

Disk Defragmenter, How and When to Use it.

A fragmented file is a computer file that is not contiguous. Parts of the file are on different areas of the disk. When you are reading the file, the read head of the hard drive must search the disk, resulting in wear on the hard drive, and a slower file read.

Defrag Tips:

- Remove scheduled defrag. Win 7 & Vista are set to run once a week and this is not necessary.
- For most members every 6 months may be enough.
- Defrag necessary only when 10% or more fragmented files. Run "Analyze" first.
- Before defrag use CCleaner.
- Uninstall unwanted programs.
- Defrag Windows Disks, not External Hard Drives used for back-up, nor memory sticks.
- Defrag while you work, is better than doing a full defrag, especially on large hard drive.
- A full hard drive defrag may delete some old System Restore Points. I had 22 on a Vista PC and after a Smart defrag full defrag there were 4 left and after running a Windows defrag there was only one left. You should have about 20 System Restore Points so you have choice to go back if needed.
- Apparently when Windows is concerned that there is not enough room on the disk to defrag, it deletes some old System Restore Points.

What tools can we use to defrag the files?

- Windows Defragmenter is on XP, Vista and Windows 7 operating systems.
- It works best on small hard drives of 40 GB or less.
- If you are defragging a 500GB hard drive, it will take a long time.
- Windows defrag does not defrag while you work.
- You must stop all running programs or it will restart, adding to the time.

To Use Windows Defrag:

- Click on "Start", "All Programs", "Accessories" and "System Tools".
- Click on "Windows Defragmenter"
- Click on "Local Disk C" or where Windows is found.
- Click on "Analyze"
- Windows will advise you if you need to defrag.
- If you have 10% or more fragmentation, you may require a defrag.
- You may defrag now with Windows Defragmenter or look at the next two choices for defrag, Smart Defrag or Ah Shampoo Magic Defrag.

Smart Defrag

- Free, Easy to use, on the Club Stick.
- You can auto defrag while computer is idle, and Smart Defrag can do a full hard drive defrag.
- It has another feature. It optimizes files, putting the most often used files together, to speed up the reading. This adds greatly to the time for a defrag.
- Right click on the Smart Defrag icon near the clock. Click on "Open Smart Defrag"

- Click on the box near Windows Volume, to select the Windows partition, usually "C".
 - Click on "Analyze".
 - If the fragmentation rate is 10% or over, click Defrag. If under 10% do not defrag.
 - A better way to use Smart Defrag is to auto defrag. Click on "Settings".
 - Click on "Automatic Defrag" and under "Start Auto Defrag when system idle exceeds (5 minutes)", and slide the white and green mark to the left until it reads 1 minute.
 - Click "Apply" and "OK".
- Now your auto defrag will work better, and you will not have to do a full defrag.
This is a great way to defrag today's large hard drives.

Ah Shampoo Magic Defrag

- Easy to use
 - Just install and forget
 - Auto Defrag while computer is idle
 - Half price \$7.49USD at...
- <http://www.softpedia.com/get/System/Hard-Disk-Utills/Ashampoo-Magic-Defrag.shtml>
- This neat program just works away without affecting your speed. You never need to do a defrag again. You should not have any System Restore Points removed by this program.
 - To stop Magic Defrag – Right click on the icon near the clock. Click on "Show Control".
 - Click "Options", "Settings", and "Stop Service"

Does Defrag Really Increase Speed?

- Yes but with today's fast hard drives you may not notice it.
- With fragmented files, however, the mechanical parts of the hard drive thrash about, and will wear faster.
- Defrag saves disk space.
- Defrag is a practice that has many opinions, and solutions.
- The purpose of this topic is to warn you of over defragmentation, and give some practical solutions.

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