Parker Bedlan

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship, 4A

3 February 2017

Research Assessment #10

Subject: Software Analysis - User Experience Optimization

MLA Citations:

Newman, Gary. "Belarc advisor - free personal PC audit, for software, hardware and security

configuration information on your computer. Software license management, IT asset

management, cyber security audits, and more." *Belarc.com*. 2002. Web.

Swieskowski, Patrick, and Sascha Kuzins. "Ninite - Install or update multiple Apps at once."

Ninite.com. 2017. Web.

Assessment:

My program was named "Simple Stupid Secure" because of my vision to make fixing up

an old computer simple, stupid, and secure, as the name implies. However, as I worked on the

project, it only became more and more complicated as each feature was added on, and while it is

true that it dramatically reduces the time and price to fix up a computer, the amount of buttons

that need to be clicked make "Simple Stupid Secure" a name that is a bit hypocritical, and

bothersome to someone who does not find the program to be as the name describes. For this

assessment, I will be looking into two exceptionally simple programs that require very little

clicking for the user, both of which were recommended by my mentor.

Belarc Advisor is the program that neGma uses to analyze any computer having troubles, whether it is lack of hard drive space, security threats, or boot problems. It simply and quickly extracts more information from the computer than an experienced user could get in an hour with a program that runs all of the processes in the background with a simple, easy install. Once the scan is complete, it prints out the long list of results in a custom webpage for the user to scroll through and interact with to learn more about the computer. The most unique feature of this program is that you never feel like you are leaving their site; you download the program from their site, a small popup runs in the background, and you see the results on their site. Despite its simplicity, it still acts as a real program with an official installation process, including a desktop shortcut. This made me realize that if I want my program to be useful, I need it to have an official installation as a program as well, or else it will just become a forgotten .exe file in the user's C: drive. This also helped me realize how much more simple I could make the process. My process is simple, but each step taken involved the user pressing a button, and this adds up with all of the tasks my program does. Using my program effectively requires an explanation or tutorial video to use properly, and a lot of people simply do not have the time nor patience for that. While I teased the idea of an "Automatic" button in the past, looking at the successful implementation of that concept in Belarc helped me to realize how crucial that feature will be to compete with other programs. This being said, Belarc made a mistake in their website; it is painfully boring to look at, which is a large problem when it comes to attracting inexperienced users, but the second program I looked into did not make that mistake.

Ninite is a program that does something completely different with the same exact feeling of simplicity. When someone gets a new computer, there is typically a laundry list of programs

they want installed, and finding and installing them can take hours. With Ninite, all of the installing of common programs is done in one custom executable, and all the user needs to do is check what they want to download from their website and click on a big blue button. The program does all of the work, downloading and installing each program one by one while the user can relax hands-free. The website is done much better with this program, and the concept is much more appealing to a common user. The simple installation only reinforced the idea that I need an automatic button, or even a program that runs automatically as soon as it is installed, with no understanding from the user required whatsoever. I also am more tempted to focus on site interaction thanks to this website, because a program that is able to make a custom executable based on the needs of the user is almost unheard of.

While the concept of an "Automatic" feature was prominent in both of these programs and truly made everything simpler, I like my original idea of informing the user of what they were doing wrong in the past by walking them through each step. This would help promote better computer hygiene, which was my goal in the first place. It seems that my next major conflict will be maintaining the ease of use for basic users while also teaching computer hygiene to any users that are curious about it. My mentor and I will look into the conflict and find the most effective way of implementing both.

Source 1: Belarc Advisor - http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

Notes:

