

# Re: defrag not reducing fragmentation

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2006-02/msg01547.html>

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- *From:* "Gerry Cornell" <[gcjc@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:gcjc@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 23 Feb 2006 12:49:14 -0000
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Steve

You need 15% on the partition being defragmented.

To investigate how you are using hard disk space you need to make sure that you can see all files. Go to Start, Control Panel, Folder Options, View, Advanced Settings and verify that the box before "Show hidden files and folders" is checked and "Hide protected operating system files " is unchecked. You may need to scroll down to see the second item. You should also make certain that the box before "Hide extensions for known file types" is not checked. Next in Windows Explorer make sure View, Details is selected and then select View, Choose Details and check before Name, Type, Total Size, and Free Space.

You still will not see the System Volume Information folder.  
How to Gain Access to the System Volume Information Folder  
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:309531>

FileSize –a useful tool for use with Windows Explorer when investigating how disk space is being used.  
<http://markd.mvps.org/>

The download link is not obvious. Click the here in the two sentences of the web page accessed through the link above. "I can't count the number of times someone has asked for this. So here is a module you can install that shows a Folder Size column in Explorer."

To increase you free space on your C select Start, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools, Disk CleanUp, More Options, System Restore and remove all but the latest System Restore points? Restore points can be quite large.

You should use Disk CleanUp regularly to Empty your Recycle Bin and Remove Temporary Internet Files. Whenever you remove redundant files you should always run Disk Defragmenter by selecting Start, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools, Disk Defragmenter.

It is likely that an allocation of 12% has been made to System Restore on

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your C partition which is over generous. I would reduce it to 700 mb. Right click your My Computer icon on the Desktop and select System Restore. Place the cursor on your C drive select Settings but this time find the slider and drag it to the left until it reads 700 mb and exit. When you get to the Settings screen click on Apply and OK and exit. You should not allow System Restore to monitor any partition other than the partition containing Windows XP.

Are you using any Norton Utilities?

If your hard drive is formatted as NTFS another potential gain arises with your operating system on your C drive. In the Windows Directory of your C partition you will have some Uninstall folders in your Windows folder typically: \$NtServicePackUninstall\$ and \$NtUninstallKB282010\$ etc.

These files may be compressed or not compressed. If compressed the text of the folder name appears in blue characters. If not compressed you can compress them. Right click on each folder and select Properties, General, Advanced and check the box before Compress contents to save Disk Space. On the General Tab you can see the amount gained by deducting the size on disk from the size. Folder compression is only an option on a NTFS formatted drive / partition.

Another default setting on a large drive which could be wasteful is that for temporary internet files especially if you do not store offline copies on disk. The default allocation is 3% of drive. Depending on your attitude to offline copies you could reduce this to 1% or 2%. In Internet Explorer select Tools, Internet Options, General, Temporary Internet Files, Settings to make the change. At the same time look at the number of days history is held.

The default allocation for the Recycle Bin is 10 % of drive. On your drive 5% should be sufficient. In Windows Explorer place the cursor on your Recycle Bin, right click and select Properties, Global and move the slider from 10% to 5%,

Do you have files / folders that might be moved to the other partitions?

To move programmes use Add / Remove Programs in Start, Control Panel, Add / Remove Programs to uninstall programmes. Create a Programs Directory on your other partition and reinstall there.

Some other notes you may find useful.

Create a My Documents folder in another partition and copy ( not move ) the contents of My Documents to your new folder. Then delete the files in your My Documents folder ( if you encounter problems deleting use Shift + Delete to bypass the Recycle Bin ). You will also need to change Default File locations in the Microsoft Office programmes you use. For Word go to Tools, Options, File Locations, highlight Documents, click on Modify and change file path. For Excel go to Tools, Options, General and change default file

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path.

For Temporary Internet Files select Start, Control Panel, Internet Options, Temporary Internet Files. Settings, Move Folder.

To move the Outlook Express Store Folder select in Outlook Express Tools, Options, Maintenance, Store Folder, Change.

<http://www.tomsterdam.com/insideoe/files/store.htm>

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Hope this helps.

Gerry

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FCA

Stourport, England

Enquire, plan and execute

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"SteveDB1" <SteveDB1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:F05B9C6F-84F2-4047-A54E-44EBFCC211DB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Hi all.

I'm running XP-Pro, 600mhz, w/ 544mb ram. It's a 2000 GW2K Solo9300VE laptop, with a hdd upgrade to 40gb.

After having to pull this thing out of mothballs, I reinstalled everything and got it back up and running. For the past few months, I've noticed that each time I try to run std maint. utilities, my defrag never gets me below a

20-30% fragmentation.

I can run it 10++ times, and nothing changes after the third run through.

There have been times in which my drive free space has gotten below the minimum 15% recommended, and I did the defrag.

Presently, I'm at 23% free space, and 30% defrag.

Oh, this is important too....

I've partitioned the 40gb drive to 5gb for my OS, and a 27gb partition for storage, and installation directories for <u>all</u> of my other programs.

My question--

Is it within reason that I've passed some unwritten point of "no return" for

fragmentation?

I see that some of the MCP's are recommending use of third party utility programs. I used to use Norton, but after their change of programming practices in 2005, I finally had to give up, as the internet security suite

ruined two other laptops.

Your responses would be appreciated.

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