



# SUPERCHARGE YOUR PC



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## **FORWARD**

This e-book offers potential cost savings, as a single computer repair can often exceed \$80 per hour at most service providers. Typically, a standard computer repair requires a minimum of one hour to complete. While the duration may be longer for individuals with limited experience, we advise taking your time and proceeding deliberately. It is crucial to double- and triple-check each step, as errors can lead to more significant and costly issues.

**Please note:** Due to the inherent risks involved in computer repair, we strongly recommend seeking assistance from a qualified professional if you lack confidence or experience. Incorrect actions can result in further damage and increased expenses. However, if you possess a degree of technical aptitude and can follow instructions carefully, this guide may be a valuable resource.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** This e-book is provided for educational purposes only. Any actions you undertake are your sole responsibility. By using this guide, you agree to hold the authors and publishers harmless from any liability for damages or injuries resulting from your attempts to follow these instructions.

**PLEASE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS E-BOOK BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY REPAIRS TO ENSURE A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCESS.**

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Exercise caution when following these instructions or any other computer maintenance procedures. Incorrect actions, such as deleting essential files or removing critical programs, can cause significant damage. Specific results are not guaranteed, and there may be instances where these steps are not applicable to your particular computer system.

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## FURTHER ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES

If the provided steps do not resolve your issue, it is possible that your computer has more complex problems requiring professional attention. We recommend seeking a reputable local computer repair shop. When selecting a service provider, ensure they are professional, courteous, and offer competitive pricing.

## CONTACT INFORMATION (For Local Users)

If you are located in the *Spring, TX* area, you can contact **A Better Tech** for assistance:

**Phone:** 832-510-7222

**Website:** <https://bettercomputertech.com>

**Email:** [contact@bettercomputertech.com](mailto:contact@bettercomputertech.com)

## Introduction:

Is your computer feeling sluggish? Does it take forever to boot up or load programs? You're not alone! Over time, computers accumulate digital clutter that can significantly impact their performance. This guide will walk you through essential maintenance steps to breathe new life into your PC, ensuring it runs smoothly and efficiently.

### 1. Verifying Drivers in Device Manager:

Drivers are the software that allows your hardware to communicate with your operating system. Outdated or corrupted drivers can cause a variety of problems.

- **How to Access Device Manager:**
  - Press the *Windows* key + X.
  - Select "Device Manager" from the menu.
- **Checking for Errors:**
  - Look for any devices with a yellow exclamation mark. This indicates a driver issue.
  - Right-click on the device and select "Properties."
  - The "Device status" section will provide information about the problem.
- **Updating Drivers:**
  - Right-click on the device and select "Update driver."
  - Choose "Search automatically for drivers" to let *Windows* find the latest version.
  - Alternatively, you can visit the manufacturer's website (e.g., for your graphics card, printer, etc.) and download the latest drivers manually.
- **Important Note:** Sometimes, the automatically installed driver is not the best. If you are having issues with a device, go to the manufacturers website and download the driver from there.

### 2. Uninstall Unused Programs:

Programs you no longer use take up valuable disk space and can slow down your system.

- **How to Uninstall:**
  - Press the *Windows* key + I to open Settings.
  - Click on "Apps," then "Apps & features."
  - Scroll through the list and select the program you want to uninstall.
  - Click "Uninstall" and follow the on-screen instructions.

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## 2. Uninstall Unused Programs: continued

- **Tips:**
  - Be cautious when uninstalling programs you're unfamiliar with. A quick online search can help you determine if it's safe to remove.
  - Look for programs you haven't used in months or years.

## 3. Manage Startup Programs:

Many programs are set to launch automatically when you start your computer, which can significantly slow down boot times.

- **How to Manage Startup Programs:**
  - Press Ctrl + Shift + Esc to open Task Manager.
  - Click on the "Startup apps" tab.
  - Review the list of startup programs.
  - To disable a program, select it and click "Disable."
  - **Tip:** Look at the startup impact column. High impact programs slow down startup the most.

## 4. Keep Apps, Programs, and *Windows* Updated:

Updates often include performance improvements, bug fixes, and security patches.

- ***Windows* Updates:**
  - Press the *Windows* key + I to open Settings.
  - Click on "Update & Security," then "*Windows* Update."
  - Click "Check for updates" and install any available updates.
- **App Updates:**
  - *Microsoft* Store apps typically update automatically. Ensure automatic updates are enabled in the *Microsoft* Store settings.
  - For other programs, check for updates within the application itself (e.g., "Help" > "Check for Updates").
- **Driver updates**
  - As detailed above, drivers should also be checked and updated.

## 5. Disk Cleanup:

Disk Cleanup removes temporary files, system files, and other unnecessary data.

- **How to Use Disk Cleanup:**
  - Search for "Disk Cleanup" in the *Windows* search bar and open it.
  - Select the drive you want to clean (usually C:).
  - Click "OK."

