

But I Already Fixed My Windows...

I get a real kick when people tell me they “already fixed their windows with scandisk and its still crashing.” FYI, scandisk does NOT fix windows and neither does defrag. Neither of them were meant to fix windows. Scandisk is designed to do just that: scan the disk (the hard drive) for damaged (not corrupt) files or fragments and recover them so that the user can either use them or discard them - in most cases all you can do is discard them.

Defrag, on the other hand, is designed to defragment the hard drive. This means that data on the drive is moved around so that similar data is close together so that the drive spends less time retrieving it. Once again, defrag does NOT cure any windows problems. Defrag should be run about ever 6 months or so. Running it any more frequently will hardly ever achieve any noticeable performance improvement.

There are some built-in “repair” utilities in windows. Windows 98 had System File Checker which would actually repair corrupt or incorrect versions of files. Windows Me performed this automatically. 2000 and XP on the other hand have the System Restore features. There are also 3rd party utilities such as Norton SystemWorks and others which are designed to fix windows problems, however, they usually slow down your computer considerably and often times create more problems than they cure.

The best fix for windows problems is often times prevention. Avoid free internet utilities as much as possible and uninstall programs you no longer use and your windows will probably run better. The more “junk” you install, the more bloated and unstable your windows becomes. You should also plan on re-installing your windows from scratch about every 2-3 years just to clean it up. I promise you, your PC will run so much better after you do this.