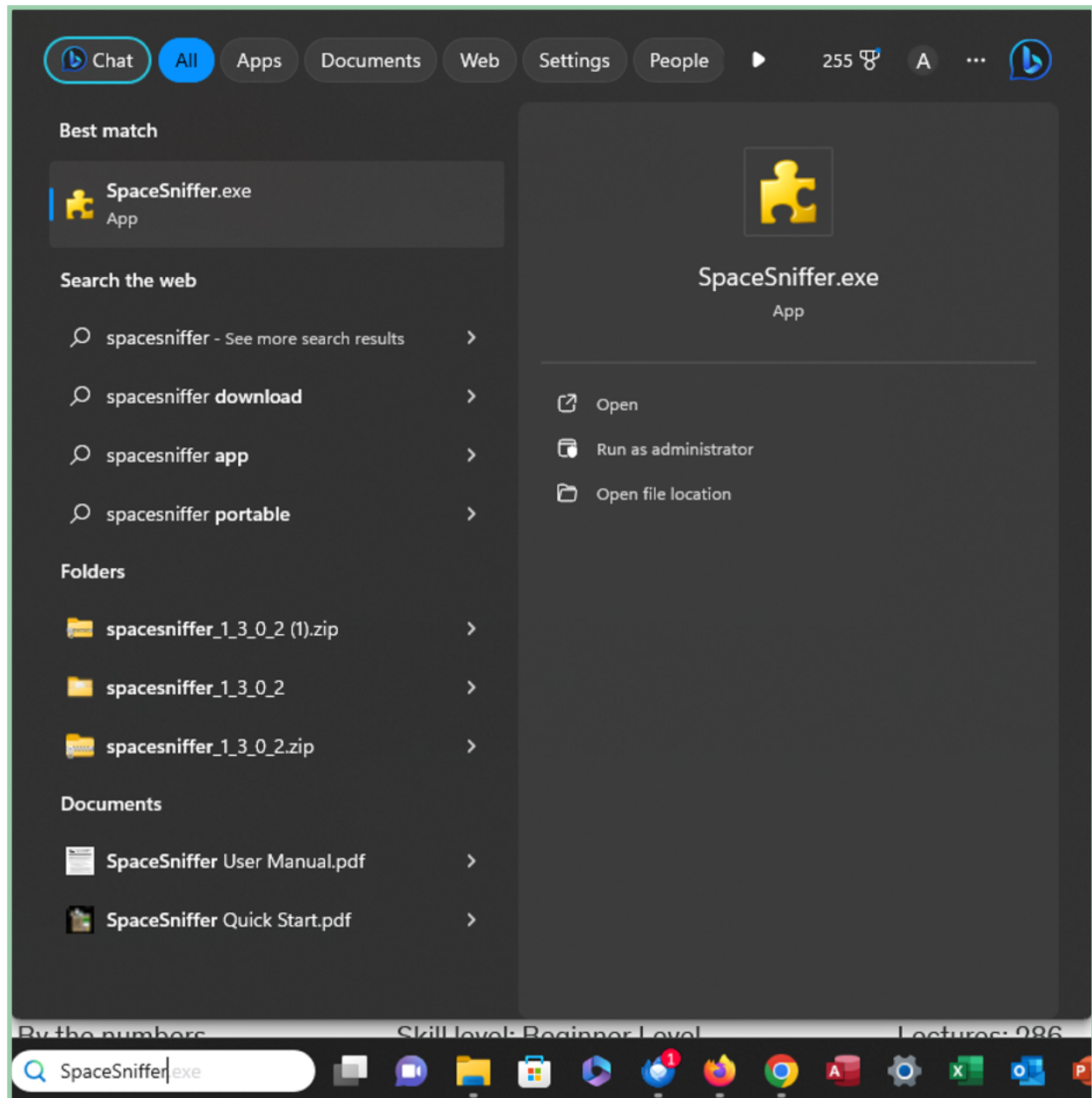


Figure 3 How to Start SpaceSniffer

So that SpaceSniffer will have permission to access all files and folders, click on *Run as administrator*.

SpaceSniffer then displays a window showing all the hard drives, USB drives and external hard drives on your computer. See Figure 4 below.

