User Guide

Of CompareDiff and It's Accessories

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Now computers have become the essential part of human's life. They have permeated into every parts of our life from material wealth production to entertainments. The direct results of this are many many documents or files produced by your desktop or laptop computers. Every day you make many files or folders in your computer's hard disk. For each one of them you have spent a lot of working time on it. And every file contains very important data of yours. So files management is an important but time consuming task. Are these files safe? Sometimes you lost some very important files. Sometimes you just can't find them. Sometimes you have too many versions for one file. Surely now you can get more storage at very cheap price. You back up your files into these external media. But not very long you will find that with many external disks you are falling into another kind of chaos. So many disordered files make you inefficiency and frustrated. Don't mention if your computer gets damaged then you lost your very important files.

To get the best feeling of software usage it is not recommended using very large folders.

CompareDiff is files management software. It helps to files backup and maintaining. Its elaborate design makes your backup and maintaining easy and amusing. *CompareDiff* makes your files safe and easy.

CompareDiff can do:

- Backup folders easily from source location to destination location. Source and destination can be in multi-formats (Explain later).
- Compare two folder's contents side by side with a very intuitive way to discover the differences between two sides.
- Both source folder and destination can be normal folders, packing format or ftp server.
- According to the perceiving of the difference of two side folders you can manipulate the files to achieve some actions you want to (copy, delete or synchronize folders or files between two sides).
- One-click to synchronize the two folders according to the principia of synchronizes.
- Save scenes (comparison results) into database so that you can discover the changes since last scene. And you can also synchronize folders based on the saved scenes.
- Attached a robust packing software to cooperate with *CompareDiff* software. Surely some people will welcome this function because from user's view a folder is not a bunch of files any more but only one concise file.
- CompareDiff can work in two modes: 1. Scene Mode, in this mode the comparison results saved in database. 2. Normal Mode, in this mode no comparison results saved.
- CompareDiff can compare two text files line by line to see their differences. This will be welcomed in many professions, say software developers will use this software to compare their codes.

When you first time use this software you'd better to use some unimportant folders to exercise and be familiar with the software's functions.

What is:

- Scene: a scene is a snap record of comparison result of two folders. It recorded the compared results for a given time. So when you perform a comparison of the two folders later you can also reference the last scene to see what happened since last scene.

When you pack folder with password be sure to remember the password. Or you will lost all the data.

- exc file: exc file is a kind of packing file specially used for CompareDiff. It can pack a folder and all its subfolders and contained files into a single file ended with .exc. It also has some compression features. When you packing a folder you can optionally add a password to protect the packing file. Surely this file-packing function is welcomed by those who like a concise construction when see from outside.
- Copy: copy means you can copy folders or files from one side (source or destination) and paste to other side (source or destination).
- Sync: sync is not a simple copy. When sync happened between source and destination some folders or files are copied usually by not same directions. Some folder or files may copied from left side to right side but some others may copied by opposite direction according to the principle of synchronizes.
- File identical criterions: Two file are said to be identical only when they appear in same compatible folders and have same timestamps and same sizes. If two files appear in same compatible folders and have same sizes but the timestamps are not same *CompareDiff* will check the file's contents to make sure if they are same or not.

The principle of synchronizes:

When worked in normal mode the newer files will replace the older files. If one side is empty then other side's item will fill the empty side.

> *Be sure to know: When in scene mode and the <u>Show Database Info</u> is on, if source or destination is deleted since last scene then the <u>Synchronize</u> will delete the other side.*

When in scene mode then according to the last scene the items to which the status has been changed since last scene will replace the items to which the status has not been changed. Especially if one side's item has been deleted since last scene the other side's item which status didn't changed since last scene will be deleted also.

If both side's status didn't change since last scene then the newer items will replace the older ones. If one side is empty then other side's item will fill the empty side.

If both side's status changed since last scene the newer items will replace the older ones. If one side is empty then other side's item will fill the empty side.

Menus and toolbar
File Menu:

New Scene Point: Backup a folder (, exc file or ftp address) and meantime setup and create a new scene. This way you select a source folder location (, exc file or ftp server) and a destination folder location (, exc file or ftp server) and then *CompareDiff* copy all the contents from source to destination. Finally the scene is saved. In the future you can select this scene from Scenes combo box.

