KEEP YOUR COMPUTER RUNNING FAST AND RELIABLY

Your computer needs regular maintenance to continue performing at its best. Waiting until accumulated minor problems make your computer run intolerably slow is a bad strategy. When a neglected PC works harder than it should then the hardware can start to fail. You may experience a sudden catastrophic crash similar to a car engine seizing up because you never changed the oil.

All-in-one PC maintenance tools make it a breeze to keep your system in top shape. Their functions generally include registry cleaning; disk defragmentation; optimization of system settings; and deletion of unnecessary temporary files. Some free PC maintenance tools include scheduling of maintenance, cleanup of malware, and system-tweaking options for advanced users.

Smart users perform PC cleanup and tune-up operations at least **once a month**. Here's what the experts recommend: **one or more of these free computer maintenance tools** will help you do the job.

PrivaZer. According to nationally recognized tech expert Bob Rankin, this program is a hard drive clean-up utility on steroids. It gets rid of junk files and wipes away traces of activity that could compromise your privacy.

The "clean and optimize your PC" field has been crowded for years with programs like CCleaner, Advanced System Care, and many others. PrivaZer leaves them all gasping in its dust. The first time you run PrivaZer, you will be impressed by the number of clean-up options it gives you. But you won't be confused, because they are clearly and cogently explained. A recommended option doesn't just have the word "recommended" next to it; it includes a brief explanation of why it's recommended and what it will do that's different from other options.

The first scan and clean-up of your desktop or laptop will probably take over six hours, not because PrivaZer is slow but because it does an enormous amount of work. Rankin has run Advanced System Care Pro on his machine at least once a week for a long time, but PrivaZer still found about a gigabyte of stuff it could trash or fix. **http://privazer.com/**.

The Glary Utilities is another great PC maintenance suite**.** It, too, does registry, privacy, defrag and junk files cleanup. It includes an application uninstaller that is more sophisticated than Windows Add/Remove app; for example, you *can tag*

multiple applications to be uninstalled in one operation. It also includes a startup programs manager, a memory manager, and a nifty utility to remove unwanted context menu (right-click) items. Cleanup can include a sweep for duplicate files, empty file folders, and broken shortcuts. **http://www.glarysoft.com/glary-utilities/**

CCleaner by Piriform is another popular PC cleaner/optimizer/privacy tool that's developed a sterling reputation over many years. CCleaner zaps temp files, web browser history, cookies, and form inputs, to remove all traces of your online activities. It also mops up after Windows, cleaning out your Recycle Bin, removing unneeded log files, deleting memory dumps, and pruning obsolete registry entries. **http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner/download**