

# Popular Threads on Solosez

## Regular Computer Maintenance

Maybe one of you tech guys has a list of simple, everyday things that one can do to keep their computer running well. Things like scandisk, defrag, etc.. What should we do? When? How often?

Download EZ Cleaner. On a weekly basis, run EZ Cleaner's registry cleaner and delete unnecessary registry entries. (Trust it -- it knows what it's doing. But I have to tell you to backup your registry to cover my rear. Of course, I do this weekly and rarely backup my registry.)

Also run EZ Cleaner's program for getting rid of unnecessary files on a weekly basis.

Run Spybot and Ad-Aware on a weekly basis, after updating each program.

Then run defrag.

Your computer will thank you.

Andy Simpson, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

-----

OK, everyone has his or her own method for spring cleaning of the computer. Now, here's a different question. With all the new fast chips, memory and hard drives, do you REALLY find a speed difference after you've cleaned up, defragged and spruced up the e-furniture in the box?

Bruce Dorner, Londonderry, New Hampshire

-----

Probably not, but it is more fun to watch the display on the screen than to watch sports on TV without college football.

Go Tigers!

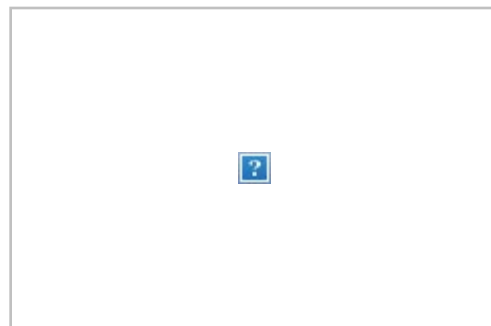
Art Mouton, Louisiana

-----

If you re-imaged once a week using Norton Ghost or Drive Image you could forget about all this other business. Running defrag is so Windows-98 anyway, and is not hip or cool in any way whatsoever.

Eric

-----



## Subscribe to Solosez

**First Name**

**Last Name**

**E-mail Address**

Submit (input element)



## Unsubscribe from Solosez

**E-mail Address**

Submit (input element)



## Books

Click on the book for more info



I assume that after you restore the re-image, you then have to install all desired added programs, update your e-mail and adjust for any desired tweaks you made over the passage of time. Do you keep a log of the desired tweaks and additions?

Bruce Dorner, Londonderry, New Hampshire

-----

It doesn't work that that. Windows is on C:, and that is all that is re-imaged. My outlook \*.pst file is stored on D: as are my bookmarks, etc. Thus, when I boot, Outlook the application boots afresh, only to find all of my email just as it was before I re-imaged. The same is true for IE when it opens looking for it's bookmarks. It is a simple registry adjustment to make this happen.

As for tweaks, when I re-image, I take a moment to re-do any of those I decide are worth sticking with. I do the same for any software I have decided to incorporate into my pristine image. The same goes for security patches and service packs.

Once those tasks are done, I create a new image, and go to get my second cup of coffee. Thus, to reimage and then update the image, we are talking 20 minutes. Or if there are no updates to incorporate, we are talking 12 tops.

Eric

-----

Ah, thanks for the reminder.

I purchased CopyWipe from them (upon your suggestion to check them out) and have been satisfied. I will next be purchasing BootItNG.

BTW, I still use an older version of GoBack, purchased at a reasonable price before it was bought out by Symantec and turned into another useless product; of course, my version is no longer supported. But it has saved me numerous times, being able to restore deleted or overwritten files as well as being able to go back in time to a particular state on the HD. I've used it most often to roll things back after loading software that I didn't like.

Clarence Behrend, West Bend, Wisconsin

-----

I just bought and loaded Acronis True Image 8.0 after reading the reviews and seeing some comments here and elsewhere.

I'm hoping it lives up to the rep.

David Abeshouse, New York

-----

I scandisk about every two weeks and then defrag after scandisk. If I have

been trying out a lot of demo software (so a lot of installing and uninstalling), then I will run the scandisk and defrag more often.

About once per month, I lower the Page File size to 0 MB and then scandisk and defrag so that the Page File gets defragged also. Then I put the Page File back up to where it was.

When I clean out the temporary files, I will often run CCleaner. But before CCleaner, I would go to the file folders containing the temporary files and delete them manually. The reason for this is that some cookies still remain after using Disk Cleanup.

About once per week (I like trying out a lot of demo software), I will go and check the programs which start when the computer boots up and remove any which I do not want there.

Also, I will do any or all of the above if I feel my computer is getting sluggish.

I will try EasyCleaner and see how it compares with CCleaner. Good thread discussing this: <http://reviews.cnet.com/5208-6138-0.html?forumID=31&threadID=105185&messageID=1204193>

Once per month I check for software/drivers updates for the programs and computer hardware I use and rely on most.

Lastly, I like to shutdown my computers once per week (usually Saturday night to Sunday) for at least 10 hours just to give them a rest from being on all the time, thus letting them just not be used and also cool to room temperature.

There you have my schedule.

Edward P. Sager

-----

I think Andy is right on. Do update then run Spybot and Adaware on a weekly basis to get rid of spyware that clogs up your computer and connection.