Save Current Scene: Usually you selected existed scene and worked on it. After you make some changes you may save these changes by select this menu. This way the new saved scene reflects the new changes.

Save Scene As: Use this menu when you work in normal model but want to save the comparison results (scene) in database.

Exit: Exit from this software.

Tools Menu:

Options Menu: use this menu to select the options that the software will acquiesce when you perform the various tasks.

Clear Database: This menu let you clear all scenes or individual scene saved in database.

Pack Files: This menu launch the Packing software which can help to manipulate the packing files.

Files Compare: This menu launch the file compare program to let you compare two files to see their differences.

Find Same Files: This menu let you find the same files in source or destination folder.

Help Menu:

Help Contents: Launch this user guide.

Register: Launch the register dialog window.

Toolbar Buttons (from left to right):

Scan/Compare: Press this button starts the scan and comparison process. Then the software will give out the comparison results.

Copy Checked Items to Right: Click this button to perform a copy action which copy checked folders and files from left side to right side.

Copy Checked Items to Left: Click this button to perform a copy action which copy checked folders and files from right side to left side.

Check/Uncheck: Check or uncheck the selected rows (folders or files).

Remove Current Scene: Remove the current scene from scenes list.

Sync: Start the synchronizing process. In this process the contents of two sides will achieve the same according to the principle of synchronizes.

Show/Hide Database Info: Toggle button. Switch scene model or normal model.

Collapse First Level Folders: Collapse any expanded first level folders.

Navigate next or pre change: Jump to next or previous change location.

How to:

- **Set up a new scene**:
  File → New Scene Point.
  Input Scene Name, Source, Destination and Comments separately on the New Scene dialog. When you input source or destination path name you first select the folder mode: Ordinary folder, packing folder or ftp server. Click OK button. When you setup a new scene remember **that the software always copy from Source to Destination. So usually the destination should be a new created one.**
- **Compare two folders**:
  On the main window first select the folder mode (Folder, exc or ftp) for source and destination. Then select the source and destination. When the source text box and destination text box are not empty you can always press the Scan/Compare button to start the scan/compare process.

- **Expand or collapse folders**
  When comparing results displayed you can click the most left plus or minus mark of every lines of folders to expand or collapse the folders to expose or hide the contents of a individual folder.
- **Show/Hide Database information**
  When in scene compare mode you can press the **button Show/Hide database info** to see or hide the info that if some changed happened since last scene.
- **Compare two files:**
  After you got the folders comparing results. Select the file you want to compare by double click mouse left button. Then the file comparison window pop up. You would see the comparison results of source file and destination file. Or you can go to Tools Menu:
  Tools -> File Compare to select any files to compare.
  Then the file comparison window pop up. This way you should select source file and destination file separately and then press the compare button.
- **Save Scene**:
  If this comparison is not in Scene Mode: **File → Save Scene As**
  If this is already a scene stored before: **File → Save Current Scene**.
- **Remove Current Scene**:
   Under Current Scene press **Remove Current Scene** button.
- **Clear database**
  Tools-> Clear database
  You can select to clear all scenes or individual scene.
- **Scan or compare**:
  When source side and destination side both has selected valid path name press **Scan/Compare button** to start a fresh compare scan.
- **Copy Items from one side to other side**:
  Check the rows (by select them then press **Check button** to check them. Or check these rows directly) you want to copy. Then Press **Copy arrow buttons** to perform copy.
- **To delete the items**:
  Check the rows (by select them then press **Check button** to check them. Or check these rows directly) you want to delete. Then press mouse's right button to click **Delete source for checked Items** or **Delete Destination for checked Items**.
- **To manipulate packing folders**:
  Tools -> Pack Files
  Then the packing tool software pop up. Then you can create a new packing file or open an existed packing file.
- **To register**:
  Before registering suppose you have got a valid Register Code and identified user name.
  Help→Register
  On the Register Sync Dialog window input you selected User Name, input the Register code and E-mail and take a little while to read and sigh the Software Agreement. And then press the Register Button. Sometimes because of some reasons the registering failed. It doesn't matter. You can try again.
- **To find same files**
  Tools -> Find Same Files
  After you got the folders comparing results you can find the same files in source folder or destination folder.

