

Re: Computer running very slow

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2007-12/msg00054.htm

- *From:* Recycler29 <Recycler29@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 3 Dec 2007 09:31:01 -0800
-

you have been so helpful, thank you very much. I tried to follow the directions you've included in the last email and already the results are much improved as far as disc space. Here is the copy of the defrag report and this is before I have even tried to defrag a second time!

Volume (C:)

Volume size = 228 GB
Cluster size = 4 KB
Used space = 34.81 GB
Free space = 193 GB
Percent free space = 84 %

Volume fragmentation

Total fragmentation = 17 %
File fragmentation = 35 %
Free space fragmentation = 0 %

File fragmentation

Total files = 103,034
Average file size = 447 KB
Total fragmented files = 3,211
Total excess fragments = 13,992
Average fragments per file = 1.13

Pagefile fragmentation

Pagefile size = 1.50 GB
Total fragments = 1

Folder fragmentation

Total folders = 10,355
Fragmented folders = 28
Excess folder fragments = 103

Master File Table (MFT) fragmentation

Total MFT size = 150 MB
MFT record count = 113,786
Percent MFT in use = 74 %
Total MFT fragments = 3

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Fragments	File Size	Most fragmented files
3,784	3.28 GB	\Documents and Settings\All
		Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Boston Legal_WLOS_09_10_2007_22_00_03.dvr-ms
257	16 MB	\Documents and Settings\Bill\Local
		Settings\Application
		Data\Identities\{4E3254D7-522A-412A-9296-3F4767B3A2CB}\Microsoft\Outlook
		Express\Deleted Items.dbx
194	1 KB	\WINDOWS\system32\config\system.LOG
184	16 MB	\Documents and Settings\Bill\Local
		Settings\Application
		Data\Identities\{4E3254D7-522A-412A-9296-3F4767B3A2CB}\Microsoft\Outlook
		Express\Inbox.dbx
183	20 MB	\Documents and Settings\Kathy\My
		Documents\My Pictures\Recycle rampage\recycle poster 1 07.pdf
153	16 KB	\Documents and Settings\Kathy\ntuser.dat.LOG
152	934 KB	\WINDOWS\Temp\ProductContextC5200.log
143	114 MB	\WINDOWS\Installer\2862df9.msp
138	9 MB	
		\WINDOWS\Installer\\$\PatchCache\$\Managed\9040211900063D11C8EF10054038389C\11.0.8173\MSB1ENFR.ITS.
138	9 MB	\Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft
		Shared\TRANSLAT\ENFR\MSB1ENFR.ITS
134	8 MB	
		\WINDOWS\system32\spool\drivers\w32x86\3\hpzst5ha.dll
123	24 MB	\Documents and Settings\All
		Users\Application Data\Apple Computer\Installer Cache\iTunes
		7.4.3.1\QuickTime.msi
123	24 MB	\Documents and Settings\NetworkService\Local
		Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JOWRNNUS\QuickTime[1].msi
116	7 MB	
		\WINDOWS\Installer\\$\PatchCache\$\Managed\9040211900063D11C8EF10054038389C\11.0.8173\MSB1FREN.ITS.
116	7 MB	\Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft
		Shared\TRANSLAT\FREN\MSB1FREN.ITS
101	6 MB	\Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft
		Shared\TRANSLAT\ENES\MSB1ENES.ITS
97	32 KB	\WINDOWS\system32\config\software.LOG
94	34 MB	\System Volume
		Information_restore{129201FA-B0AC-49B3-96B2-DEB8B91E727B}\RP413\snapshot_REGISTRY_MACHINE_
90	358 KB	\Program Files\Trend Micro\Internet Security
		14\log\20071201.PFG
86	6 MB	
		\WINDOWS\Installer\\$\PatchCache\$\Managed\9040211900063D11C8EF10054038389C\11.0.8173\msgr3en.dll_1036
86	344 KB	\Program Files\Trend Micro\Internet Security
		14\log\20071202.PFG
75	6.36 GB	\Documents and Settings\All
		Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Nova_WNTV_13_11_2007_19_58_02.dvr-ms
68	4 MB	\WINDOWS\system32\dllcache\nls302en.lex
64	4 MB	\Program Files\HP\Digital
		Imaging\bin\hpqpsapp.exe
62	69 MB	\Documents and Settings\All
		Users\Application

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Data\Microsoft\Home\EPG\45a80348ecf4da7986f7781b97ff420.sdf
62 70 MB \Documents and Settings\All
Users\Application
Data\Microsoft\Home\EPG\59d579b09a16426b96174faffa2fad77.sdf
60 4 MB \Program Files\ArcSoft\Panorama Maker
3\ui\button.800
56 3 MB
\WINDOWS\system32\spool\drivers\w32x86\3\hpzur5ha.dll
53 3 MB
\WINDOWS\system32\spool\drivers\w32x86\3\hpzui5ha.dll
52 22 MB \Documents and Settings\NetworkService\Local
Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\93M432FE\iTunes[1].msi

Now with that accomplished, I was wondering if I need to go back to the Advanced settings in the control panel and reverse the checked and unchecked box settings? Or did that happen after I did a reboot? Another question I have is that during the Disk cleanup, it asks do I want to compress old files – should I tell it to do that and if I do, will I have problems finding files if I need them in the future?