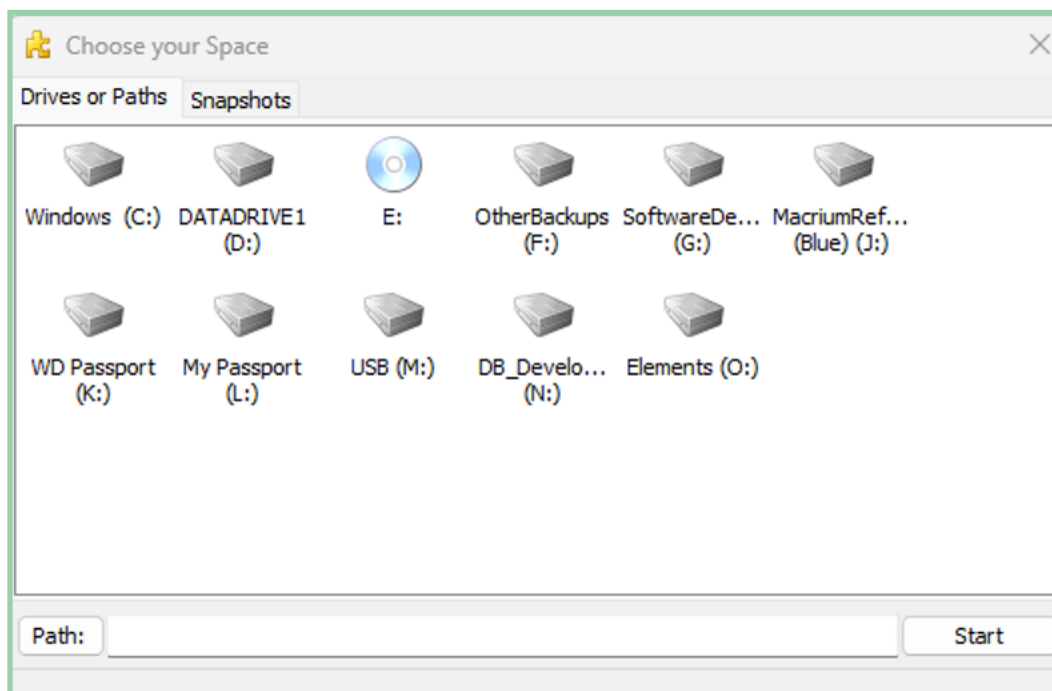


Figure 4 All the Drives On This Computer

You may select just one drive by clicking on the drive's icon and click the Start button or you may select more than one drive by holding down the Shift key while selecting and then click Start. I find it easier to understand the displayed information when viewing only one drive. In this case, I will select the M: drive and then click Start. SpaceSniffer will then display information about the M: drive. See Figure 5 next page.

WVCC mission:
"to provide the means to educate beginners or interested non-users on how to use a computer"

WVCC mission:
"to provide a forum for interchange of computer information among members"

WVCC mission: "to arrange for speakers to talk about subjects of interest to those with some background and experience in computer use"