Something unique about belarc that I've noticed is that it has little to no GUI, simply because it doesn't require one. Very basic update / analysis box when prompted, and everything is done in the background.
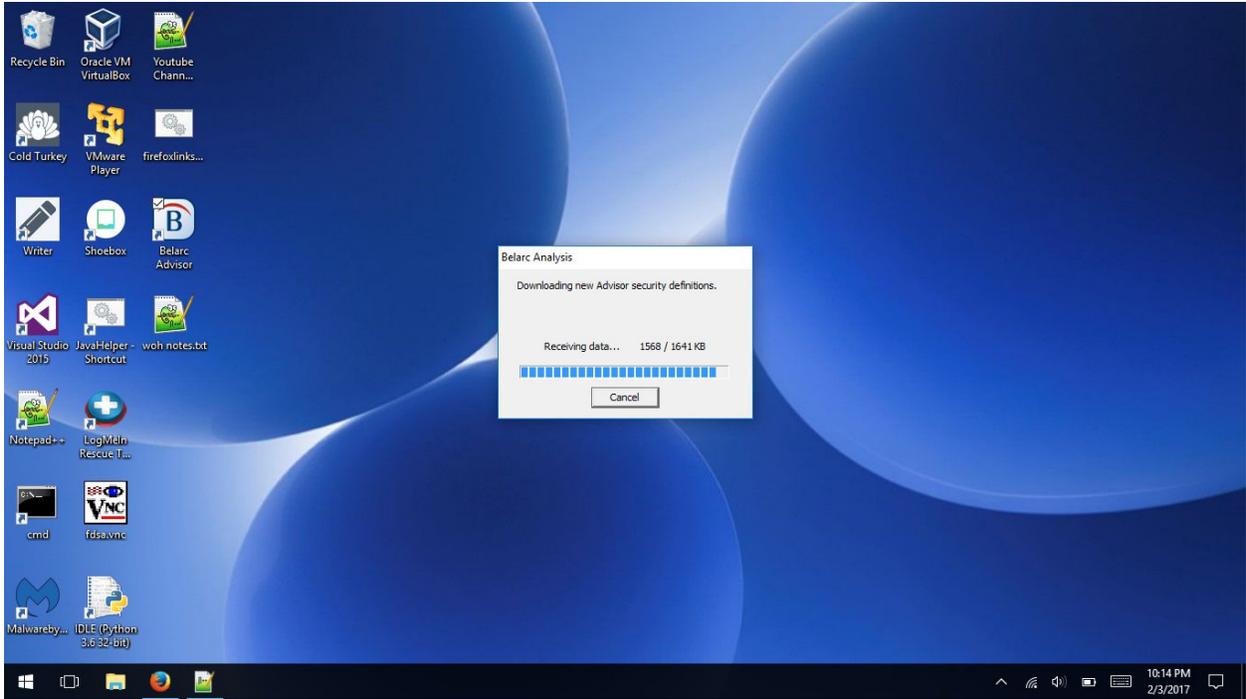
While the GUI is simple for the user to run, the program is definitely not simple, as it pickups up data I didn't even think about. This includes:
- Last known usage of each program
- Missing security updates and where to find them
- Automatically installed hotfixes

Something else I noticed is that even once the installer has finished, it creates and opens an html file with your default browser, so it looks like a webpage for all of the information it gives you. The entire process makes you feel like you hardly have left the site, because you download it from the site, wait for a box to finish loading, and then all the information you could possibly want to know about your computer is displayed in another web page. The simplicity is unmatched, and <mark>I should consider adding more site implementation for my own program.</mark>

I noticed that despite its simplicity and lack of a real need for an installer, it has a fairly traditional installer that places a desktop shortcut and keeps data in Program Files, including an uninstall executable. <mark>I should look into creating an installer for my program so that it counts as a real program to the computer as well.</mark>

The convenience for any experienced or inexperienced user is important as well. Just by clicking on an 'i' I can get much more information about a certain software, or choose to simply scroll through and click on the red text with warnings.

Belarc Analysis

Downloading new Advisor security definitions.

Receiving data...   1568 / 1641 KB

Cancel

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file:///C:/Program Files (x86)/Belarc/BelarcAdvisor/System/tmp/(DESKTOP-NO6PR58).html