I did delete a lot of the recorded TV programs and will follow your advice to obtain an external hard drive if I want to save them or burn them to a DVD (although I've tried that and get the message that there's not enough space). Anyway, the last concern I have is when I go to the Task Manager, the security software that I have, Trend Micro, is no longer "running"? Although when I click on the icon and click scan it will perform a scan. Previously the Trend Micro had taken up a large percentage of the CPU usage. Did I remove some files that I shouldn't have?

Again, as you can see from the report, you have already given me 85% free space and I'm very, very grateful, so thank you for all your time. Kathy

"Gerry" wrote:

Kathy

You may have other problems but what is immediately obvious is that you have totally inadequate free disk space. You can run on 15% free space but really you need around 25%. Your problem is a little surprising given the size of volume C. Do you have any other drives or partitions?

I have some suggestions for creating more space, which should help.

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

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Free Space.

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.

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 Recycle Bin and be gone for ever.

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.

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.

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

Now let us see what affect that has had on fragmentation of files. It should look a lot better. Open Disk Defragmenter and click on Analyse. Select View Report and click on Save As and Save. Now find VolumeC.txt in your My Documents Folder and post a copy. Given the size of the files containing the recorded TV shows these may not easily defragment. You may need to run Disk Defragmenter a number of times and even then some may remain fragmented.

You have already identified another cause of your problems. The retention of recorded TV shows on your hard disks. These are taking up a

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colossal amount of space. You need to decide whether you are going to retain them after viewing or delete them at intervals. If you are to keep them you need somewhere else to put them. You could add a large second hard drive or backup them up to removable media. As I said earlier you need to maintain 25% free disk space on your C volume (partition).

You need not bother with Clean booting and Event Viewer now as we have identified a major reason why your computer could be running slowly. Lets see what impact the measures suggested above have on your system performance.

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Hope this helps.

Gerry

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FCA

Stourport, England

Enquire, plan and execute

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Recycler29 wrote:

Gerry,

I ran the defrag and just as before, it tells me I don't have enough memory (need at least 15% but I only have 3%) but I told it to go ahead and run it anyway trying to follow your instructions. Here is a copy of the results: Volume (C:)

Volume size = 228 GB

Cluster size = 4 KB

Used space = 220 GB

Free space = 8.38 GB

Percent free space = 3 %

Volume fragmentation

Total fragmentation = 43 %

File fragmentation = 85 %

Free space fragmentation = 1 %

File fragmentation

Total files = 111,462

Average file size = 3 MB

Total fragmented files = 61

Total excess fragments = 57,237

Average fragments per file = 1.51

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Pagefile fragmentation
Pagefile size = 1.50 GB
Total fragments = 1

Folder fragmentation
Total folders = 10,607
Fragmented folders = 1
Excess folder fragments = 0

Master File Table (MFT) fragmentation
Total MFT size = 150 MB
MFT record count = 123,402
Percent MFT in use = 80 %
Total MFT fragments = 3

Fragments File Size Files that cannot be defragmented

416	1.51 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Rules of Engagement_WSPA_12_11_2007_21_31_02.dvr-ms
291	1.56 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Til Death_WHNS_26_09_2007_20_30_02.dvr-ms
213	1.72 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Two and a Half Men_WSPA_12_11_2007_20_58_02.dvr-ms
74	1.77 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Samantha Who-_WLOS_15_10_2007_21_31_02.dvr-ms
1,125	3.12 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Burn Notice_USA_13_09_2007_17_00_02.dvr-ms
3,921	3.12 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Burn Notice_USA_13_09_2007_13_00_02.dvr-ms
182	3.13 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\The Closer_TNT_15_10_2007_22_00_02.dvr-ms
2,912	3.13 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\The Closer_TNT_22_10_2007_22_00_02.dvr-ms
1,882	3.13 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\The Closer_TNT_12_11_2007_22_00_02.dvr-ms
119	3.13 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\The Closer_TNT_05_11_2007_22_00_02.dvr-ms
94	3.28 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Burn Notice_USA_14_09_2007_23_00_02.dvr-ms
391	3.28 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Monk_USA_23_09_2007_20_00_02.dvr-ms
40	3.28 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Boston Legal_WLOS_23_10_2007_22_00_03.dvr-ms
19,015	3.28 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\The Closer_TNT_27_11_2007_22_00_02.dvr-ms
41	3.28 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Boston Legal_WLOS_09_10_2007_22_00_03.dvr-ms
12,242	3.28 GB	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV\Boston

