This CD-Rom has an autorun function. When the CD is inserted in the CD-ROM drive, it will automatically launch an interface that will allow you to access the material on the CD. If your autorun feature is turned off or your system does not open the interface, you can manually start the interface program by opening the LAUNCH.EXE file on the root of the CD-Rom.

Most files on this CD-Rom require Adobe Reader. If you do not have Adobe Reader installed, it is free software available for installation from the CD.

If you are installing onto a Windows Vista computer with multiple user accounts, you can install the software either for a single user or for all the users on the computer. A single-user installation should work through the InstallShield wizard, but a multi-user installation requires you to install directly from the CD.

To install for all users on a Windows Vista computer, follow these steps.
1. Navigate to the CD contents on your CD drive, i.e., go to Start | Computer, right-click on your optical drive, and select Explore.
2. Open the Total Tester folder.
3. Right-click on the setup.exe file and select "Run as administrator" from the options.
4. Follow the prompts to install the software.

For troubleshooting Vista or other installation problems, please contact us at support@totalsem.com.

Technical Support
For technical support on the Total Tester, please contact support@totalsem.com

The CD contains the following six sections:

Practice exams – The CD provides practice exam question software that will simulate CompTIA's exams. The software can be run in Practice Mode which also provides an assistance window with further explanation of the answer, as well as where to find more information on the topic in the exam guide. It can also be run in Final Mode which will simulate the exams and will grade your exam when you have completed.
Ebook – electronic Adobe pdf files of each chapter.
Mike's Intro Video - Mike Meyers takes some time out from his busy schedule to discuss what he perceives as the major changes to the new A+ exams.
LearnKey Video Demo – Sample of course materials from Mike's ten session video courses that can be purchased separately.
Freeware and Shareware – Freeware or shareware programs that Mike recommends. See below (or in the Software folder) for descriptions of each software program.
Glossary – Electronic Adobe pdf file of the glossary for the exam guide.
CompTIA Acronym List – A list of acronyms that CompTIA provides for candidates to know for the exams.

Mike's Recommended Software List

Spybot S & D

Spybot S & D is a free anti-malware scanner/remover. OK, technically it's donationware as the Spybot website asks for a donation. Be warned: Spybot does not provide real-time malware protection; it only cleans up problems already on the drive.

Use the Microsoft Defender Utility (http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.mspx) and a good anti-virus program (See Avast! below) for real time protection.

Use: Cleaning existing malware off of a system.
User Safety: High – May not catch every malware. Occasional false positives.

Commercial users please see www.safer-networking.ie

Created by:
Spybot S & D: Patrick Michael Kolla Safer - http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html

Avast! Home Edition (Anti-virus)

The free Avast! Home edition is a popular real-time anti-malware tool, containing all of the most common features you'll find in commercial programs. Avast! also does a great job providing updates as new malware "nasties" are discovered.

Use: Real-time malware detection and removal.
User Safety: High – May not catch every malware. Occasional false positives.

Created By:
ALWIL Software a.s. - http://www.avast.com

Autoruns

Autoruns is the ultimate Windows startup tool, giving you more information that you can possibly imagine about everything that autostarts in Windows. Not only can you disable starting programs (as with MSCONFIG), you can also permanently delete them. Like most tools that come from the folks at Sysinternals, the more you understand about Windows the more you will get from Autoruns.

Use: Exhaustive control of autostarting programs.
User Safety: Moderate - You could prevent critical programs from autostarting.

Created by: Mark Russinovich and Bruce Cogswell - http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb963902.aspx

Microsoft owns sysinternals and does not allow third-party distribution. You'll have to go to the website and download the program yourself.

Process Explorer

The best way to describe Process Explorer is "Super Task Manager". Process Explorer gives more details about your processes and shows processes Task Manager doesn't. It also gives you finer controls for running processes. It even has a "replace Task Manager" option that you'll find yourself using very quickly.

Use: Exhaustive control of Windows' processes.
User Safety: Moderate - You could shutdown a critical process.

Created by: Mark Russinovich and Bruce Cogswell - http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896653.aspx

Microsoft owns sysinternals and does not allow third-party distribution. You'll have to go to the website and download the program yourself.

CDBurnerXP

Very powerful CD/DVD burning tool that has almost all the features you'll find in commercial packages and the few features it does not have I don't really need. It runs a little slow but otherwise I love it.