Most Visited   Getting Started   about:memory

i Intel - Security Assist *version* 1.0.0.532
i Intel - Wireless Bluetooth *version* 17.1.1529.1613 **(64-bit)**
ii LogMeIn - LMIGuardianSvc *version* 10.1.1742 **(64-bit)**
ii LogMeIn - Rescue Technician Console 7.10.0.3035 *version* 7.10.0.3035 **(64-bit)**
i Malwarebytes - Malwarebytes *version* 3.0.0.865
i Malwarebytes - Service *version* 3.1.0.388 **(64-bit)**
i Malwarebytes - Tray Application *version* 3.0.0.865
i Microsoft - .NET Framework *version* 3.0.6920.8763
i Microsoft - .NET Framework *version* 4.0.41210.0 **(32/64-bit)**
i Microsoft - .NET Framework *version* 4.6.1586.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - 3D Builder *version* 12.0.3131.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - Antimalware Service Executable *version* 4.10.14393.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - App Installer *version* 1.0.2181.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - Application Virtualization (App-V) *version* 5.0.10346.0
i Microsoft - Connect *version* 10.0.14393.0
i Microsoft - Contact Support *version* 10.0.14393.0
i Microsoft - Cortana *version* 1.7.0.14393
i Microsoft - Edge *version* 38.14393.0.0
i Microsoft - Email and accounts *version* 10.0.14393.693
i Microsoft - family features *version* 1000.14393.0.0
i Microsoft - Feedback Hub *version* 1.1611.3471.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - Get Office *version* 17.7608.23501.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - Groove Music *version* 10.16122.10271.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - Internet Explorer *version* 11.00.14393.0 **(32/64-bit)**
i Microsoft - Mail and Calendar *version* 17.7830.42257.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - Messaging *version* 3.19.1001.0
i Microsoft - Movies & TV *version* 10.16122.10291.0 **(64-bit)**
i Microsoft - MSN News *version* 4.18.41.0
i Microsoft - MSN Weather *version* 4.18.37.0
ii Microsoft - Office 2016 *version* 16.0.7571.2109

suite. **(64-bit)**
i No Company Name - PowerStarterAgent.exe
i No Company Name - Wireless PAN DHCP and DNS Server *version* 18, 12, 0, 0 **(64-bit)**
i Oracle - Java Platform SE 8 *version* 8.0.1210.13 **(64-bit)**
ii Oracle - Java Platform SE 8 U121 *version* 8.0.1210.13 **(64-bit)**
i Oracle - Java Platform SE Auto Updater *version* 2.8.121.13
i Oracle - VM VirtualBox *version* 5.1.14.112924 **(64-bit)**
i Outlook - Your account *version* 10.0.14393.0
i PC-Doctor - for Windows *version* 6.0.6855.61 **(64-bit)**
ii Python Software Foundation - Python *version* 3.6.0
ii Realtek Semiconductor - Audio Service *version* 1, 0, 0, 68 **(64-bit)**
ii Realtek Semiconductor - HD Audio Background Process *version* 1, 0, 0, 226 **(64-bit)**
ii Realtek Semiconductor - HD USB Audio Manager *version* 1.0.512.0 **(64-bit)**
i SEIKO EPSON - E_UPBX02.EXE *version* 1.2.3.0 **(64-bit)**
i SEIKO EPSON - Epson Printer Driver Setup *version* 7.08 **(64-bit)**
ii SEIKO EPSON - EPSON Status Monitor 3 *version* 7.01 **(64-bit)**
ii SEIKO EPSON - EPSON Status Monitor 3 *version* 7.02 **(64-bit)**
i Synaptics - Pointing Device Driver *version* 19.0.15.15 15Oct15 **(64-bit)**
i Twitter - *version* 5.4.1.0
ii VMware - USB Arbitration Service *version* 12.1.19 build-2063919 **(64-bit)**
ii VMware - Workstation *version* 10.0.7 build-2844087
ii Waves Audio - MaxxAudio *version* 1.1.6.0 **(64-bit)**
ii Waves Audio - MaxxAudio *version* 1.11.2.0 **(64-bit)**
ii Waves Audio - MaxxAudioControl *version* 3.17.4.0 **(64-bit)**
ii Wistron - Dell Power Manager Lite (Event) *version* 1, 0, 1, 1119 **(64-bit)**
i Wistron - Dell Power Manager Lite *version* 1, 0, 4, 325 **(64-bit)**

i Mouse over to see details, click to see where software is installed.
i Marks software last used within the past 7 days.
ii Marks software last used within the past 90 days, but over 7 days ago.
iii Marks software last used within the past year, but over 90 days ago.
iiii Marks software last used over 1 year ago.
Unmarked software lacks the data to determine last use.

