

Keep Your Hard Drive Healthy

Keeping your hard drive healthy is very important to your computer's overall performance. What happens when you run programs and save data to the hard drive, eventually what happens the data gets placed on your hard drive in the first available free spot on your hard drive. And this free spot is not always right in line where it should be next to the previous data saved, or the program itself. This causes the data to be scattered across the hard drive. Another term for this is fragmented. The hard drive becomes fragmented due to placement of data in different places.

There are two utilities that you must use to help keep your hard drive healthy, and those two are Scandisk and Defrag. Scandisk is a program that will scan your hard drive and look for potential or possible errors. If any errors are found the program attempts to make repairs. If the problems are repairable, the program will seek to do the fixing of the area on the hard drive. Many times the program will ask you if you want to relate good data to a working sector or area of the hard drive, this way you are assured your data is readable. After this, the software marks the area of the hard drive as bad. This way the head of the hard drive will not save any future data to that location.

When using Defrag, what that does is it examines your hard drive to see how badly the disk is fragmented. If the disk is fragmented, you'll notice in graphical representation that many of the files on the hard drive are scattered. Defrag works by taking every single file that is fragmented, and moves the data to another area of the disk

temporary until all the data for that sequence of data is moved. Once this process has been completed for the entire drive, Defrags job is now over. What results do you get from it? The speed at which the hard drive accesses the hard drive is increased. Your files load quicker and run faster.

Keeping your hard drive healthy is very important, especially if you have a business where you keep a lot of files on your hard drive and depend on your hard drive to work by running programs that use your data and saves it everyday. By running Scandisk and Defrag, you are doing exactly that. You are keeping your hard drive healthy, which also helps to increase the life of the drive.