I don't use EZ cleaner (maybe I should). Instead, I do the following on a weekly basis:

1. Go to Control Panel --> Internet Options -->
2. good ol' Windoze's Disk Cleanup (go to Start Menu --> Programs --> Accessories --> System Tools --> General tab --> Click on a. Delete Cookies, b. Delete Files, and c. Clear History (optional).

I'm not saying EZ Cleaner isn't better, I just haven't downloaded it yet. One obvious benefit is that it cleans up the system registry, which has a tendency to get clogged and slow things down.

After doing the above, I finish up by using Windoze's Defragmenter.

That keeps the computer humming.

Gene Lee

-----

Oops,

On step 1, I forgot to add in the last step: click on Disk Cleanup.

Gene Lee

-----

Just to add on, I understand that Acronis True Image is superior to Norton Ghost. I'm thinking of picking it up, myself.

Gene Lee

-----

When I install trialware... When I am suspicious that I have a trojan on my computer... When I want to delete my cache... When I am having a resource conflict... When I screwed up the settings on a piece of software... When I upgrade to a new version of software that I don't like... When I am toying with my registry and accidentally go too far... If I thought my hard drive needed to be defragged....

I reimage my computer back to a pristine image, and go get a cup of coffee. All the problems above are fixed in no more than 12 minutes.

By doing so, I have...

- \*restored my registry to a pristine state.

- \*removed all viruses

- \*removed the old page file

- \*removed all spyware

- \*removed all trialware (and given myself another 15/30 days to install the trial ware again).

- \*defragged my hard drive

- \*put my computer back to factory fresh state

- \*deleted my cache.

- \*fixed every other conceivable software problem.

And I did all of this in 12 minutes, without troubleshooting anything. And when I set up my clients with this method at their office, it saves them time & money because all of a sudden they learn how to troubleshoot computer problems. "Oh dang, the computer is screwed--do we need to

call Eric? No, let's just reimage."

A particular Windows installation is like a person in that it is always in a slow process to death. Death for a Windows machine is the point at which you have to reinstall a new instance of Windows and begin again. Products like ezclean or gunkstopper and all this business are all part of this wrong approach to trouble-shooting and computer systems maintenance.

What's wrong about this approach is that it allows Windows to participate in the aging process. The advice to de-gunk this and ezclean that are analogous to an aging person's trips to the doctor. Windows is born (installed), gets regular checkups and has regular procedures at middle age (through the 3rd party software being discussed in this thread), then eventually Windows has some software problem that occasions the need to reinstall. Anyone who's worked extensively with computers shouldn't have any trouble at all imagining such a situation. At that point comes Windows' death: a reinstall.

However, the regular reimaging computer stops the Windows aging process. My Windows installation is literally never much older than a few days, because I'm always going back in time. And in doing so, I eliminate all these other "middle-aged" problems that others treat with 3rd party software. But these 3dp apps will not stop time: if you continue along that model, eventually your Windows will die. You should switch to the imaging model of systems' maintenance; when you do, a lot of things that used to be problems will simply disappear.

Ciao,

Eric

-----

If you re-imaged once a week using Norton Ghost or Drive Image you could forget about all this other business.>>

What if that which you have re-imaged using either of these (NG or DI) should be flawed in some way, on what will you rely to resolve or to recover from the issues with which you will be presented in what has been imaged?

Karl M. Rowe

-----

I have been doing this for 7 years. Never has Ghost or Drive Image written a corrupted file. If they do, then because you have several image files to choose, you simply choose another. But this has never happened to me.

If, for example, you've

used either NG or DI to back up your hard drive, including the

Windows registry, and that backup should contain a flawed

"Winsock" or "Winsock2" key, .

This simply doesn't happen. A brand new installation of Windows has a 'perfect' registry. Then you take an image of it? Then you add some software. Then you take another image (#2). This process repeats itself over and over. So where does this flaw get introduced. If it gets introduced in image 2, then you will eventually figure that out. SO then you delete image 2, and go back to image 1 and begin again. In other words, your concerns never come to be. That is apparent from the logic of the process. I can also tell you the same from 7 years of doing this. then when disaster strikes, how :effective will having a copy of these two registry branches :be? Even worse, what if you should discover at some point :that a dormant trojan was included in one or more of your NG :or DI images? : :While programs like NG and DI serve a good purpose for :archival backups, they are not substitutes for regular :backups.

I really am not following you here. Ghost and Drive Image are all you need to backup your OS partition. However, they have no place backing up your client files. I'm not sure which part of this you are referring to.

:<<::::Running defrag is so Windows-98 anyway, and is not hip :or cool in any way whatsoever.> : :You do not believe that OSes later than Win98, like WinXP, :make disk fragmentation passe, do you? I can assure you that :this is not so. :

Yes, if you defrag a C: drive, then image it, and then restore, you will restore to a defragged drive. Thus, there is no reason to do it again. As for my other drives, maybe I should defrac more often, but what is the consequence of not doing it. After I do it, I don't notice any difference, and I'm not losing any data, so why do it?