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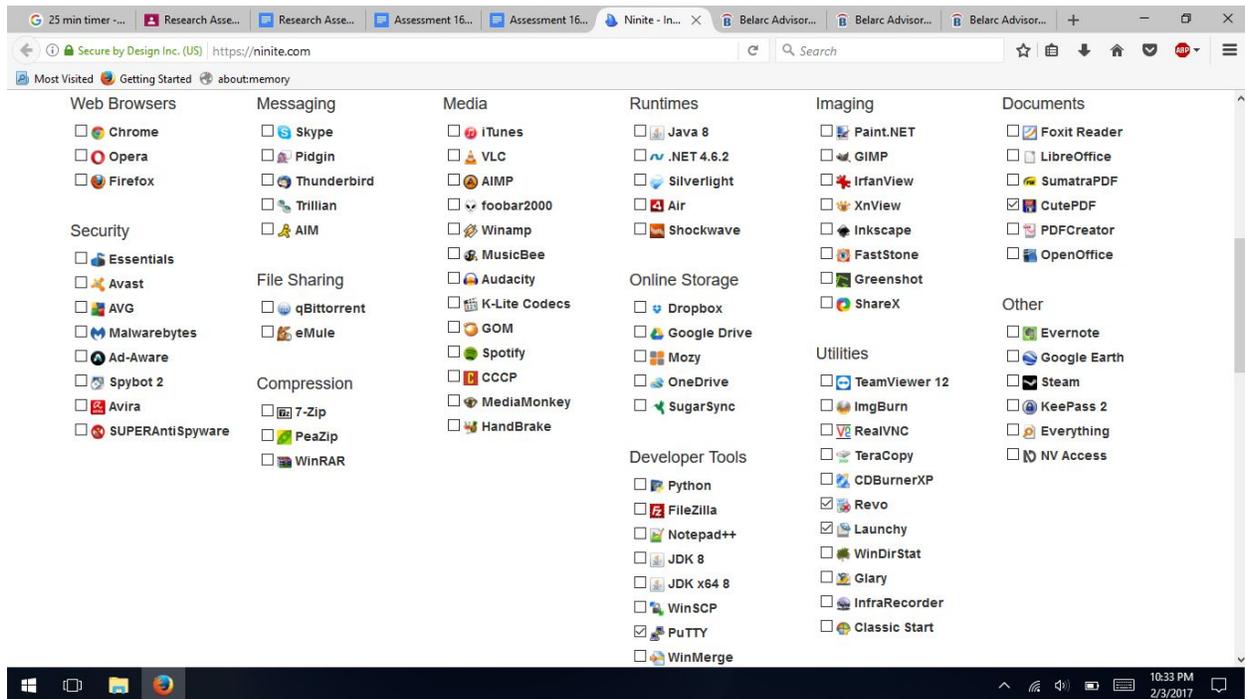
Source 2: Ninite - https://ninite.com/

Notes:

The concept is to easily install several programs that are commonly installed anyways, which alone is a brilliantly simple and convenient concept I wish I would have come up with myself

This program, like Belarc, has an interactive website, but this one provides a menu of items to be installed and creates a custom executable accordingly. I am shocked at how brilliant this site is.

This one, like Belarc, has practically no GUI for the user to worry about clicking through. The only buttons the user has to press is their menu of executables and the download button.

More friendly to basic users, with a very basic appearance at all times. Very simple.

I should consider implementing a download-and-wait system for my program, or perhaps an "automatic" setting that has the computer do all typical fixes.

Secure by Design Inc. (US) | https://ninite.com   C   Search

Most Visited   Getting Started   about:memory

2. Download and run your custom installer/updater

Get Your Ninite

Ninite works on Windows 10, 8.x, 7, Vista, XP Service Pack 3, and equivalent Server versions.

Ninite will

- start working as soon as you run it
- not bother you with any choices or options
- install apps in their default location
- say no to toolbars or extra junk
- install 64-bit apps on 64-bit machines
- install apps in your PC's language or one you choose
- do all its work in the background
- install the latest stable version of an app
- skip up-to-date apps
- skip any reboot requests from installers
- use your proxy settings from Internet Explorer
- download apps from each publisher's official site
- verify digital signatures or hashes before running anything
- work best if you turn off any web filters or firewalls
- save you a lot of time!