- **Navigate to changed rows**
  You should beforehand in option dialog window select the proper type you are more interested when you navigate the comparison results (say .cs, .cpp, .txt ... ...).
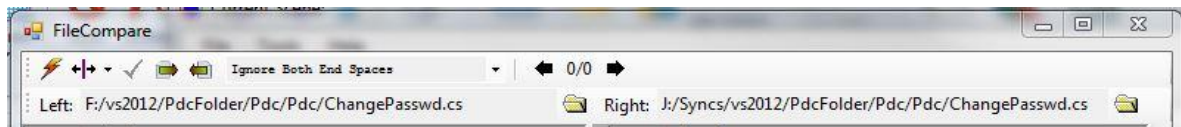 After you got the comparison results you can navigate to the changed location by press the navigate arrow buttons.

FileCompare **usage**:

FileCompare is a text files comparison program embedded in *CompareDiff*. It can compare two text files side by side and line by line to show differences existed in two files. *FileCompare* process any text sections end with line break (includes empty line) as a line. In many professions (say software developing) *FileCompare* can be a powerful tool.

launch of *FileCompare*: When in folders comparison scenarios double click the file you want to compare to start *FileCompare*. You also can compare any proper files by select menu: Tools/File compare to start *FileCompare* and then select files to compare.

FileCompare toolbar:

From left to right and up to down they are:

Fresh Scan: Perform a fresh comparison to reflect the newest changes for the files.
Adjust widths of two sides: In some situations you need to adjust the width of one of two sides so that to get a better watching result.
Save: After you made some copy between two sides you can save changed files by press this button.
Copy two sides each others: You can copy selected lines of the differences each other of two sides.
Options of comparison: select an option of how to do with spaces in texts when perform a comparison.
Jump to pre/next difference: Often many differences arise. This button helps you jump to pre or next difference location conveniently.

How to:
Select one of the options of how to do with spaces in texts and then press scan button:
> **Original compare**: no special consideration. Take any spaces as ordinary character.
> **Ignore both end spaces**: when comparing ignore the spaces at beginning and ending of lines.
> **Ignore All Spaces**: When comparing ignore all spaces. (Note: empty line still processed as a line).
> **Spaces Normalizing**: Any continually placed spaces processed as one space character.

Copy two sides each others:
Upon your understanding of comparing result you can copy the changed lines each side others. Just select the changed lines by left button of mouse and then press the left or right **copy button** to copy the contents to right or left. After copying a small icon will appear at the end of copied line so you can easily

tell the copied lines from other lines. Then you can save the files by press the **save button.** Before you save the result you can cancel any copy made after last save by press the scan button.

FolderPacking **usage**:

FolderPacking is another program embedded in *CompareDiff.* It is created for manipulating the packing file (.exc file). In that you can pack or unpack the folders very easily. In *FolderPacking* you can do:

- Copy or back up folders easily from source location to destination location in a compressed format (.exc file).
- Then you can manipulate the folder or files in this compressed file. You can add, delete or extract the folder or files in this exc file.

How to:

- **Create a new exc file**:
  Press New Button.
  In FolderPacker Dialog window select the folder you want to back up. Or you can leave a * as the name to create an empty exc file so you can add contents later. And create or select a exc file. Click OK button to pack the folder. A password setup dialog window will popup where you can setup a proper password. If you don't want password just leave the password empty. And then depends on the size of the folder this process will need from several seconds to few minutes.

- **Open on existed exc file**:
  Press the Open Packing button.
  In the Open file dialog window select the exc file to open. In the password dialog window input a valid password.

- **Structure of the compressed exc file**:
  The left section of the window shows the structure of the compressed exc file. The right part of the window shows the files corresponding to the left selected folder.

- **Extract, delete or add folders**:
  In the left tree view right click mouse button to extract, delete or add folders.

- **Extract, delete or add files**:
  In the right part of the window right click mouse button to extract, delete or add files

- **Change password**:
  Press menu File/Change Password and input a proper password.