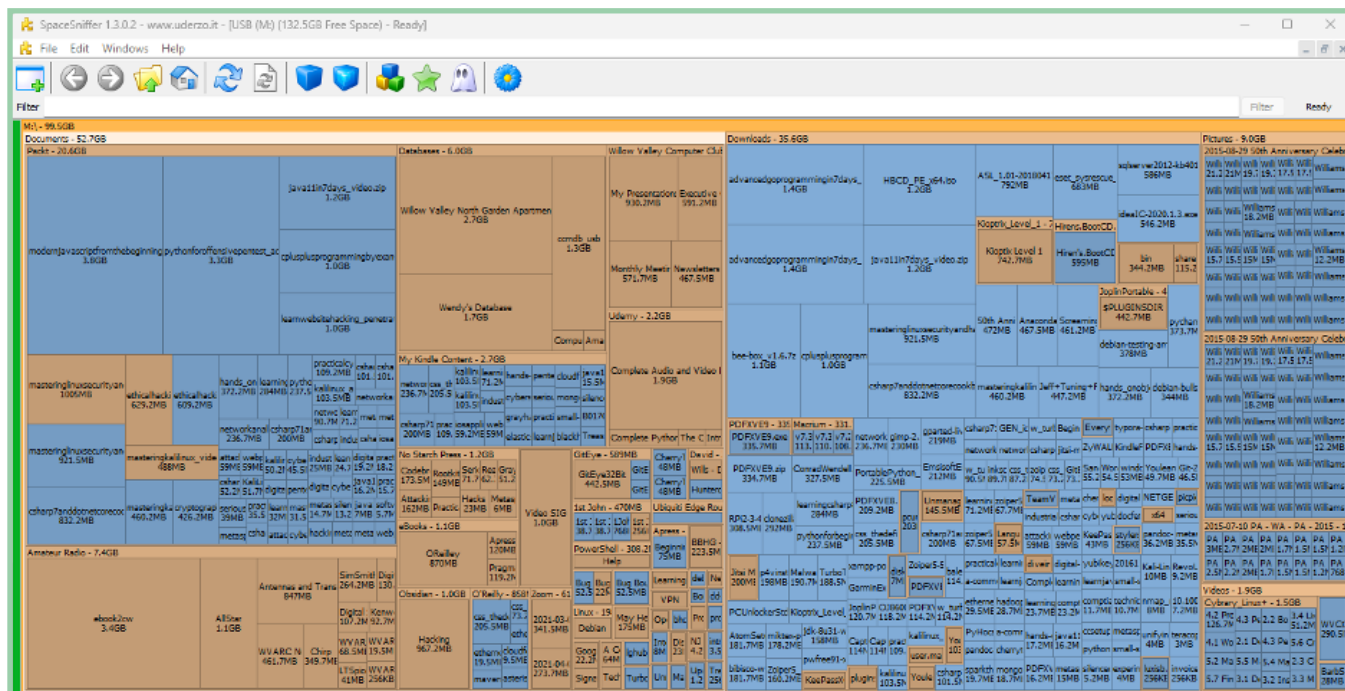


Figure 5 The M: Drive Files and Folders

Because the figure must be compressed to be included in this article, it isn't possible to make the file and folder information easily readable. Nevertheless, you can see blocks of different sizes. Each of those blocks is a file or a folder.

I want to know if there is any unused space on the M: drive. If I click on the green star icon shown in Figure 6 below, SpaceSniffer will display the files and folders on the M: drive and also display the unused space.

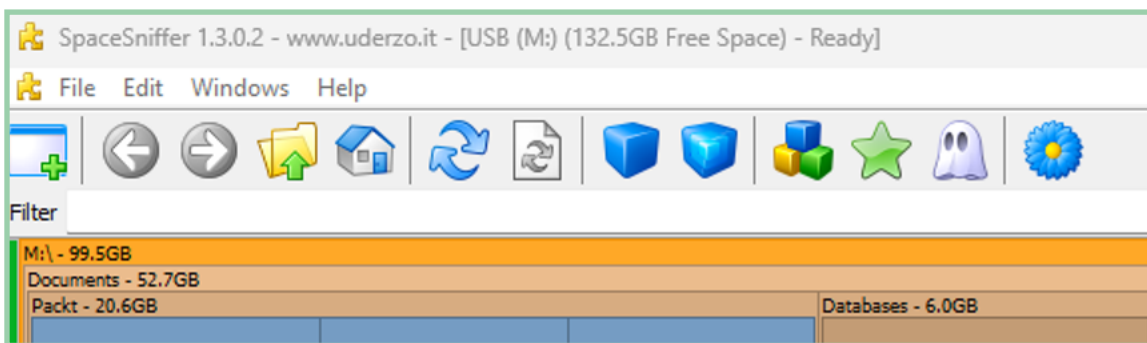


Figure 6 The SpaceSniffer Toolbar

That space is shown in green. See Figure 7 next page.

