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Subject: Computer Tip #30 - What is defragmenting and why should you do it?



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TIP # 30

What is defragmenting and why should you do it?

Answer:

Fragmentation is caused when an operating system breaks a file into pieces because there is not enough space on the hard drive where the file was originally saved.

For example: You save a one page Word document, then later delete it. The space where Word document was stored is now available to have something else saved there. Next you save a large picture file. The Operating system will try and store that file in the first available space, which may be where the Word document was. Because the Word document is much smaller than the picture file, it will save as much as it can in that space and then split the file into 2 or more pieces to store the rest.

The system would then keep a record of where the different parts of the file are stored. Therefore, when you go to retrieve the file, it will take longer because it has to locate all the pieces, compile them and then display them.

Defragmentation is the term given to the process of scanning the file system and rejoining the split files back into consecutive pieces.

The process of defragmenting can be time consuming, but it is one of the easiest ways to increase the performance of your PC, the frequency of which a PC should be defragmented will directly depend on the amount of usage and/or deletions.

[Click here to learn how to defragment with Windows XP.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the auto defragment feature in Vista.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the auto defragment feature in Windows 7.](#)

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