Eric

-----

I play with it a lot. Like others on this list, I review software and make recommendations to other attorneys based on such reviews. I also have never experienced any software that didn't like having to look to another partition for data. Actually, I did experience one several years ago (TextAloud), but it was at version 1, and the developers said they were working to change it.

From experience, TimeMatters doesn't care, Timeslips doesn't care, Office doesn't care, Acrobat doesn't care, Retrospect doesn't care, Amicus doesn't care, and so on.

Actually, I can't think of a good technical reason why anything should care. When an application starts, it looks to the registry or configuration file in order to find it's data file. Why should it matter that the answer is C:\file.dat versus D:\file.dat versus \\server\folder\file.dat ?

Eric

-----

True, except it's important to emphasize that you must keep fungible data on C: and non-fungible data (e.g., email, bookmarks, dbs) on another partition, like D:.

Pretty nicely stated; maybe Mr. Rowe can latch on to the idea now.

Eric

-----

Ghost allows you to make an exact byte for byte copy of a drive or drive partition. So if you make an image right when you install windows, Ghost allows you to turn the clock back to that image and put the OS back to the state it was in when you made the image. All you need to do is reinstall the image over the existing OS partition (or something like that). So it's kind of like a specialized type of back-up, rather than the regular back-up you may be familiar with.

What Eric is talking about doing is periodically Ghosting the OS partition, so if you add some software and things get funky, you can install an image of the OS from before the time you installed the Software. At that point, it will be like you never installed it at all.

In many cases, this can be better than just uninstalling the software, because the uninstall process doesn't always delete every file that has been added to the computer. Over time, the registry can get gunked up with these files, and that starts to have a negative effect on performance and stability.

So what Eric does is take an image after the clean install, and then make an image after he makes a significant change to the system (like installing new software). If everything continues to behave correctly, all is well. But if the new software installation is causing problems, he can just reinstall the image he made before the installation, and at that point things are back where they were. Because Eric has made a new image after each major change of the system, he has the flexibility to keep rolling things back all the way to the clean install state if necessary.

I have not done this on my PC, but I wish I had. I'm starting to feel the effects of the gunk (to many shareware music programs--I use my PC for recording). Eric's approach requires some forethought and a bit of a systematic approach. But I think it can really save you a lot of time and trouble in the long run if you get in the habit of doing it.

Jake London

-----

Right. I left that out. It's like you cordon off the OS on its own partition and then address it separately with the image software, so if it goes south you can roll it back without effect the rest of your data.

Jake London

-----

But everything is fungible. Heck, even you are fungible. '-)

"Unflattering though it may be, the truth is that lawyers in the American system are officially fungible." --Streit v. Covington & Crowe (2000)  
82 Cal.App.4th 441, 448

James S. Tyre, Culver City, California

-----

For as long as I could afford two hard drives, programs are on C and Data on D. They work fine.

Some programs do insist on putting data on C. Where possible I try to redirect and usually works. Actually, that's what annoyed me about Thunderbird, if anybody can help. When I set it up & tried to import my Netscape mail, it put it on C which so annoyed me I didn't use it.

Jay S. Goldenberg, Chicago, Illinois

-----

In reading your emails on your fabulous use of Norton Ghost it took many emails to understand your use. If you could put them together, they would make a great article and a fantastic list serve post. Could you compile it? If you would submit to me, I would love to submit it to my local Bar Association Magazine for publishing.

Joel Selik

-----

What does this mean? I don't understand what "re-imaging" is. I looked at Norton Ghost on the Symantec website and it is described as a back up. How does that clean up your computer?

Thanks for your help!

Michele B. Friend, Los Angeles, California

-----

I really wish that my prior recommendations for BootItNG from <http://www.terabyteunlimited.com> had not fallen on deaf ears. It is a really inexpensive and powerful program (boot from floppy or CD -- not multi-boot -- maintenance mode). Support is wonderful through their private usenet server.

Mike Phillips, Cary, North Carolina

-----

I'm currently evaluating backup solutions (software and hard drives) for



the Illinois State bar including Ghost and True Image. For years I preferred PowerQuest Drive Image over Ghost. Symantec bought PowerQuest and incorporated some of Drive Image's features and technology into Ghost 9. I run Ghost 9 on my notebook and still run Drive Image on my personal workstation (I also run Dantz Retrospect Server version which backs up my server and workstations). However, after testing Acronis True Image 8, I will be switching to True Image as I add software to other systems for imaging.

Reasons I prefer True Image include: User Interface - quite frankly it's much cleaner and user friendly Speed - True Image, at least on my system, is significantly faster than Ghost. Cost - True Image is less expensive than Ghost and provides superior features and performance (IMOH).

Ideally, any imaging product is part of an overall backup plan that includes regular imaging on an interval of say monthly or quarterly, as well as file level backups daily or weekly.

Nerino Petro, Jr., Loves Park, Illinois

-----

After reading this thread I had Ccleaner do an "issues" scan. It came up with a variety of issues, including a bunch of activex/COM, missing shared dll, and uninstaller reference issues.

Is this stuff I should delete or just leave as-is?

Thanks for your help.

Scott

-----

[Back to Popular Threads](#)