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- **How to Use Disk Cleanup:** *continued*
  - Check the boxes for the file types you want to delete (e.g., "Temporary Internet Files," "Temporary files," "Recycle Bin").
  - Click "Clean up system files" for a more thorough cleanup.
  - Select the drive again, and check the boxes for the file types you want to delete.
  - Click "OK" and then "Delete Files."

## 6. Browser Maintenance:

Browsers can accumulate a lot of data that can slow them down.

- **Browser Updates:**
  - Most browsers update automatically. Make sure this feature is enabled in your browser settings.
- **Manage Extensions and Add-ons:**
  - Review your browser extensions and add-ons. Uninstall any that you don't use.
  - Too many extensions can slow down your browser.
- **Clear Browsing History:**
  - Clear your browsing history, cache, and cookies regularly.
  - This can be done in your browser's settings.

## 7. Check Disk for Errors (chkdsk), System File Check (sfc /scannow), and DISM RestoreHealth:

These tools help identify and fix issues with your hard drive and system files, ensuring a stable and efficient system.

- **How to Run chkdsk:**
  - Search for "cmd" in the *Windows* search bar.
  - Right-click on "Command Prompt" and select "Run as administrator."
  - Type `chkdsk /f /r C:` and press Enter.
  - You'll be prompted to schedule the scan for the next restart. Type "Y" and press Enter.
  - Restart your computer.
  - **Explanation of commands:**
    - `/f` fixes errors on the disk.
    - `/r` locates bad sectors and recovers readable information.
- **System File Check (sfc /scannow):**
  - After chkdsk has completed, and you have logged back into *Windows*, Open Command Prompt as an administrator again.

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- **System File Check (sfc /scannow): continued**
  - Type sfc /scannow and press Enter.
  - This tool will scan your system files for corruption and attempt to repair them.
  - **Important Note:** This process can take some time, so be patient.
- **DISM RestoreHealth:**
  - After the sfc /scannow process has completed, and if sfc was unable to repair some files, or if you just want to run it as a precaution, in the same open command prompt as administrator, type the following command:
  - DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth and press enter.
  - This tool uses *Windows* Update to replace corrupted or missing system files.
  - **Important Note:** This process requires an internet connection and can also take some time.
- **Why These Tools Are Important:**
  - chkdsk checks the integrity of your hard drive.
  - sfc /scannow checks the integrity of your *Windows* system files.
  - DISM RestoreHealth repairs the windows system image.
  - Running these tools helps ensure that your operating system is functioning correctly.
  - It is best to run these commands in the order that they are presented. chkdsk, then sfc, then DISM.

## 8. Defragmentation (Mostly Automatic Nowadays):

In older hard drives, files can become fragmented, which slows down access times. Modern SSD drives do not need defragmentation. *Windows* optimizes SSD drives in a different way.

- **Checking Defragmentation Status (and Optimization for SSDs):**
  - Search for "Defragment and Optimize Drives" in the *Windows* search bar and open it.
  - Select your drive.
  - If you have a HDD, you will see a defragmentation status, and be able to manually defragment.
  - If you have a SSD, it will say "Solid state drive" under media type, and it will be optimized, not defragmented.
  - Ensure that "Scheduled optimization" is turned on. This allows windows to automatically optimize your drives.

## 9. Run an Offline Scan with *Windows* Security or Third-Party Antivirus:

Malware can significantly impact performance and compromise your security.

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## 9. Run an Offline Scan with Windows Security or Third-Party Antivirus: continued

- **Windows Security Offline Scan:**
  - Press the *Windows* key + I to open Settings.
  - Click on "Update & Security," then "*Windows Security*."
  - Click "Virus & threat protection."
  - Click "Scan options" then select "*Microsoft Defender Offline scan*" and click "Scan now".
  - Your computer will restart and perform the scan.
- **Third-Party Antivirus:**
  - If you use a third-party antivirus program, run a full system scan according to the program's instructions.

### Additional Tips:

- **Monitor Resources:** Use Task Manager (Ctrl + Shift + Esc) to monitor CPU, memory, and disk usage. Identify programs that are consuming excessive resources.
- **Clean Physical Dust:** Dust buildup can cause your computer to overheat, which can lead to performance issues. Use compressed air to clean vents and fans.
- **Consider Upgrades:** If your computer is older, consider upgrading components like RAM or a hard drive (especially to an SSD).
- **Restart Regularly:** A simple restart can often resolve minor performance issues.
- **Check for Malware:** Run regular malware scans.

### Conclusion:

By following these steps, you can significantly improve your computer's performance and keep it running smoothly. Regular maintenance is key to preventing future slowdowns.

**Note:** All information provided by **A Better Tech, LLC** is of a general nature and is furnished for educational/entertainment purposes only. No information is to be taken as technical or other repair advice pertaining to any individual specific computer or technology problem. You agree that use of this information is at your own risk and hold **A Better Tech, LLC** harmless from any and all losses, liabilities, injuries or damages resulting from any and all claims.



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