AST General Use Repair Utility
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What is Guru?
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Guru is a program that can restore your computer to working order, if
crucial operating files are mistakenly deleted or changed. Guru is a
safeguard for the setup of your computer.

The Guru program takes a "snapshot" of the way certain important computer
files are set. When you start your computer, Guru compares the actual
files to the snapshot. If the crucial files are missing or changed, Guru
informs you of the discrepancy and gives you a chance to restore the files
to their previous condition.

The appearance of Guru does not necessarily mean that something is wrong
with your computer. If you tell the Guru program that your computer is
working fine, Guru goes away and does not intervene until it again finds
that the computer setup is altered.

The setup of your computer may be altered when installing a software
program on your computer, by erasing files from the computer hard disk, or
by editing any of the three files AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, or SYSTEM.INI.

How to Use Guru
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When you start the computer, and Guru detects that the computer setup has
changed, a Guru message appears on the screen. Do the following:

1. Read the message.

2. Press the OK button. (Press the arrow keys on your computer keyboard
   to select any button in a Guru message, and press the <Enter> key or
   spacebar to press the button.)

3. Run the computer as usual. Make note of whether the computer works as
   expected, or not. If the computer is working poorly, turn it off and on
   again. If the computer seems fine, continue using it. Guru will
   reappear the next time the computer is started.

4. Read the Guru message that appears when you restart the computer. If
   your computer worked OK, press the Guru button that saves the new
   setup-- Guru quickly takes a new "snapshot" of the computer setup, and
   goes away.

If the computer did not work properly, press the Guru button to restore the

old setup. Guru asks you to select between a partial or full restore. For most purposes, choose the partial restore (see the section "Technical Notes About Guru" for a description of the differences between the two). Guru quickly restores your setup. Follow any additional screen instructions.

If you are not sure whether the computer setup is working properly, press the "Not sure yet" button-- repeat this step until you are sure.

5. Guru may appear again to ask if your computer works as expected. Read the Guru messages and respond appropriately.

If you have created new program groups in Microsoft Windows, you may have to recreate the program groups if they are missing after you restore an old setup. See "Technical Notes About Guru" below.

The Advanced Menu

If you elect to restore your computer to a previous setup (see step 4 above) you may choose to use an advanced menu by selecting the Advanced menu button and pressing <Enter>.

The advanced Guru menu is for computer- knowledgeable users-- it is faster and easier for most users to follow the instructions above and avoid the advanced menu. However, the advanced menu allows more control over which files Guru restores. It also provides an option to make a self-booting Guru recovery diskette, and allows restoring of files that do not appear to have changed.

The advanced Guru menu uses the familiar pull-down-menu user-interface. To use a pull-down menu, press the <Alt> key and the first letter of the menu name; for example, hold down <Alt>+<R> on the computer keyboard to reach the Restore menu. Be sure to read all screen instructions.

The Restore menu allows restoration of files saved by Guru. "Restore all changed files" will find and display all files that are restorable and that have changed since the backup date. This list of files-to-restore is not changeable. "Restore some changed files" displays a similar, but changeable, list. "Undo last restore" will put back the original files, as they were prior to the last restore. However, it will not remove files that did not exist before the restore.

The Save menu allows manual saving of the current setup. "Save the current setup to hard disk" is self-explanatory. "Make Guru diskette from the last save" uses the last setup saved either from the above menu option or during system startup. It creates a self-booting diskette that contains both the Guru program and the saved setup.

The Tools menu is for use by advanced users and AST Technical Support. For a description of "Check for missing and changed files," see the "What Files Does Guru Remember?" section below. "Install Guru" is self-explanatory.

The Restore menu options will only find "changed" files. They detect changes by examining the file's directory entry-- its date, time, size, and attributes-- and ignore the file's content. If the content is damaged, but the directory entry is unchanged, then they will not display the file and cannot restore the file. To recover from this type of file damage, choose

"Restore files from complete set" under the Tools menu. This option lists
ALL saved files, not just the "changed" ones.

How to Protect Your Data

Guru can restore some important operating system files and get your
computer working again. Even so, there are many files on the hard disk of
your computer, and most are easy to delete.

Be cautious when deleting files-- especially ones in the hard drive root
directory (C:\), the DOS directory (C:\DOS), and the Windows directory
(C:\WINDOWS). Most of these are crucial to the computers' operation.

It's important to note that Guru can only restore certain setup files.
Other files or data that are accidentally erased or damaged have to be
replaced from a backup copy, usually on floppy disk. Therefore, you should
make backup copies of important files. See your DOS user's manual for
instructions on using the "backup" command.

If files other than those restored by Guru are lost, see your DOS user's
manual for instructions on using the "undelete" command.

Your computer also included software that can check for destructive
computer viruses that maliciously delete files. These viruses are rare,
but can be a cause for concern. If you are concerned about preventing
computer viruses on your system, see your DOS user's manual for
instructions on using the "msav" command.

Technical Notes About Guru

When any of the files AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, or SYSTEM.INI are changed,
by you or a software program, and you restart the computer, Guru asks you
to check the computer and its software to make sure both are working as
expected. If not, Guru can restore these important files to a previous
state, so that the computer works as it did before. If the computer works
fine, you can save the new state of the important files for safekeeping.

What Files Does Guru Save?

Guru copies the three files AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, and SYSTEM.INI. When
you specify a Partial Restore, rather than an Full Restore, Guru restores
only the these three files. Guru also copies files with the extensions
*.INI, *.CFG, *.GRP. If you specify a Full Restore, Guru restores files
with these extensions.

What Files Does Guru Remember?

Guru also remembers information about files with certain file name
extensions. For any of these files on any local hard drive, you can see
which have changed since the last time Guru made a copy of the computer's
setup. This is done by choosing "Check for missing and changed files..."
from the "Tools" menu on the "Advanced" menu.

"GURU.INI" contains the file extensions patterns for files that are
remembered -- see the NOTEEXT parameter.

What CMOS Setup Information is Saved?

Guru saves almost all of the CMOS Setup information on most AST Computers.
It never saves the time and date, nor does it ever save security
information, such as passwords.

Where to Get More Information
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For information about creating program groups and program icons in
Microsoft Windows, and editing and understanding the contents of the
SYSTEM.INI file, refer to the Microsoft Windows user documentation.

For information on deleting and undeleting files, running anti-virus
programs, and editing and understanding the contents of the CONFIG.SYS and
AUTOEXEC.BAT files, refer to the DOS user documentation.

For information on running the System Setup program that is built-in to
your computer, refer to your computer user's manual.

Credits
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  Duane Cowgill,   Product Concept
     Software Marketing

  James Hugard,   Design and Development
     Software Engineering

  David Kries,   Documentation
     Technical Publications
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