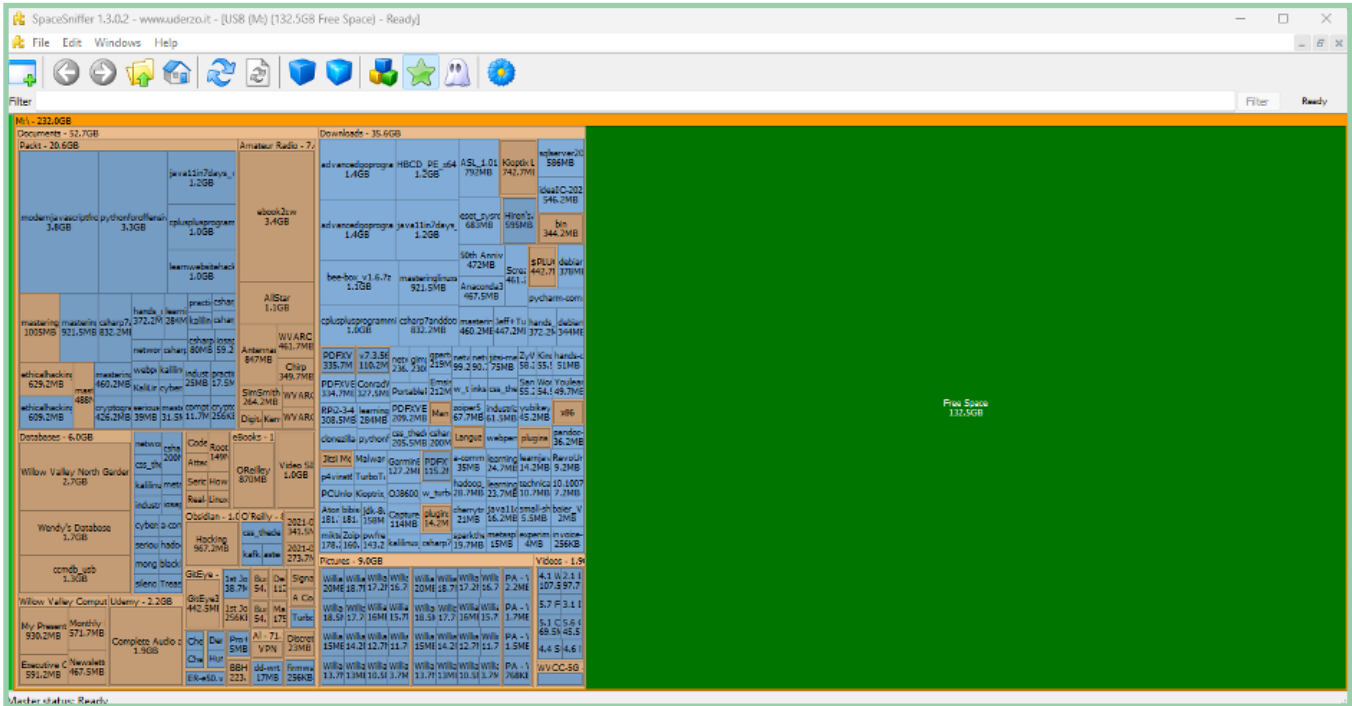


Figure 7 SpaceSniffer Displays Used and Unused Disk Space

You can see in Figure 7 that slightly more than 50% of the disk on the M: drive is not being used.

Let’s assume that the M: drive is almost completely full (even though it isn’t) and that I’m looking for files that I might want to delete to free up disk space. I could look for very old files that I might no longer need. Another possibility is that I could look for very large files that I might no longer need. I could also look for files of a certain type, say pictures; perhaps some pictures aren’t needed.

In Figure 8, I’ve entered >120months as a filter and then hit Enter. The >120months filter instructs SpaceSniffer to display only those files which are older than 120 months (10 years).

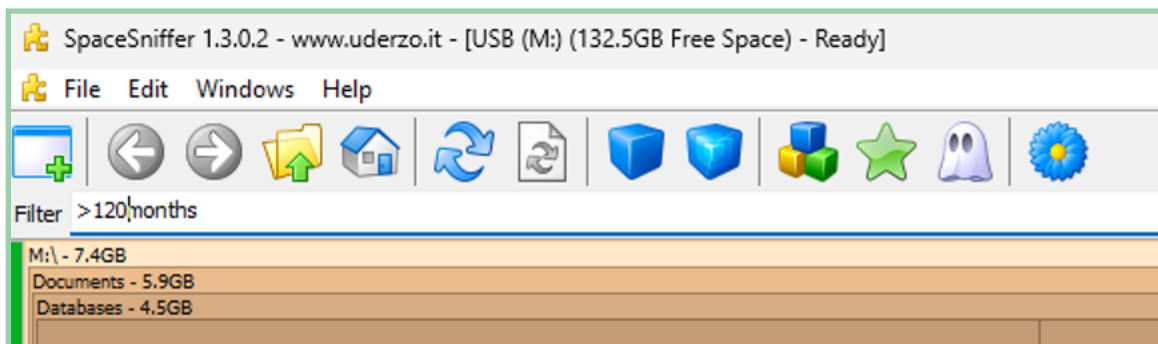


Figure 8 Filtering to Display Files Older Than 10 Years

As you can see, the total space used in the M: drive by files older than 10 years is 7.4GB. The files in the Documents folder that are older than 10 years use 5.9GB of disk space. The Databases folder also has files older than 10 years which use 4.5GB of disk space. Figure 9, below, shows all files that are older than 10 years. Some of those files are quite large.

