

Slow Computer?



Windows PCs don't have to slow down over time. Whether your PC has gradually become slower or it suddenly ground to a halt a few minutes ago, there could be quite a few reasons for that slowness. As with all PC issues, don't be afraid to give your computer a reboot if something's not working properly. This can fix quite a few problems and is faster than attempting to manually troubleshoot and fix the problem yourself. Viruses, trial software, bloatware and your settings can all be to blame for your computer running slowly. Keep reading to find out how to make your computer faster

Find Resource-Hungry Programs

Your PC is running slow because something is using up those resources. If it's suddenly running slower, a runaway process might be using 99% of your CPU resources, for example. Or, an application might be experiencing a memory leak and using a large amount of memory, causing your PC to swap to disk. Alternately, an application might be using the disk a lot, causing other applications to slow down when they need to load data from or save it to the disk. To find out, open the Task Manager. You can right-click your taskbar and select the "Task Manager" option or press Ctrl+Shift+Escape to open it. On Windows 8, 8.1, and 10, the new Task Manager provides an upgraded interface that color-codes applications using a lot of resources. Click the "CPU," "Memory," and "Disk" headers to sort the list by the applications using the most resources. If any application is using too much resources, you might want to close it normally — if you can't, select it here and click "End Task" to force it to close.

Disable Start-up Programs

On Windows 8, 8.1, and 10, there's now a start-up manager in the Task Manager you can use to manage your start-up programs. Right-click the taskbar and select "Task Manager" or press Ctrl+Shift+Escape to launch it. Click over to the Start-up tab and disable start-up applications you don't need. Windows will helpfully tell you which applications slow down your start-up process the most.

Lighten Your Web Browser

There's a good chance you use your web browser a lot, so your web browser may just be a bit slow. It's a good idea to use as few browser extensions, or add-ons, as possible — those slow down your web browser and cause it to use more memory. Go into your web browser's Extensions or Add-ons manager and remove add-ons you don't need. You should also consider enabling click-to-play plug-ins. Preventing Flash and other content from loading will prevent unimportant Flash content from using CPU time.

Scan for Malware and Adware

There's also a chance your computer is slow because malicious software is slowing it down and running in the background. This may not be flat-out malware — it may be software that interferes with your web browsing to track it and add additional advertisements. To be extra safe, scan your computer with an antivirus program.

Free Up Disk Space

If your hard drive is almost completely full, your computer may run noticeably slower. You want to leave your computer some room to work on your hard drive. Follow our guide to freeing up space on your Windows PC to free up room. You don't need any third-party software — just running the Disk Clean-up tool included in Windows can help quite a bit.

Defragment Your Hard Disk

Do I Really Need to Defrag My PC?

Defragmenting your hard disk actually shouldn't be necessary on modern versions of Windows. It'll automatically defragment mechanical hard drives in the background. Solid-state drives don't really need traditional defragmentation, although modern versions of Windows will "optimize" them — and that's fine. You shouldn't worry about defragmentation most of the time. However, if you do have a mechanical hard drive and you've just put a lot of files on the drive — for example, copying a huge database or gigabytes of PC game files — those files might be defragmented because Windows hasn't gotten around to defragmenting them yet. In this situation, you might want to open the disk defragmenter tool and perform a scan to see if you need to run a manual defrag program.

Uninstall Programs You Don't Use

Open the Control Panel, find the list of installed programs, and uninstall programs you don't use and don't need from your PC. This can help speed your PC up, as those programs might include background processes, auto start entries, system services, context menu entries, and other things that can slow down your PC. It'll also save room on your hard drive and improve system security — for example, you definitely shouldn't have Java installed if you're not using it.

Reset Your PC / Reinstall Windows

If the other tips here didn't fix your problem, the one timeless solution to fix Windows problems — aside from rebooting your PC, of course — is getting a fresh Windows installation.

On modern versions of Windows — that is, Windows 8, 8.1, and 10 — it's easier to get a fresh Windows installation than ever. You don't have to get Windows installation media and reinstall Windows. Instead, you can simply use the "Reset your PC" feature built into Windows to get a new, fresh Windows system. This is similar to reinstalling Windows and will wipe your installed programs and system settings while keeping your files.

Install a solid-state drive (SSD)

if your PC is still using a mechanical hard drive, upgrading to a solid-state drive — or just ensuring your next PC has an SSD — will offer you a dramatic performance improvement, too. In an age where most people won't notice faster CPUs and graphics processors, solid-state storage will offer the single biggest boost in overall system performance for most people.

Unlike traditional hard drives, solid-state drives (SSD) are so-called because they have no moving parts. This makes them more efficient and, ultimately, faster. You should expect to spend from £50 to £250, depending on the SSD's capacity (usually ranging between 32GB and 512GB). But this isn't a measure for the faint of heart. Replacing your hard drive with a SSD requires taking the casing off your computer and fiddling with its power and data cables

For any advice from our friendly, knowledgeable technicians or to book us to carry out a pc, laptop or network health check or tune up please contact us:

Email: support@gfctech.co.uk

Call: 0208 432 4686



<https://www.facebook.com/gfctechnology>