Suggest an app

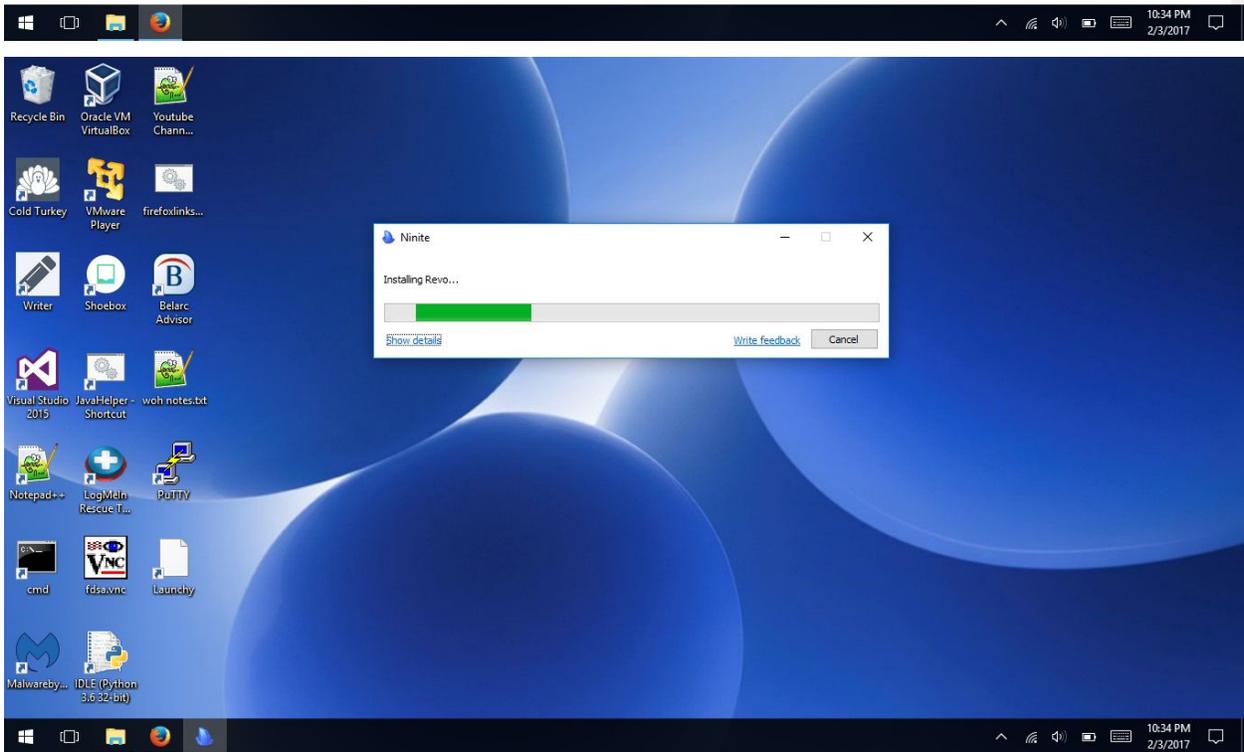We only add popular user-requested apps to Ninite.

Show suggestion form

Manage multiple machines?

Ninite Pro makes patching your whole network easy.

Pro helps you manage apps on your whole network. It's licensed for business use, faster because of its download cache, works offline, can uninstall apps, has options to disable built-in updaters and desktop shortcuts … we could go on, but there's a whole page for that.

Our website is free for home use (money-wise, but also free of ads and junkware) because Pro users keep Ninite running.

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Recycle Bin   Oracle VM VirtualBox   Youtube Chann...

Cold Turkey   VMware Player   firefoxlinks...

Writer   Shoebox   Belarc Advisor

Visual Studio 2015   JavaHelper - Shortcut   woh notes.txt

Notepad++   LogMeIn Rescue T...   PuTTY

cmd   fdsa.vnc   Launchy

Malwareby...   IDLE (Python 3.6 32-bit)

Ninite   —   □   X

Installing Revo…

Show details   Write feedback   Cancel

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