

OnLine LiveHelp



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MergeWare Solutions Provider



An Apple A Day...

(...keeps the Dr away, but what about your PC?)



Typically, most of us will not even think of doing anything to our PCs unless something is not working, or we're getting a pop up error of some kind. We mistakenly subscribe to the thinking that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

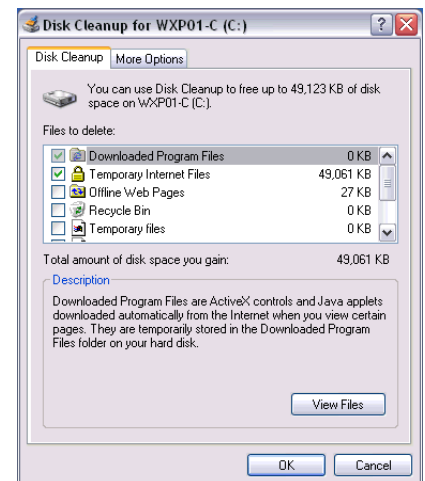
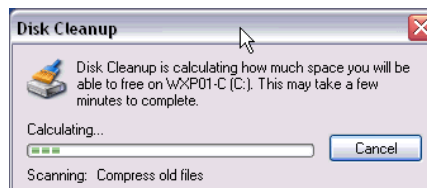
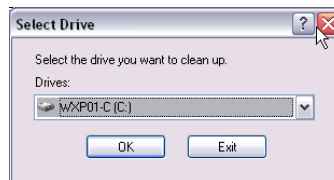
Given that most users have gone at least 6 months without doing any type of PC Maintenance, let's cover some basic items that will help your PC run smoother and give you peace of mind.

Item 1: Disk Cleanup

This windows program is typically found under Start -> Programs -> Accessories -> System Tools -> Disk Cleanup. This useful Windows utility can identify files on the hard drive that are no longer needed. From different types of Temporary Files to Install Logs, to Recycle Bin items, and more.

In addition to freeing up potentially significant amounts of hard drive space, you can use it to clean up Internet cache files that may have a Virus/Malware contents and improve your system performance.

We recommend running Disk Cleanup on a monthly basis, and also as a first step when you think you've been infected as those files will typically reside in internet temporary folders.



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Item 2: Registry Cleaners

Everyone has experienced PC bog down over time. This happens over the life of your PC when you install/uninstall programs etc.

Registry cleaner programs will look for registry errors that can slow down and crash your computer. As well, find a wide range of defects, including references to uninstalled programs, missing help files and virtual devices, broken shortcuts, and removed fonts and configuration files. They can also automatically repair invalid entries at Windows start-up.



We recommend and have been using Registry Mechanic for some time and have been happy with its results.

You can chose to leave it running on the system tray, or just run it periodically.

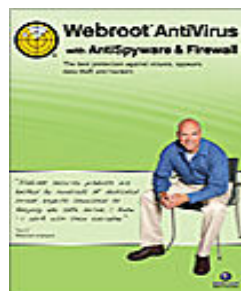
Item 3: AntiVirus/AntiSpyware

We are surprised to see many PCs that do not have any AntiVirus/AntiSpyware protection. It is a must for any PC as we know for a fact that you face a 90%+ chance of getting infected if you are connected to the internet. Typically, you will not outright get a Virus. Nowadays, Spyware rules the infected PC world. An Adware will get in, bring in some Malware, and soon after it will bring in Trojans and Viruses.

When it comes to what AntiVirus program is best, that can be a very long and complicated topic. Simply put, there are many flavors out there and you end up liking what you like.

We have seen free versions of AVG clean up PCs well. Since we all know that we get what we pay for, it should be understood that FREE may not always be the best. However, it is better than nothing.

We have also seen cases where 2 popular programs did not pick up items that a third program cleaned up. This primarily has to do with choosing the right software for the job. Some will be great at Virus detection, while others at Spyware. And some will have complicated Firewall setups that will slow your PC down, while others have a simple Firewall that does basic functions (not bogging down your system, but not providing advanced protection in that aspect).



We recommend Webroot Antivirus/with SpySweeper to many of our clients. It is a well balanced package that doesn't bog down your system, and is reasonably priced.

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