BACKUP ROUTINES SETUP AND USE

Overview

The built-in backup system routines once properly configured are executed with one click by using one of three dedicated buttons located on the Main Menu screen.

The backup files are automatically renamed to describe the date and time of the backup to a one second resolution, somewhat like a timestamp for later reference if needed.

For example, these sample backup files represents a list as might be displayed in a Windows Explorer file listing:

201308100944amShSec712.ss1.. 08-10-13 09:44 AM

201308100944amShSecValueLists.ss1............................. 08-10-13 09:45 AM

20130807112858amShSec712.ss1.....................................08-07-13 11:29 AM

20130806112945pmShSecValueLists.ss1...........................08-06-13 11:29 PM

Using the first filename as an example:
201308100944amShSec712.ss1

Would show the timestamp of the backup in the filename itself.

year:**2013**   month:**08**   day:**10**   time:**09:44am**

To setup the buttons for use, there must be locations available for the backup files to be copied, such as a separate subdirectory, external drive, USB Memory Stick, Network Drive, External RAID Drive, etc.

At this time, solid-state memory is not expensive. A 256GB memory stick with a current street cost of about $30 can effectively contain over 3000 average-sized backups.

There are three button choices on the Main menu for the backup functions. Any or all buttons can be configured in the SETUP screen. In the example below, each button is configured for backing up data files to different locations.

The timestamps located above each button represents the last occurrence of the backup relating to each corresponding button.

The SETTINGS button will bring up the screen for the configuration for each backup button.

Highlighted below in the green rectangle on the SETTINGS screen are the controls that configure each backup button that are located on the Main Menu.

User's can specify fixed locations for their backups as shown in the below examples.

The first button example describes a backup to the local user's Desktop subdirectory labeled Temp-Desktop. The full path name in this example is:
C:/Documents and Settings/All Users/Desktop/Temp-Desktop

The Desktop for each user's system will vary and be dependant on the Windows OS version installed among other variables.

Using the example in the screen shot below, Backup Location number 2 as configured can be validated with the TEST button highlighted by the red oval.

A dialog box will be displayed that explains how the testing of the backup configuration will proceed. The testing does not perform a backup, but initiates a request for Windows Explorer to provide a listing of the files at the location specified for the backup location.

A backup configuration checkbox option is offered for each of the three backup locations, to include / exclude the **ShSecValueLists** data file with each backup. With this checkbox selected, this secondary data file will be excluded from the backup, for a reduced execution time and storage requirement.

The **ShSecValueLists** data file contains the graphic elements for the events as well as portions of the most-common values found in the standard drop-down menus used in the system.

Upon completion of the TEST procedure, a dialog will report the results as either valid or invalid.

Be aware that the slightest error in the configuration syntax will result in an error response. An extra space, misspelling or omitting of any required element can be the cause of the error.

After a good number of backup executions, a backup directory might look something similar to the Windows Explorer listing as illustrated in the screen shot below.