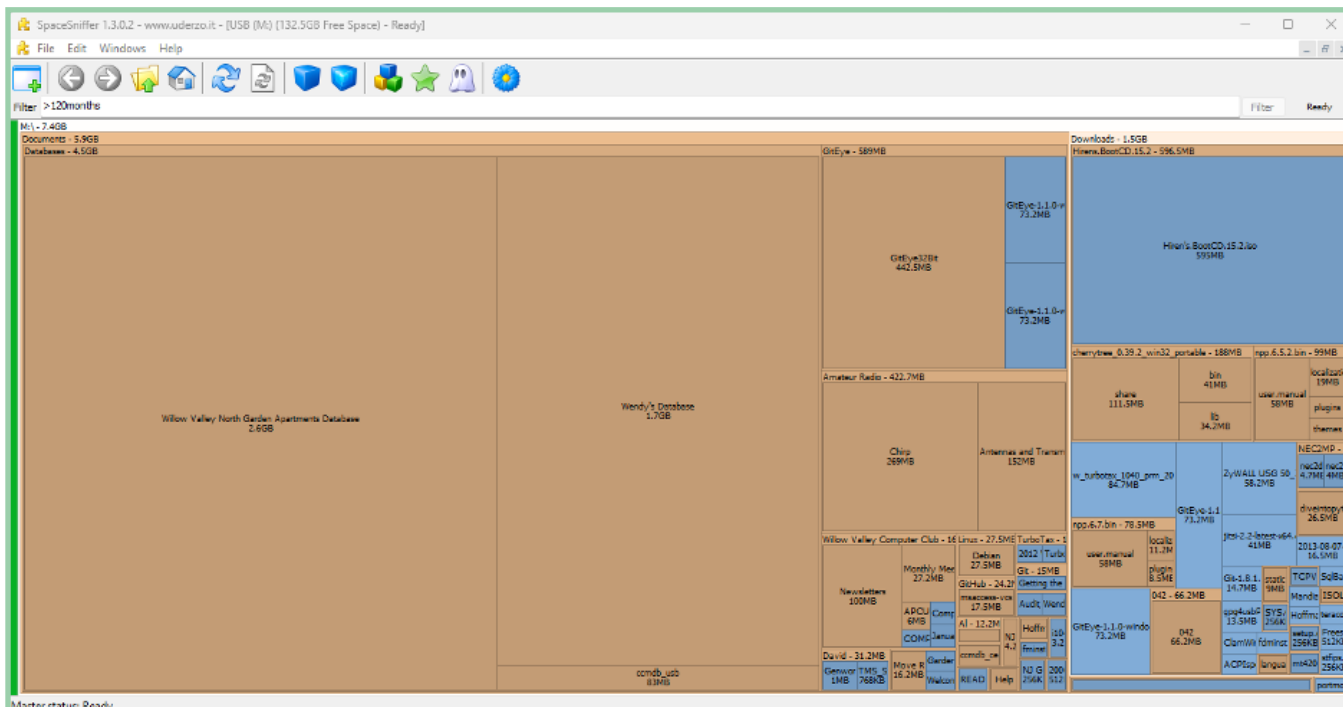


Figure 9 All Files That Are Older Than 10 Years

I can delete files on the M: drive using SpaceSniffer. For example, Figure 10 shows a portion of the display. In this portion, you can see on the right where I selected a file in the Downloads folder. The file is highlighted in white. The file's name is Hiren's BootCD.15.2.iso.

