(Approx. 420 words)

Review

Windows Clipboard Secrets Revealed

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I am sure you have noted that while Microsoft eventually gets around to including free functionality accessories, the freebies often leave a bit to be desired. A shining example is the built-in clipboard. It’s there to use, but until recently only gave you one shot and doesn’t save anything between reboots. When having to do multiple copy/paste routines, many of us have turned to freeware or shareware to overcome the built-in clipboard limitations.

Several years ago, I purchased a license for the excellent clipboard extender Clipmate by Thornsoft (http://thornsoft.com/). Clipmate has many features including saved clipboard contents, editing of the clipboard contents, and the ability to create folders for different clipboard content. But it isn’t free, costing $35.00. However, there are times where I just need to do a few quick copy/paste inserts. On those occasions I will not launch Clipmate, just use the Windows clipboard.

Somewhere along the line, Microsoft has given the built-in clipboard a history lesson. The clipboard can now hold 25 items. That includes text, images, and content from browser pages. But the history functionality is not turned on by default. You must opt to add this feature. To do that hold the Windows key and tap your v key (a Windows hotkey combination). A onetime pop up will open asking permission to turn on the clipboard history. From then on when you do a Windows key + v key a clipboard pop-up window will open allowing you to select from contents in the clipboard. Each saved item will be in its own small window within the clipboard window. At the right of each window, the ellipsis (three dots) will allow you to delete a saved item, pin it which saves it even if you clear the clipboard or restart, and to clear all.

An article at https://techplugged.com/how-to-clear-clipboard-on-windows-10/ describes multiple ways of clearing the Windows clipboard.

I have found that just opening the clipboard pop up with Windows key + v key and selecting to clear all to be the easiest for me. However, if you only occasionally use the clipboard, you might forget the hotkey shortcut. Setting up one of the methods from the Tech Plugged article might work better for you.

A further update to clipboard functionality is in testing to be released in a future Windows update as discussed in an Infopackets article at http://www.infopackets.com/news/10797/windows-10-cut-and-paste-get-overhaul .