The files displayed here have the .fp7 extension whereas the distributed software systems will use filenames with the .ss1 extension designation
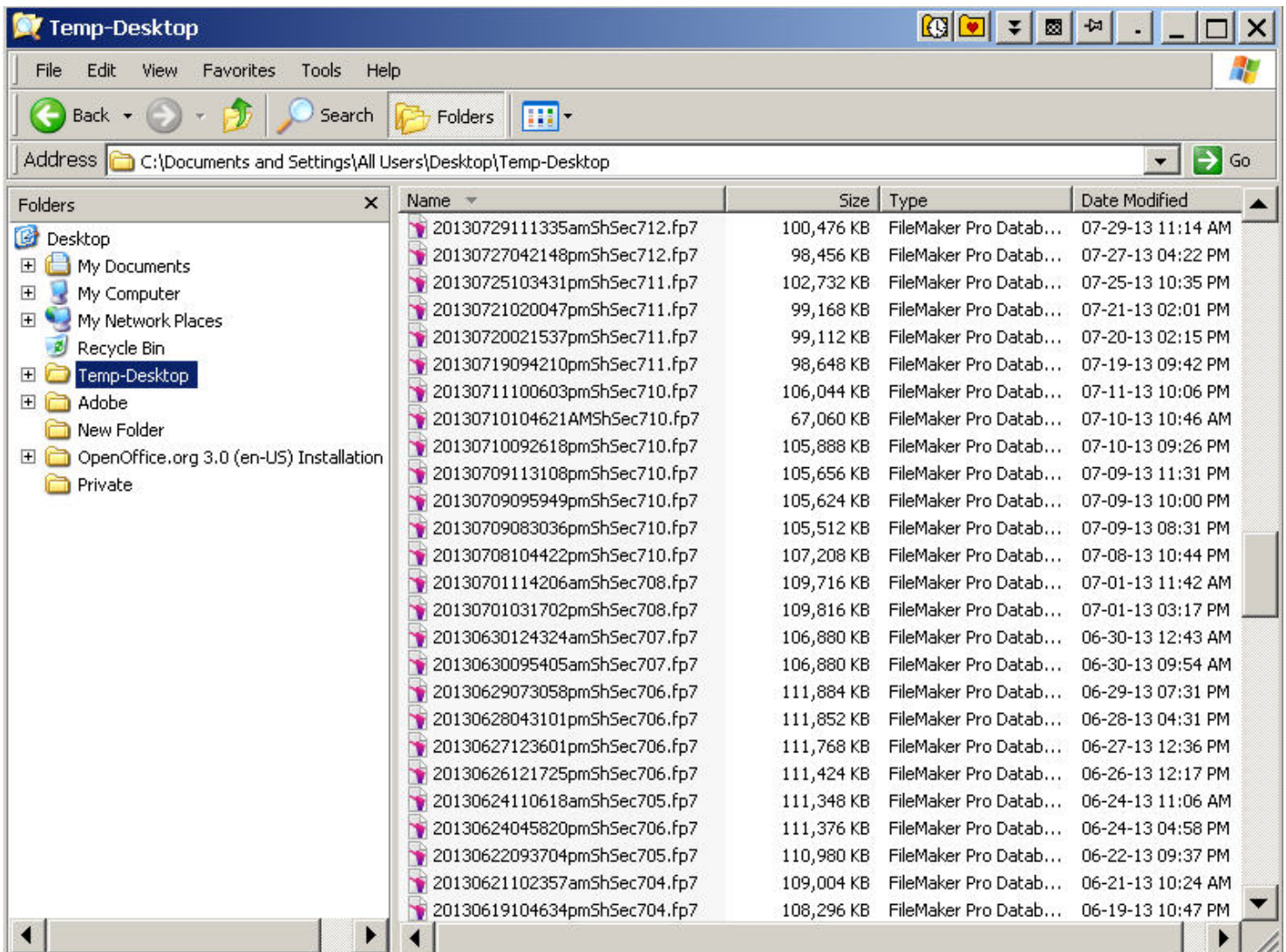
<u>Restoration Overview</u>

The built-in backup system does not support restore functions at this time. If the need arises to restore a system to a previous state from a backup file directory, the process only requires basic operating system skills of renaming and copying files.

Any of these tasks must be performed external of the software system and cannot proceed with the software running or in use.

First, the .ss1 files to be abandoned, should be renamed and not deleted. There may be a later need to access these files, and for that reason it is recommended these files be maintained for possible future reference.

One suggestion would be to rename the extensions of the abandoned .ss1 files to extensions that represents the restore date:

<u>Existing System File:</u>   <u>Rename to:</u>
ShSec712.ss1 .... ShSec712.20130830
ShSecValueLists.ss1 .... ShSecValueLists.20130830

Then the backup files to be restored can be renamed to the original system working names:

<u>Backup File to Restore:</u>   <u>Rename to:</u>
201308100944amShSec712.ss1 .... ShSec712.ss1
201308100944amShSecValueLists.ss1 .... ShSecValueLists.ss1

Lastly the renamed files can be copied to the system file location for immediate use.

To perform the Windows file functions, it will be assumed that the user will be familiar with the basic operating system functions using Windows Explorer or fundamental DOS knowledge.

NOTES