

# Four Ways to Speed Up Computers

It is a common complaint among computer users: your personal computer, even one that was purchased a short time ago, is running much slower than it did when you first bought it. Programs are sometimes unresponsive and other glitches occur. But you do not want to run out and buy another computer for your home or office.

Are you simply stuck with poor performance? Not necessarily. Here are four relatively easy ways to improve computer performance without incurring substantial costs.

**Free up more disk space** – By using the Disk Cleanup utility tool, you can improve your computer's overall performance. This tool identifies files you can generally delete without any significant repercussions. For instance, Disk Cleanup may be used to remove the following:

- Temporary Internet and Windows files;
- Downloaded program files (e.g., Java applets);
- Files sent to the recycle bin;
- Optional Windows components you do not use; and
- Installed programs you no longer use.

Note that temporary Internet files usually occupy the most space because the browser caches every page for later identification.

**Use the Disk Defragmenter** – Fragmentation, which occurs as



Even new computers can have problems that can cause them to slow down. This article explains easy steps that will make your computer faster.

a matter of course, slows down the overall operation of your computer. That is because the computer must search the hard disk to reassemble files. The Disk Defragmenter consolidates files and file folders so that each one only occupies a single space on the hard disk. As a result, reading and writing to the disk speeds up.

Use the Disk Defragmenter on a regular basis, perhaps monthly. And there are other times when it might be helpful. For instance, you might employ this tool when you add a large number of files, your free disk space totals 15% or less, or you install new programs or a new version of Windows.

**Identify repairs that are needed** – You can easily check the integrity of the files stored on

your hard disk by running the Error Checking utility. This utility tool scans the hard disk for bad sectors and system errors that may have misplaced certain files or file folders. PC experts recommend that you run this utility regularly to help avoid loss of data.

**Protect against spyware** – Dreaded “spyware” programs can collect personal information about you without permission or without your even knowing about it. This may include websites you have visited and confidential user names and passwords. To compound the problem, spyware can affect your computer's performance.

There are a number of free antispyware programs available through the marketplace as downloads. Do the research required to find the best fit for your particular system.

## Conclusion

These are several steps you might take on your own with relative ease. However, if you require further assistance, consult with an expert in the field. In some cases, replacing an old computer system may end up being the best option. ■



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1850 K Street NW, Suite 1050 • Washington, DC 20006 • (202) 331-9880 phone • (202) 331-9890 fax  
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 900 • Chicago, IL 60606 • (312) 920-9400 phone • (312) 920-9494 fax

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