WHAT ARE TEMPORARY FILES? HOW DO YOU DELETE THEM? WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Temporary files (also called "temp files") usually have filenames that end with the extension .TMP. Though they share the same file extension, temporary files can be created by many different programs. This can make it difficult to figure out what program created a specific temp file, or even where the file came from.

Sometimes, the part of the filename before the extension will give you a clue as to where the file is from. For example, if the filename is 2016_annual_report.tmp, the file might be a Word document or Excel spreadsheet that was named "2016 annual report." Other times, the location of a temp file may help you determine what program created the file. For example, if you find a temp file in a folder named "Temporary Files" within the main folder of a certain application, the temporary file most likely belongs to that application.

WHY ARE TEMP FILES CREATED?

Programs create temporary files primarily for backup purposes. Many programs, such as those included with Microsoft Office, will save a temporary version of a file every few minutes while the original file is open. Then if you have not saved the file and the program unexpectedly crashes or the computer shuts down, there will be a temporary file that was recently saved. Temp files are typically deleted automatically when the program is closed normally, but if the program quits unexpectedly, the temp files are not deleted.

However, some temp files are left behind even when a program is closed correctly. This may be due to programming errors that cause temporary files to not be correctly disposed of when an application is terminated. These files can accumulate on your hard drive without you even noticing.

Finally, Web browsers, such as Microsoft Edge, Internet Explorer, or Google Chrome, create "Temporary Internet Files" to store user data, including cookies, images from visited Web pages, and the user's browsing history.

These methods used in combination will locate and remove most temporary files.

1. Go to Settings (Windows + I)
2. Click on System
3. Click on Storage

4. Click on This PC
5. Click on Temporary Files

1. Go to Settings (Windows + I)
2. Type "Disk Cleanup" in the search box at top of Settings.
3. Click on "Free up disk space by deleting unnecessary files"
4. Disk Cleanup utility will appear on Taskbar. Open it.
5. Use it to clean up either or both temporary files or temporary internet files.
6. Now click on *Cleanup System Files* and follow the same procedure.

1. Open File Explorer (Windows + E).
2. Expand Drive C.
3. Expand Users.
4. Expand Folder named after "owner".
5. Expand AppData.
6. Open Temp folder.
7. Temporary files will appear in right pane.
8. (Get to this location in a hurry "from the top" by pressing Windows + R and typing *%temp%* in the Run box.)

1. Type Windows + R
2. Type *Prefetch* in the Search box.
3. This action will take you to PC>Drive C>Windows>Prefetch.
4. Remove all the files in the Prefetch folder.

Finally, two performance cleaners, PrivaZer and CCleaner, will perform well in removing temporary files from your system.