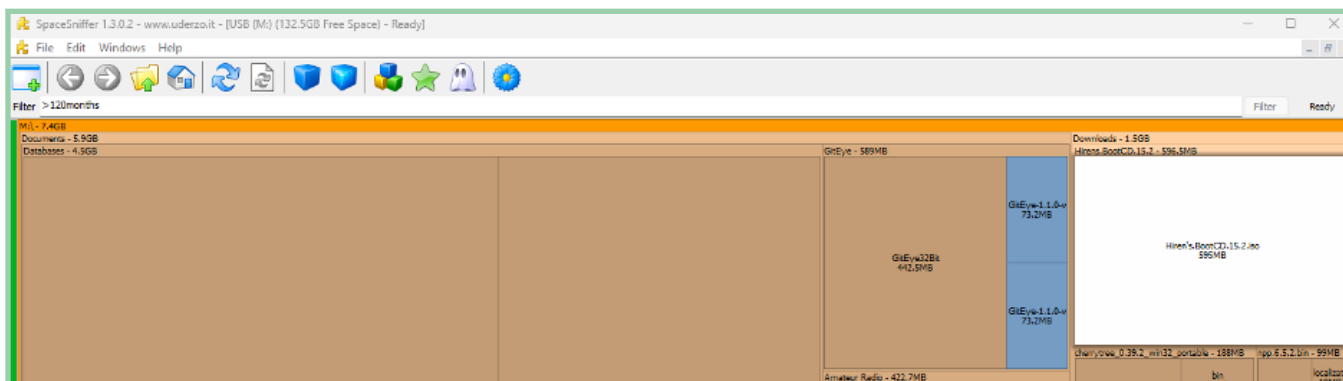


Figure 10 Displaying a Selected File in the Downloads Folder

When I right click on the selected file, I have the option of deleting it. After deleting, that file will now show up in the Recycle Bin on the M: drive. It is depicted by the pale blue box in the bottom right-hand corner. See Figure 11 next page.

Although I found a large file while looking at files older than 10 years, it is more likely that I'll find a large file candidate by explicitly looking for one. Figure 13 shows a filter for files that are larger than 1GB. I've instructed SpaceSniffer to look for files using megabytes, or mb, because that's what SpaceSniffer understands. That's why I used 1000mb in the filter to display files greater than 1 GB. See Figure 13 below.

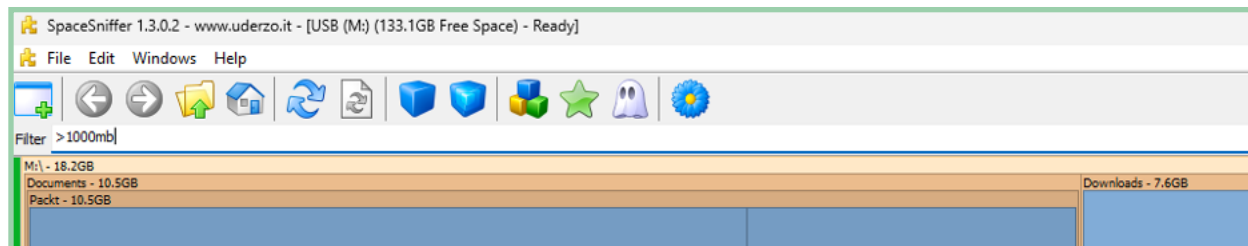


Figure 13 Filtering for files larger than 1GB

The filter result reveals that the total size of files that are greater than 1 GB is 18.2 GB. See Figure 13. SpaceSniffer also supports filtering by extension. An example is filtering for large jpg files. See Figure 14 below which shows filtering for jpg files that are larger than 22mb (22MB).

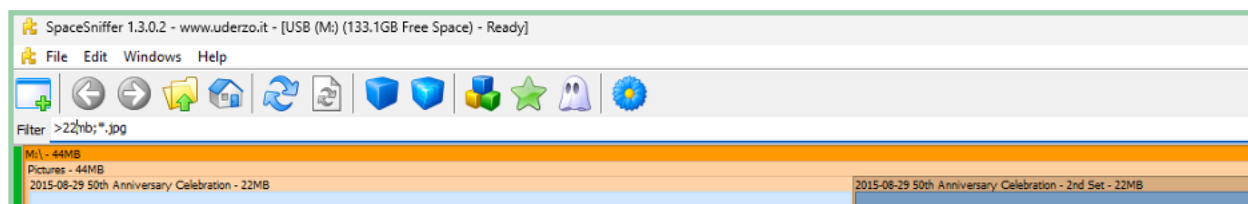


Figure 14 Filtering for large jpg files

The filter field contains: >22mb;*.jpg. The result shows that there are two jpg files that meet that filter criteria.

