

Re: Lost/Fluctuating Harddrive free space

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2007-10/msg00137.htm

- *From:* XPnewb <XPnewb@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 16 Oct 2007 09:02:01 -0700
-

Commit Charge (K)
Total - 614436
Limit - 5075628
Peak - 620948

Sometimes SHDSERV.exe which is part of rollback has a CPU usage spike (up to 35% plus minus). Not sure what that means though. At least its better than GoBack which constantly monitors all activity as opposed to taking a snapshot like RollBack.

"Gerry" wrote:

Have you found out what space Rollback is using? I am sceptical regarding their claims.

Try Ctrl+Alt+Delete to select Task Manager and click the Performance Tab. Under Commit Charge what is the Total, the Limit and the Peak?

How much RAM memory?

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Hope this helps.

Gerry
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FCA  
Stourport, England  
Enquire, plan and execute  
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XPnewb wrote:

- Heya, this is what i have found so far,
1) Yup all those folder options are set as you have laid out

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2) My System Volume Information Folder is empty. Maybe its because I have never used the Windows System restore. So don't think i'm losing space there. 3) I've alerady done a disk Cleanup (with tuneup utilities), as well as a check disk and also defragged with (O&O). 3a) On a side note: if the defragger analyzes my drive and shows that much more than 50% of the map is empty, while Windows is telling me that i'm using more than 70GB out of my 111GB; Which of these is accurate? 4) I don't use the hibernation feature.

As we speak, I just noticed that my free space went down by 500MB over that last 5 hours. Havent done anything except create some MS Word docs.

Mighty strange... hope I can find the elusive 20–30GB.

5) 3.99GB is reserved by Recycle bin on the C: (the drive in question)

"Gerry" wrote:

I am putting in the next paragraph to give a starting point.
Please
recheck that your system is set up as suggested.

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.

What is the status of System Restore on your system?

Restore points are kept in the System Volume Information
Folder,
which can take 12% of the capacity of the partition. In the
normal
way you cannot see the content of the folder:
How to gain access to the System Volume Information folder
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/309531/en-us>

Select Start, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools, Disk

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CleanUp
to Empty your Recycle Bin and Remove Temporary Internet
Files. Also
select Start, All Programs, accessories, System Tools, Disk
CleanUp,
More Options, System Restore and remove all but the latest
System
Restore point. Run Disk Defragmenter.

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

Do you use the Hibernation feature? How large is
hiberfil.sys. This
is a hidden file like the contents of the System Volume
Information
folder. It needs to go into your reconciliation.

You have a Master File Table (MFT) which is also hidden.
The size
can be established from a Disk Defragmenter Report. Mine is
currently 56 mb so your's is unlikely to make a significant
difference.

Some Norton products operate a Protected Recycle Bin,
which is also
not visible. These can be a significant size. I could not see it
mentioned amongst the Norton 360 features but you may
have one.

The default allocation for the Windows Recycle Bin is 10 %
of 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%. However, try to avoid letting it get
too full
as if it is full and you delete a file by mistake it will bypass
the

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Recycle Bin and be gone for ever.

Another feature, which makes reconciliation a problem is File Compression. If your 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 thought is that if your pagefile has no maximum then it could theoretical grow to occupy the all the free disk space. You could experiment with Rollback in association with PageFile monitor and see what it has on the size of the pagefile.

Use page file monitor to observe what is the peak usage. Start it to run immediately after start-up and look at the log. Pagefilemon takes snapshots. You need to run it at the beginning of the session at then run it again at intervals throughout the sessions. The log is Pagefile log.txt. If you right click on the file in Windows Explorer and select Send to, Desktop (Create Shortcut). The same applies to XP_PageFileMon.exe.

A small utility to monitor pagefile usage:
http://www.dougknox.com/xp/utills/xp_pagefilemon.htm

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Note that programs using undo features, particularly those associated with graphics and photo editing, require large amounts of memory so if you use this type of programme check these first observing how the page usage increases when they start and whether the usage decreases when you close the programme.

Hope this helps.

Gerry
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FCA  
Stourport, England  
Enquire, plan and execute  
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XPnewb wrote:

- 1) Its a personal computer
- 2) removed via 'add or remove programs' via the control panel
- 3) Using Norton 360

"Gerry" wrote:

Is the computer a server or a workstation?

My reaction is Rollback as soon as you deleted it added a snapshot to it's piggy bank! How did you remove the programmes?

I wonder how users view these claims by the vendors of Rollback RX?
Windows System Restore uses 5–15% disk space per snapshot. RollBack

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Rx only uses 0.1%
Does not reserve any
portion of hard disk for
"protected data". The
program data structure takes
0.07% of disk space to
create up to
60,000 snapshots.
<http://www.horizondatasys.com/217872.ihtml>

Are you using any Norton
(Symantec) products?

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Hope this helps.

Gerry
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FCA  
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XPnewb wrote:

Hello ppl,

I'm having
problems
with my C:
which is a
single drive
(no
partitions)
of about
110GB

I just
uninstalled
2
programmes
from C:,
about 5GB
each and
my
free space
went from

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about 33GB
to 18GB
which
doesn't make
sense
as it should
increase.

When i tried
to use
O&Odefrag
to analyze
my com,
saw that it
too
registered
C: as 18GB
free space,
however the
drive map
was mostly
empty.
Shouldnt
that mean
that I
should have
alot more
free space.
Another
weird thing
i noticed is
that when i
select all the
files
in C: (even
after
showing
hidden files
and hidden
protected
system
files), it
amounts to
about
30GB. I
should have
about
70-80GB
free
space.

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I'm also using Rollback which takes snapshots of my C:, but I seriously dun think the snapshots take up that much space (30GB?? is waaay too much).

I then did a checkdisk which required a restart to check for bad sectors. After the check and restart, my C: was 22GB. Now here is the strange thing, my free space started climbing all by itself slowly even though I wasn't doing anything. It climbed to about 42.9GB which makes more sense, as I deleted 10Gb from the 2 programmes.

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However,
that means
that my C:
is using
about 60GB
(111-42.9).

But
as said
earlier, all
files in C:
only
amonuts to
30GB.

What
happened to
the other
30GB?

Hope you
guys can
help me
figure this
one out!