Use: This is my tool whenever I burn anything.
User Safety: High - Very safe to use but it can run slowly.

Created by: Stefan Haglund, Fredrik Haglund - www.cdburnerxp.se

CPUZ

CPU-Z reads CPUID from your CPU, SPD information from your RAM and even queries your motherboard. If you want to know what's inside your system unit without opening the case, turn to this tool.

Use: Detailed CPU and RAM information without opening the computer.
User Safety: High - Very safe

Created by: Franck Delattre - www.cpuid.com

CCleaner

Your Windows' Registry gets cluttered with unneeded settings and from time to time you need to clean it up with a Registry cleaning utility. Sadly, most registry cleaners you stumble upon on the Internet are actually malware! I search constantly for a solid, safe Registry cleaner and this is the one I use. Ccleaner actually goes well beyond just cleaning the Registry: it also cleans up web browser files and a few other programs too.

Use: Registry and browser cleaning.
User Safety: Low/Moderate - Any time you edit the Registry there is some risk you might delete something you need so make a backup/restore point first.

Created by: Toni Helenius - http://personal.inet.fi/business/toniarts/ecleane.htm

Freemeter

Freemeter is a program that shows you information on a number of parts of you PC but I like it for its' CPU and disk usage meters. It's customizable and easier to read then Task Manager while taking less CPU usage.

Use: Tracking overall RAM usage for a system I think needs more RAM. Watching CPU usage.
User Safety: Very Safe

Created by: www.freemeter.us

GParted

GParted is a very powerful, easy-to-use partitioning tool with a pretty graphical interface similar to the very popular (and expensive) Partition Magic program. Unfortunately, it is Linux-based so you need to run it from a bootable Linux Live CD. Fortunately the Gparted folks have already made the ISO image for you.

Use: Non-destructive resizing/moving of NTFS partitions.
User Safety: Low - This program is designed to do anything you want to a partition, including erasing it. Be careful!

Created by: Bart Hakvoort - http://gparted.sourceforge.net

Memtest86

The king of aggressive RAM testing. MEMTEST86 will let you know without any question if you've got bad RAM. Memtest86 is a text program that cannot run under Windows so it comes as a bootable ISO image.

Use: If I suspect a bad RAM stick, I fire up this program.
User Safety: Very Safe
Created by Chris Brady - www.memtest86.com

Speedfan

Speedfan queries your system, locates every fan in your PC that's controller by the motherboard and lets you control them. It also gives very detailed S.M.A.R.T. information on your hard drives. If you're gutsy (or crazy) you may also overclock your CPU using Speedfan but this should only be done if Speedfan recognized your motherboard (I never use this feature).

Use: Tracking/adjusting all the fans on a system from a single interface and using the S.M.A.R.T. feature to quickly check on the health of a hard drive.
User Safety: Low - Shutting off fans will overheat system. Adjusting the clock could destroy the PC.

Created by: Alfredo Milani Comparetti - www.almico.com/speedfan.php

RightMark 3D Sound

The fact that I'm not a sound fanatic combined with the fact that better soundcards come with their own testing tools almost kept RightMark off the list. RightMark makes two different suites of sound testing programs: RightMark 3D Sound and RightMark Audio Analyzer (RMAA). 3D Sound tests your card's 3D positioning, CPU utilization and other options. RMAA tests sound quality issue so you'll know important "sound nerd" values like your Total Harmonic Distortion, Noise Level and Dynamic Range. If you're into sound and you want to know if your sound card's any good, try these.

Use: Used against me by "sound nerds" who like to show off their soundcard by proving theirs has a better frequency response (or something like that) than my soundcard.
User Safety: Very Safe

Created by: RightMark - http://audio.rightmark.org

Ultimate Boot CD

The ultimate boot CD isn't a single tool. It's really just a handy boot CD that loads a ton of handy programs. To be honest, there are a number of tools I don't use on this CD but it's just so darned handy to have someone else make a nice bootable CD with the tools I do like.

Favorite Uses: Using TestDisk by Christopher Grenier (www.cgsecuirty.org) to recover trashed partitions. Using Offline NT Password by Petter Nordahl-Hagen (http://home.eunet.no/~pnordahl/ntpasswd/) to clear forgotten local Windows account passwords.
User Safety: Very Safe - However, there are many, many very dangerous programs on the CD!

Created by: Victor Chew - www.ultimatebootcd.com