

## CLEAN, REPAIR, OPTIMIZE, CUSTOMIZE

### CCleaner [PC]

<http://download.cnet.com/ccleaner/?tag=mncol;pop>

As we install and uninstall programs, download and delete things in our computers, these activities creates a bit of a mess on our computers that is not always obvious to us, except when it causes our computers to slow down, pop-up a lot of error messages, and crash and freeze.

CCleaner is a **free** system optimization and cleaning tool that speeds up and makes your system more secure. It also cleans traces of your online activities, such as your Internet history, and does secure file erasing. It cleans and repairs the system registry, uninstalls programs, and lets you turn-off programs that automatically startup in the background. It is very simple, quick, and easy to use.

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### Defragler [PC]

<http://www.piriform.com/defraggler>

A **free** program that defragments your computer files and optimizes disk performance. Specific folders and files can be unfragmented or several entire disks. A scheduler lets you do the defrag at a later time, such as the late evening when you're not using the computer.

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### Smart Defrag [PC]

[http://download.cnet.com/Smart-Defrag/3000-2094\\_4-10759533.html?tag=mncol](http://download.cnet.com/Smart-Defrag/3000-2094_4-10759533.html?tag=mncol)

Another **free** utility that defragments your hard disk, but with fewer options than Defragler, but this program can defrag your files in the background without becoming a persistent drag on your system operation.

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### TweakNow PowerPack [PC]

[http://download.cnet.com/TweakNow-PowerPack-2009/3000-18512\\_4-10914508.html](http://download.cnet.com/TweakNow-PowerPack-2009/3000-18512_4-10914508.html)

A **free** set of tools to tweak and personalize just about every aspect of Windows. A simple and intuitive user interface. The Registry Cleaner and Registry Defragmenter modules clean and reorganize things for speedier performance. RAM Optimizer, file/folder space Usage Analyzer, Auto Shutdown and Startup, erases browsing traces and other digital footprints. The Windows Secrets module gives you access to more than 100 hidden Windows settings, allowing you to turn on or off, hide or show, many features and functions of Windows. The Virtual Desktop module lets you run as many as four different virtual desktops at once, so you can try out a wide range of looks and configurations, or keep separate desktops for work and play.

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### Advanced SystemCare [PC]

[http://download.cnet.com/Advanced-SystemCare-Free/3000-2086\\_4-10407614.html?tag=mncol](http://download.cnet.com/Advanced-SystemCare-Free/3000-2086_4-10407614.html?tag=mncol)

A **free** one-click approach to help protect, repair, clean, and optimize your PC. Speeds up the computer and reduces freezes, crashes, and security threats. Removes spyware and adware, scans for hijacked Windows settings, cleans registry, defragments disk, and deletes junk files. Unfortunately, automatic scheduled scans and many other useful functions are only available in the paid 'Pro' version.

### WinUtilities [PC]

[http://download.cnet.com/WinUtilities-Free-Edition/3000-18512\\_4-75021441.html](http://download.cnet.com/WinUtilities-Free-Edition/3000-18512_4-75021441.html)

A **free** suite of tools designed to free up disk space and improve system performance. Disk defragmenting and cleanup, memory optimizer, improve performance and security, shred files, locate and delete duplicate files, browser help utility remover, file splitter & joiner, timed automatic shutdown, 1-click maintenance, and much more. However, like Advanced System Care, many of the utilities only function in the **paid** version.

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### TuneUp Utilities [PC]

[http://download.cnet.com/TuneUp-Utilities-2010/3000-18512\\_4-10206416.html](http://download.cnet.com/TuneUp-Utilities-2010/3000-18512_4-10206416.html)

**Free to try** (30-day trial); **\$49.95** to buy.

One-click clean, optimize, fix, and speed up Windows. Not as simple and easy to use as Advanced System Care but has many more features and functions for increasing system performance and customizing the appearance and functions of Windows. Includes a registry cleaner, file shredder, recovers deleted files, uninstalls programs, controls which programs startup with Windows, defragments disks, optimizes memory, and numerous other functions. Does 1-click and scheduled cleaning and optimizing. Not free, but it is the best all-around PC maintenance & tweaking utility.