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Legal_WLOS_13_11_2007_22_00_02.dvr-ms 41 3.28 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Saving
Grace_TNT_22_10_2007_23_00_02.dvr-ms 168 3.28 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Boston
Legal_WLOS_06_11_2007_22_00_02.dvr-ms 1,383 3.28 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Saving
Grace_TNT_15_10_2007_23_00_02.dvr-ms 201 3.28 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Saving
Grace_TNT_05_11_2007_23_00_02.dvr-ms 582 3.28 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Saving
Grace_TNT_12_11_2007_23_00_02.dvr-ms 397 3.28 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Boston
Legal_WLOS_02_10_2007_22_00_02.dvr-ms 141 3.29 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Private
Practice_WLOS_26_09_2007_20_58_02.dvr-ms 132 3.38 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Burn
Notice_USA_15_09_2007_16_58_02.dvr-ms 437 3.39 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\The
Closer_TNT_08_10_2007_21_58_02.dvr-ms 44 3.59 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded
TV\\Monk_USA_20_11_2007_21_58_02.dvr-ms 49 3.64 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded
TV\\Monk_USA_30_10_2007_21_58_04.dvr-ms 75 6.36 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded
TV\\Nova_WNTV_13_11_2007_19_58_02.dvr-ms 9,342 6.50 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Burn
Notice_USA_20_09_2007_20_58_04.dvr-ms 596 6.50 GB
\\Documents and Settings\\All Users\\Documents\\Recorded TV\\Burn
Notice_USA_22_09_2007_16_58_02.dvr-ms

I see in the list of files that cannot be defragmented, that they appear to be the TV shows that I have programmed to record.

Other than that, I went to Task Manager, Performance Tab, Commit Charge and the Total=566848; Limit=2517452; Peak=595388.

I went to the article about the "clean boot" but I don't understand what that is going to tell me and I'm a beginner and am basically afraid I'll screw something up! I understand the article and that I can get guided help, but I don't understand what it is that I will gain from doing this. Should I always start my computer in a selective startup or if errors occur, go back to the normal startup? And the events manager that you mentioned is way over my head and I really didn't understand much about that. So, hopefully this information will give you some insight into my computer and perhaps you will think I should just take it to a computer repair place?!?! Thanks for all your time, Kathy

"Gerry" wrote:

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Kathy

What are your anti-virus and anti-spyware arrangements?

Open Disk Defragmenter and click on Analyse. Select View Report and click on Save As and Save. Now find VolumeC.txt in your My Documents Folder and post a copy.

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?

Have you tried this approach?

How to configure Windows XP to start in a "clean boot" state

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/310353/en-us>

Also look for Error Reports in the System log in Event Viewer.

Please post copies of all Error and Warning Reports appearing in the System and Application logs in Event Viewer for the last boot. No Information Reports or Duplicates please. Indicate which also appear in a previous boot.

You can access Event Viewer by selecting Start, Control Panel, Administrative Tools, and Event Viewer. When researching the meaning of the error, information regarding Event ID, Source and Description are important.

HOW TO: View and Manage Event Logs in Event Viewer in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/308427/en-us>

Part of the Description of the error will include a link, which you should double click for further information. You can copy using copy and paste. Often the link will, however, say there is no further information.

<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/events.asp>

(Please note the hyperlink above is for illustration purposes)

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only)

A tip for posting copies of Error Reports! Run Event Viewer and double click on the error you want to copy. In the window, which appears is a button resembling two pages. Click the button and close Event Viewer. Now start your message (email) and do a paste into the body of the message. Make sure this is the first paste after exiting from Event Viewer.

Are there any yellow question marks in Device Manager? Right click on the My Computer icon on your Desktop and select Properties, Hardware, Device Manager. If yes what is the Device Error code?

Hope this helps.

Gerry
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FCA  
Stourport, England  
Enquire, plan and execute  
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Recycler29 wrote:

I have a Dell XPS 400 with Windows XP Media edition Professional 5.1.2600. The main memory installed is RAM 1024MB. There is an Intel Pentium dual processor CPU 2.8GHz. Processor speed 2.73 GHz. NVIDIA Geforce 7300LE video card. I am not a total beginner but can understand some things concerning the computer. The computer runs extremely slow with the fastest available cable internet connection. Ever on booting the computer, it takes more

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and more time each day.

I have run spybot and ad-aware constantly.

The computer came with

Trend Micro PC-cillin security software that is up to date.

I was told to look at what was running in the background by doing a

ctrl-alt-delete and found that I have 55

processes running and only

2-3% CPU usage. I don't know what this

means and was hoping someone

could tell me what I need to do to speed this

up a bit. the compute

ris not but 1 yr. old. Should I buy more

memory? Thanks for any

guidance or advice! Kathy