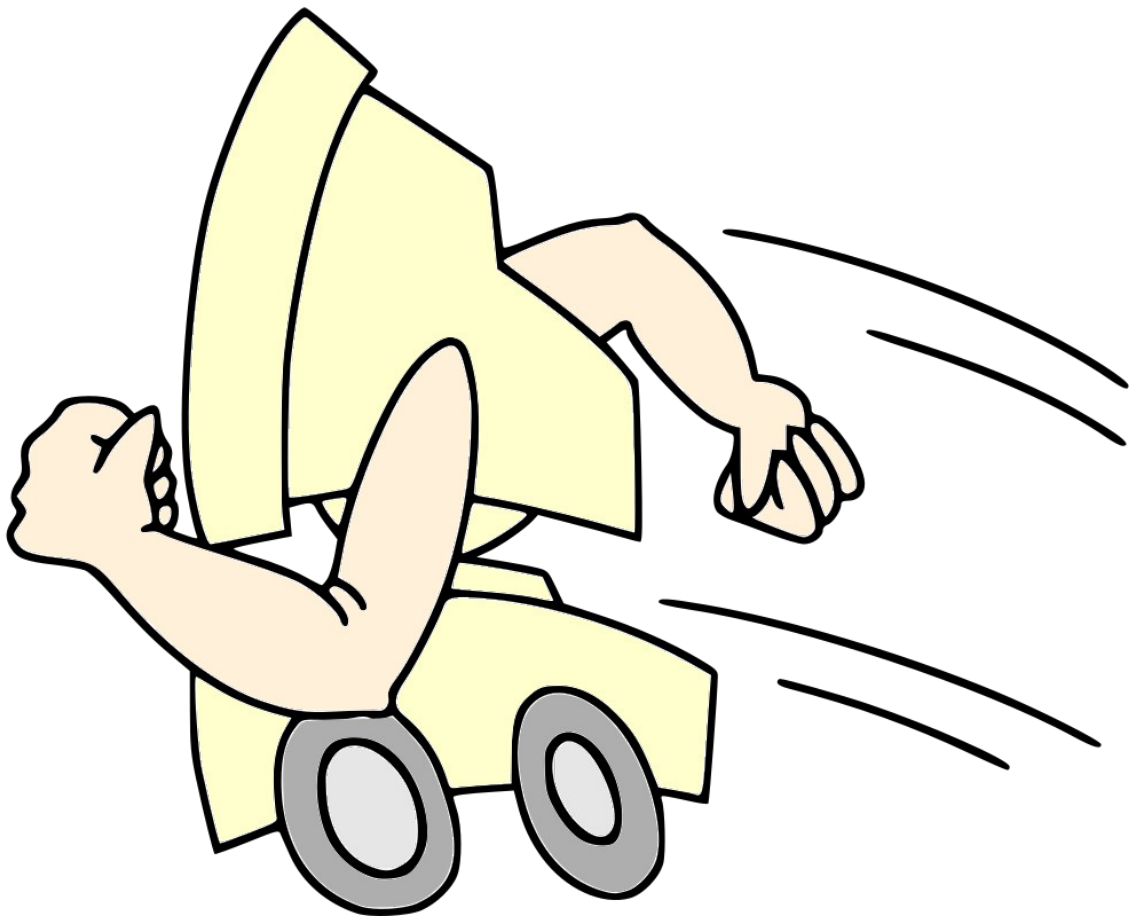


Supercharge Your PC

A Step-by-Step Guide to Peak Performance



FORWARD

This e-book could easily pay for itself with one repair since most techs or repair shops charge in excess of \$80 per hour. Generally, any repair on a computer will take at least an hour to complete. Granted, for someone that doesn't have much experience, the job will take longer. In fact, we recommend that you take your time and do things slowly. Double and triple check yourself since mistakes can cost you much more in the end. That comment alone is the main reason we recommend taking your computer to a pro. If you damage something it will definitely cost you more. But if you're pretty handy and can understand directions, this option is for you.

NOTE: This book is only for educational purposes. Any work you perform is your sole responsibility. You agree to not hold us liable for any damage or injuries while following these instructions.

READ AND UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING IN THIS E-BOOK BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY WORK SO YOU UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING INVOLVED!

LEGAL

The information provided is for general informational purposes only. All information is provided in good faith, however, we make no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability or completeness of any information.

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DISCLAIMER

Take care while following these steps or any other maintenance steps on your computer. Excessive damage can be caused if you delete the wrong files or remove the wrong programs or apps. Specific results are not guaranteed. There may be circumstances in which these steps do not work on your computer. You agree to hold us, *A Better Tech*, and any persons associated with or involved with *A Better Tech*, harmless from damages resulting from any work completed by you or anyone else on your computer. The acceptance of this text constitutes receipt & understanding of this disclaimer.

CHECK OUT MORE TIPS AT OUR BLOG

If these steps don't remedy your problem, you might have bigger issues that may need to be dealt with by a professional. We suggest finding a local computer repair shop to help. Just be sure the tech you use is professional, courteous and competitively priced.

CONTACT

If you're local to Spring, TX you can contact *A Better Tech*:

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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 manufacturer's 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.
- **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:

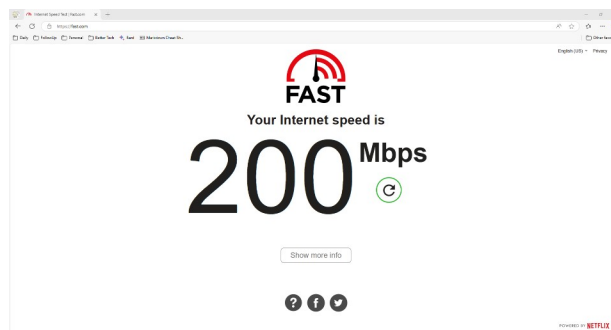
Disk Cleanup removes temporary files, system files, and other unnecessary data.

- **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."
 - 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.
 - 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.

- **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.