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### Cocktail – [Mac]

[http://download.cnet.com/Cocktail/3000-18512\\_4-174509.html](http://download.cnet.com/Cocktail/3000-18512_4-174509.html)

**Free** OSX 10.4 **Tiger** version; Free to try OSX 10.5+ **Leopard** version is **\$14.95**.

A full suite of maintenance tools and customization tweaks. 1-click to clean, repair, and optimize your system. It allows you to change the appearance and behavior of the

Finder and Dock, clears caches and logs, repairs permissions, and schedules automatic maintenance. It has extensive help files that are cross-linked to articles on Wikipedia and other online Mac help resources. Well-organized with an easy to use interface.

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### OnyX – [Mac]

<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/11582/onyx>

**Free.**

A multifunction utility for verifying the structure of files, running miscellaneous system maintenance tasks, configuring hidden features of the Finder and Dock, deletes caches, and so forth. Numerous maintenance functions and tweaks, automatic or manually configured.

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### TinkerTool - [Mac]

<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/13662/inkertool-system>

**\$14.**

Similar to but more comprehensive than OnyX in providing numerous functions to tweak, maintain, and optimize the system. It repairs permissions, preferences, caches, logs, and many tweaks, such as removes resource fork emulation files ("dot underscore files); force-deletes files, folders, and a stubborn file in the trash; fine tunes network performance, et al.

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### TechTool Pro - [Mac]

[http://download.cnet.com/TechTool-Deluxe/3000-18512\\_4-38375.html](http://download.cnet.com/TechTool-Deluxe/3000-18512_4-38375.html)

**\$99.**

A premier tool for system maintenance, testing, repair, defragmentation, file recovery, and more. Not many tweaking features as in TinkerTool or OnyX, but does 1-click complete diagnostic check of the computer, hard drives.

memory, file structures, and preferences. If problems are found, assistance is provided to repair them, including recovering files and disks. It can very effectively rebuild, repair, and optimize Mac hard disk drives.

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### **AppCleaner - [Mac]**

[http://download.cnet.com/AppCleaner/3000-2248\\_4-10867510.html](http://download.cnet.com/AppCleaner/3000-2248_4-10867510.html)

Deletes application programs with all their related files and data. Ordinary deletion can still leave hidden remnants scattered around the system long after the main application has been deleted.

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### **Duplicate Files Searcher - [Mac & PC]**

[http://download.cnet.com/Duplicate-Files-Searcher/3000-2248\\_4-178698.html](http://download.cnet.com/Duplicate-Files-Searcher/3000-2248_4-178698.html)

Free application finds and deletes duplicate files. It provides full control over which duplicate files are to be deleted, with several file comparison methods.

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### **MainMenu - [Mac]**

<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/17111/mainmenu>

**\$20**

Run numerous maintenance functions very conveniently right from the menubar. Rebuild the Spotlight index for faster file searching, repair permissions, clean caches, and lots more functions to improve application and system performance. Also tweak the Dashboard and other interface functions.

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### **AppleJack - [Mac]**

<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/15667/applejack>

**Free.**

A user friendly troubleshooting assistant to help you repair your disk, repair permissions,

validate the system's preference files, and get rid of possibly corrupted cache files, even when your startup disk won't boot. AppleJack allows you to login to the Mac's Unix shell in a single user mode, and then run the AppleJack diagnostic and repair routines.

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### **Macaroni - [Mac]**

<http://www.atomicbird.com/macaroni>

**\$10.**

Automatically does system maintenance on a predetermined schedule, including the permissions, junk and temporary files, caches, et al.

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### **Defragmenting a Macintosh hard disk drive...**

Disk defragmentation and optimization is normally not something that the Mac user needs to be concerned with. The Mac operating system automatically defrags and optimizes the disks in the background, when the system is idle, without any significant affect on computer performance. However, if there is less than 10% free space on the hard disk, a defrag utility can sometimes speed up reading and writing to the hard disk. In such a circumstance you can use utilities such as iDefrag (\$29.95) or Drive Genius (\$99), to defrag, as well as repair and optimize your hard drive. Or, perhaps more wisely use that money to buy a larger hard disk, which then won't need a defragging utility.

—Mel Ellington