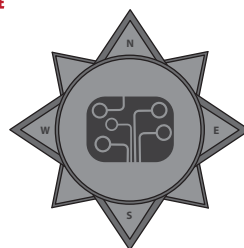


HOW TO CLEAN A LAGGY COMPUTER

If you have a PC in your home, you'll know that great feeling of having a fast running machine. You'll also know the feeling that comes, all too quickly, when things start to slow down and features stop functioning quite the way you remember them. That's when it's time for a little maintenance. The chances are you have a mixture of some malware, as well as registry issues creeping in.

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EARN THIS NUGGET

Clean up one computer and get its performance back to where it once was, or at least as close as you can.

So, here is the approach that I recommend to get things moving a little closer to the glory days.

Find a computer that you can try to optimize. I am not going to give you full instructions here, as everyone's system is different and technology is always changing. So expect to do some of your own research. Make sure anything you download is from known sources, and beware of other junk they may try to add to your download, Download.com is usually clean, but you have to really be careful that you are downloading what you want. They do try to trick you sometimes.

1. Check that you have some breathing room on the hard drive. When you start running out of room (perhaps 80% or higher) things can start lagging a little. If you are full, remove and archive, whatever it takes.

2. Check for viruses. They can really slow you down. Windows Defender or Security Essentials is effective, but I would run a couple virus checkers.

3. Check for malware. Malwarebytes is a very effective software and free to download (There are also paid versions, be smart about this).

4. Use a cleaner to sort out the registry, C-Cleaner is very effective, and again free. This will correct a lot of issues.

5. If you are working with an old computer that has an updated operating system on it, you may be fighting a losing battle. As computers become more powerful, operating systems sap more resources. In those cases you can only do as much as you can do, or perhaps reload that computer with Ubuntu (Linux) it runs light and is still good for online use as well as other things.

