

SIGs To Go

Background – At last years CES, I learned of “Ceedo” and “PowerToGo” at the Lexar booth. They offered a means to take your favorite applications along with you on a USB thumb drive while traveling across town or around the world. I was impressed.

Items to be covered –

Ceedo

PowerToGo

U3 (PackageFactory)

PortableApps

Ceedo – <http://ceedo.com/>

Ceedo is an Israeli company which developed the software used on their thumb drives. We can take a look at their site and see what they offer.

The programs offered at their Web site for installation on your flash drive can be found at:

<http://www.ceedo.com/eng/programs/programsFrameset.htm?cmd=>

The program can be installed on any thumb drive and can be purchased at the Ceedo Web site for \$29.95. Thirty day trial available.

Let’s take a look.

(Ceedo demo)

PowerToGo - http://lexar.com/powerwego/ptg_features.html

PoweraToGo is a Lexar application developed for Lexar by the folks at Ceedo. It comes installed on Lexar JumpDrives (JumpDrive Lightning recommended). If you own a JumpDrive Mercury or Lightning and download and install the trial version, it will recognize the JumpDrive and will grant you a free license. It can be downloaded and installed on non-Lexar drives and purchased after the trial period for \$29.95.

Programs supported for PowerToGo are about the same as Ceedo and are at http://lexar.com/powerwego/programs/programs_index.htm Lexar also had Ceedo develop a program called InstallAnything which allows you to install program not on their program list. There is a 45 day trial download. It also runs \$29.95.

Let’s take a look.

(PowerToGo / InstallAnything demo)

U3 - <http://u3.com>

U3 is a system installed on several brands of thumb drives. It comes with several applications pre-installed but has it's own site with a list of applications available. Virtually all of the Ceedo and PowerToGo applications are free. With U3 they are a mixed bag. You can see them at: <http://software.u3.com/softwarecentral.aspx?skip=1>

**In addition to the programs listed at this side, some Canadians have developed a program called PackageFactory which lets you create U3 installation files for many of your favorite applications. You can download it at: <http://www.eure.ca> It is free for non-commercial use. Let's look at both of these:
(U3 / PackageFactory demo)**

PortableApps - <http://portableapps.com>

**PortableApps is another option. The above site lists twenty plus applications that can be installed on any thumb drive and the are all freebies. They install the complete application in its own directory so removal is easy. If you download the application PStart, it will allow you to create a menu with all the installed applications on it for easy access. Let's check this one out.
(PortableApps demo)**

Compatibility With Windows Vista

Ceedo – Works with limited success. Does not work with Windows OE or IE so load another email client and browser. Other applications work for the most part.

PowerToGo – The Mozilla mail and browser clients I installed replaced the old IE and OE and worked. Most of the programs worked ok but those actively addressing the internet (e.g. FTP and Skype and Mozilla email) needed some tweaking.

U3 – I tried two U3 thumb drives and neither would launch the U3 program and therefore were unusable.

PortableApps – Applications worked fine. Some needed tweaking as mentioned under PowerToGo.

Q & A session.

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