

# Disk Defragmentation

*OK you have been told to do it. You know it supposed to be good from your computer. Would you like to really understand why you should Defrag your hard drive.*

**If you are going to defragment something it must have been fragmented to begin with.  
Let's take a look at what Disk Fragmentation is and why it is a bad thing.**

## Files or Pineapples It's Basically the Same

Lets pretend that you are an apprentice chef.

- The boss tells you to go into the walk-in cooler and get him a pineapple.
- If the pineapple was in one piece it would be a pretty easy job.
- If the pineapple was cut in to 20 slices and each slice stored in a different container, with the containers spread throughout the cooler the job would be harder.
- Imagine how difficult it would be if the pineapple was diced and stored in 300 different containers.
- It's much the same with files. It is easier to open a complete file than one that is sliced or diced.
- With a fragmented pineapple it could take hours to make a couple of pineapple cakes.
- A fragmented hard drive is much the same

## What is Fragmentation

- Webster's dictionary defines fragmented as being broken down to small bits.
- Computer wise, fragmentation is when the files on your disk are broken up and stored in small bits spread out in different locations on your drive

## What Causes Fragmentation

- Disk Fragmentation is caused by creating, deleting or editing files. It is caused by adding or removing software. It is caused by downloading files from the internet.
- Computers do not necessarily save an entire file or folder in a single space. They are saved in the first available space; even if that space is too small for the file. It is often broken into small bits and can be spread all over the drive.
- Fragmentation is a natural process that cannot be avoided. If you bought a brand new computer it would be fragmented because of the Operating System and basic programs installed.

## Why is a Fragmented Disk a Problem

- Firstly, it will slow your computer down. The slow down can be dramatic.
- Other problems would include longer boot times, frequent crashes and freezes.
- A fragmented disk could actually prevent your computer from booting at all.
- The constant searching a drive must do when it is fragmented also leads to the premature failure of the hard drive.
  - We have had calls from customers so desperate they were going to buy a new computer. If we could boot the computer and defragment the drive we were able to save them the expense of a new computer or hard drive.

# Computer TipSheet

E:\My Documents\AAMangoData1\TipSheets2004\2005 Edited TipSheets\Print\Maintenance\Disk Defragmentation.docx

## How Often Should You Defrag Your Drive

- Good Question.
- It depends upon how you use your computer and in what state you wish to preserve it.
- Defragging takes a long time so to be practical I guess you could feel pretty good doing it once a month.
- Most versions of Windows have a Defragmentation Utility included. Regular defrags can save a lot of heart ache.

## To Start the Disk Defrager

1. Click Start
2. Click All Programs
3. Click Accessories
4. Click System Tools
5. Click Disk Defragmenter
6. Follow the programs prompts

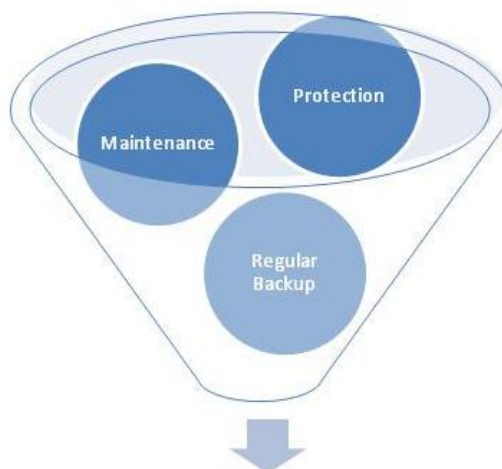
## The Windows Defrag Utility is a limited performance version of Diskeeper Software.

- **Info from Microsoft's website**
  - *Disk Defragmenter is based on the full retail version of Diskeeper. The version included with Windows XP and later provides limited functionality in maintaining disk performance.*
- Our Feelings are if you are going to use the 4 cylinder version, why not see what the 8 cylinder version can do.

## Diskeeper Software

- We have used previous versions of Diskeeper Software and have been very pleased with the results.
- Diskeeper is faster than the Windows Defrager and seems to do a better job.
- Diskeeper can heaps of performance for a small price.
- It is not an expensive program (cost less than \$50)

*I hope this helps to make your computing easier  
"... doing it simply, but doing it well ..."*



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