Perhaps I want to exclude all files of a certain type. Let's assume that I want to exclude jpg files in the results. To do so, I would enter |*.jpg in the filter field. The vertical bar is usually found on the right-hand side of the keyboard. The results are shown in Figure 15 below.

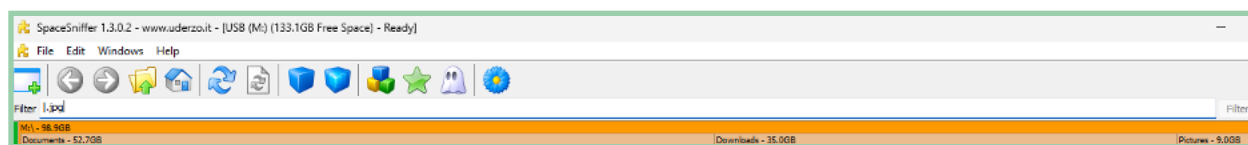


Figure 15 Excluding jpg files from filter results

The above examples should give you a very good idea how you could use SpaceSniffer to find files and folders that are too large. I encourage you to look at the User Manual. It will give you more ideas on how you can use SpaceSniffer.

Let me know how you like SpaceSniffer!

Computer Club Technology Center

NOTE: The Computer Club Technology Center (CCTC) is open on Mondays only, from 10 am to 4 pm. The CCTC is located on the 5th floor of Manor North 'J' building. The door may be closed, but with a sign indicating *Please Knock*.

Apple Items Available: See Bruce Thompson in the CCTC.

Willow Valley Computer Club Job Description

Volunteer Position Title: Deputy CCTC Director

Description of Role: The Deputy CCTC Director assists the CCTC Director as needed to accomplish the objectives set forth by the Willow Valley Computer Club's Executive Committee.

Training: The CCTC Director will provide training as needed for the Deputy CCTC Director to successfully accomplish their assignments.

Reporting: The Deputy CCTC Director will report to the CCTC Director.

Time Commitment: A minimum of four hours per week is needed. The candidate must be able to work during hours acceptable to the CCTC Director

Qualifications: Prior operations experience is desirable. A willingness to learn is imperative.

Inventory

Performance Criteria based on Passmark

- >3000 = Residents
- >2500 – 3000 = possibility for Resident otherwise Charity

SFF (Small Form Factor) PCs for Residents

- 5 SFFs Performance > 3000 – Residents (possibility for Charity)
Residents do not want these devices; prefer laptops
- 2 laptops for Residents > 3000 > HP Probooks

Laptop PCs for Charity in Inventory

- 2 Laptops

2 SFF's – need special video cable – DisplayPort connection - > 3000

Printers

- 15 printers in inventory. Several of these printers need to be taken to Staples.
- Charlie Trumbo will determine 3 printers to keep in inventory.

Donations from Residents

8 Donations Laptops and desktops – all donations have to be evaluated for possible refurbishing. We also check with the Resident to make sure all data has been copied or backed up. If it has not been, we copy or back it up for them or teach them how. ~~~**Approximately 3 hours per donation**

– 10 Work requests – All work requests can require several hours to several days of evaluation and/or repair.

– 10 walk-ins for minor problems or questions

– 3 laptops were given to Residents.

– 1 SFFs (Small Form Factors) was given to residents.

These required updating and explaining the standard software on these computers.

We are still evaluating large boxes of Free Table items along with boxes of 3.5-inch diskettes. Several boxes of DVDs also need to be evaluated for usefulness. We get to these only when there is no other work to be done. We have not had time to work on these for the last 2 months due to the demand by residents for other work. Bruce Thompson, Roy Droege, Sandy Droege, and Ann Willets have all contributed to deciding what to keep in inventory.

~ Cathy Thorn



Contact Information

For more information about the Computer Club, please contact Al Williams via email at wvcomputerclub@gmail.com.

Please keep your email address on Club records current so we can send you important emails. Send email corrections or updates to Lee Wermuth at lwermuth582@gmail.com.

Bill Skelly is the Willow Valley Computer Club Training Coordinator. We are always looking for residents qualified to teach computer-related topics. We want our classes to support your needs. Contact Bill (whskelly@aol.com) to volunteer or to offer ideas on topics needed.