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Spring Cleaning!

A MOSTLY COMPREHENSIVE COMPENDIUM TO CLEANING COMPUTERS

Why does technology need maintenance?

- ▶ Computers are like cars, every so often they need an oil change and some washer fluid.
- ▶ Just be careful you're not falling for the ol' "premium air scam"!
- ▶ There's a misconception that computers are like blenders and can just sit without any maintenance. **NOT TRUE.**
- ▶ Few advanced products these days can go without some form of maintenance.
- ▶ People get "cheap" with their computers. Something they rely on EVERY DAY. Most people can't go without their computer yet they let them "rot".

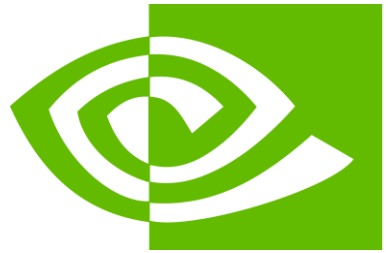
What needs “spring cleaning”?

- ▶ PC's
 - ▶ Drivers, Patches, Major Updates to Windows OS
 - ▶ Antivirus renewal and updates
 - ▶ Cleaning off Cookies and TEMP files (preventing Malware).
- ▶ Macs
 - ▶ Patches, Major Updates to macOS
 - ▶ Antivirus renewal and updates (yes Mac's get viruses).
 - ▶ Cleaning off Cookies and TEMP files (preventing Malware).
- ▶ Tablets (including Android and iOS devices)
 - ▶ Patches, updates to OS, cleaning cookies.

Is Mac/Windows update enough?

- ▶ No!
- ▶ Windows update is necessary, and now automatic (you can't turn it off), but it doesn't do EVERYTHING including BIOS, modern drivers, and minor patch fixes.
 - ▶ We've seen BIOS and drivers as outdated as several years on machines that are "up to date".
- ▶ Automated maintenance on your computer does happen every day at 2am (never shut down your computer) but it only does so much. It runs through general schedules, software updates, downloads, and a LIGHT FORM of defragging called TRIM.

Graphics Drivers



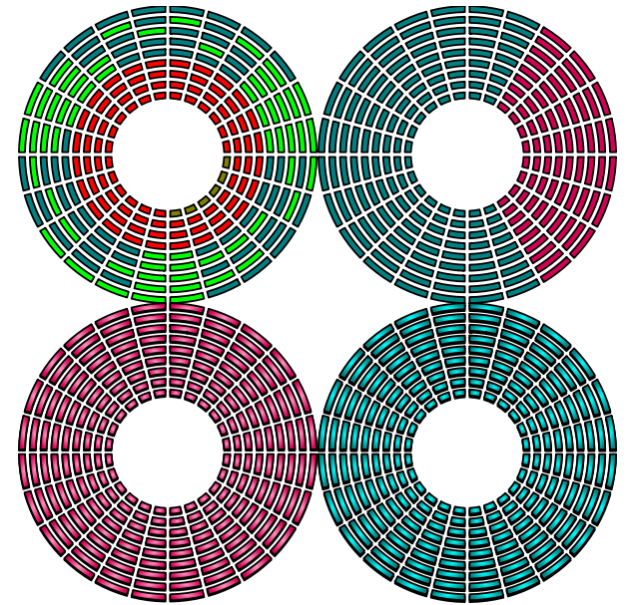
nVIDIA

AMD 

- ▶ One of the most important updates you can do to your computer. nVidia and AMD publish their modern drivers on their websites.
- ▶ Intel is quite a bit harder to find for most people.

I just defragged my computer!

- ▶ Aren't you proud of me?!
- ▶ **NO**
- ▶ **Defragging a computer is not only *not* recommended, it will potentially harm the computer. Windows should take out manual defragging altogether.**
- ▶ **Modern solid state drives become stressed when defragging.**
- ▶ **Modern file system are SMART.**



How to clean Cookies / TEMP

- ▶ CCleaner is a solid reputable tool to knock this out. The free version is more than enough.
- ▶ Built in Windows disk cleaner. **Right** click on the **C: drive**, click **Properties**. Click on **Disk Cleanup**, and check off most if not all the things in the list.
- ▶ Mac doesn't have an advanced disk cleaner but does help you purge old files. If you click on the **Apple** logo in the upper left corner, click **about this mac. More Info**, then click **Storage Settings**. A cleanup utility is available in there.

Reputable Software

- ▶ CCleaner – although now owned by Gen – who also owns Norton and AVAST and AVIRA.
 - ▶ Don't buy the premium.
- ▶ BitDefender, AVAST (though it's a big sales pitch), Malwarebytes
 - ▶ Avoid Norton, ESET, Kaspersky, or McAfee.
 - ▶ Including free McAfee from COX. Nothing is free.

Software to avoid!

- ▶ There is a TON of crap on the internet. In fact, almost all of it is 🤖
- ▶ Rather than tell you what to avoid, it's easier to tell you what is reputable.
- ▶ Registry Cleaners almost always do some form of damage, CCleaner being MAYBE the exception.
- ▶ **AVOID – AVG Tune Up, Driver Tune, almost anything with the name Driver in it. Anything you see advertised on TV.**
- ▶ Don't install anything without consulting a professional first.

Scan your computer every so often!

- ▶ Have Malwarebytes on the computer? Give it the ol' **Full Scan** every now and again.
- ▶ While these software have automated procedures it's good to let them do their thing in full.

Professional vs Consumer

- ▶ There are software updates that only "pros" have access to.
- ▶ Certain drivers
 - ▶ We have a database of Hardware IDs (something you can find in Device Manager) that ensures you have the latest hardware updates that Windows Update **WILL NOT DO**.
- ▶ Will clean hard to find / get to spots that no software or normal user knows how to get to.
 - ▶ E.g. hibernation files, mail temp clusters (Apple Mail, Outlook), System Maintenance Files
 - ▶ Macs are worse than PCs in this regard.
 - ▶ **Story time about a full mac! Over 100GB used.**

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