

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Defrag: How much is too much?](#)

Knowledgeable - December 14, 2015, 10:40 pm

So this is something I've been curious about for awhile. Is defragging a laptop's HD too often possible? I heard defragging an external or an SSD can mess it up but what about the regular C drive? If I defrag once or twice a week will that wear on the HD or is it smart or what? I just wasn't sure so I figured I'd ask and see if anyone has proper experience to answer appropriately.

lavish - December 15, 2015, 5:26 pm

You should only defrag your hard drive once every 2-3 months, or after installing newer software onto your computer.

When you defrag your hard drive you risk corrupting/damaging files. (although it's rare it's still possible)

Knowledgeable - December 15, 2015, 5:53 pm

I've been using defraggler and as of last night O&O defrag

I read a lot of articles last night and it seems like a 65% in favor of defragging often and 35% in favor of possible risk

the basic concepts are the HD not having to work to find files and the other basic concept is the HD under use every week to defrag

it honestly seemed like defragging as often as I do is better because the HD ultimately works less to find the files it needs

so instead of say 20 rounds to find files abc it takes only 3 to find abc

Freebooter - December 15, 2015, 11:28 pm

You should not defragment HDD too often as defragmenting does wear down life of HDD but if you defragment HDD when fragmentation level around 5 percent you won't cause any ill affect.

Knowledgeable - December 15, 2015, 11:35 pm

Why do you believe it will down the drive?

I try not to let my drive get beyond 10%, sometimes it does but this is only a Celeron processor and every bit of cleanliness I can muster I do.

I tried to research after posting this thread and as mentioned in last post, it seems mixed from a wide variety of other computer forums.

I figured I'd get HF input.

Whxami - December 15, 2015, 11:54 pm

(Dec 16, 2015 12:28 AM)Freebooter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You should not defragment HDD too often as defragmenting does wear down life of HDD but if you defragment HDD when fragmentation level around 5 percent you won't cause any ill affect. This gentleman helped me with my HDD in the past he 100% knows what he is doing.

Knowledgeable - December 15, 2015, 11:59 pm

(Dec 16, 2015 12:54 AM)Serj Tankian Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This gentleman helped me with my HDD in the past he 100% knows what he is doing.

thanks for the input, appreciate it, hope he can provide some more information for me

Freebooter - December 16, 2015, 6:49 am

(Dec 16, 2015 12:59 AM)Knowledgeable Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) thanks for the input, appreciate it, hope he can provide some more information for me What kind of information you will want me to provide to you if its about how defragmenting HDD too often shorten life of HDD then i can explain little more.

When defragmenting HDD defragmenter software reads, writes to empty spaces and delete data in sectors. It does this to physically organize the contents of the HDD into the smallest number of contiguous regions (fragments). Defragmentation does stress the HDD because defragmenter software instructs HDD to read, write and delete more often then normal operation of the HDD all HDD's have lifespan HDD start to wear out while its been used and more often usage of HDD means less time left before drive fails — the various components can only rotate, gyrate, and actuate so many times before something goes wrong.

Knowledgeable - December 16, 2015, 6:16 pm

(Dec 16, 2015 07:49 AM)Freebooter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What kind of information you will want me to provide to you if its about how defragmenting HDD too often shorten life of HDD then i can explain little more.

When defragmenting HDD defragmenter software reads, writes to empty spaces and delete data in sectors. It does this to physically organize the contents of the HDD into the smallest number of contiguous regions (fragments). Defragmentation does stress the HDD because defragmenter software instructs HDD to read, write and delete more often then normal operation of the HDD all HDD's have lifespan HDD start to wear out while its been used and more often usage of HDD means less time left before drive fails — the various components can only rotate, gyrate, and actuate so many times before something goes wrong.

Thank you.

I did read something of relative reference as what you said.

But wouldn't keeping the files organized, clean, easier for the HDD to find and read make it less hassle for the HDD as well?

If the HDD is always spinning trying to find a file it will wear it out over time as well. So wouldn't defragging be organizing the files so it's to easier to find and read so it has to rotate less and therefore work less?

Please provide your input because I am interested as I have read about both sides of this.

Freebooter - December 17, 2015, 12:48 am

(Dec 16, 2015 07:16 PM)Knowledgeable Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thank you.

I did read something of relative reference as what you said.

But wouldn't keeping the files organized, clean, easier for the HDD to find and read make it less hassle for the HDD as well?

If the HDD is always spinning trying to find a file it will wear it out over time as well. So wouldn't defragging be organizing the files so it's to easier to find and read so it has to rotate less and therefore work less?

Please provide your input because I am interested as I have read about both sides of this. Yes you should defragment the HDD but some people do it every day this is not healthy and will shorten the HDD lifespan but if you defragment HDD around five percent fragmentation level then you will have healthy HDD as data on HDD is organize which is also helps lifespan of the HDD. In short NO to everyday defragmenting HDD and YES to defragmenting HDD every two weeks or month or at around five percent fragmentation level.

Knowledgeable - December 17, 2015, 3:06 am

Ah I see, I do mine about once a week or so.

Usually it sits between 1 and 10%. When at 1% I don't do it.

Is once a week a safe bet for durability?

I appreciate your input very much by the way.

Freebooter - December 17, 2015, 10:45 am

You should defragment HDD around between 3 and 5 percent don't let your drive get fragmented more then 5 percent. I cannot tell you if you should defragment HDD every week it depends on how much data was deleted and created within one week time if you delete and create lot of files within one week then yes defragment HDD every week. Perform free space consolidation on the partition you install programs and crate files performing free space consolidation will arrange free space on partition and this will result in less fragmentation when you create files and install programs. You should also set pagefile at static size this will also reduce fragmentation visit my tutorial to find out how to set pagefile to static size or use my program which will configure pagefile to static size. Url links are below.

[\[BHCPU\] Tweaking & Optimizing Windows -Tutorial](#) by [Freebooter](#)

[\[BHCPU\] Boost Windows O/S & Network Performance](#) by [Freebooter](#)

Knowledgeable - December 17, 2015, 1:42 pm

Thank you very much again.

I will try to check out those tutorials tonight.

I will see if I can set O&O defrag to run when at 5% fragmentation.

I do create and delete a lot of files every week actually so this info will help.

I gather that it isn't the # of times you should defrag but the volume of fragmentation you should pay attention to and acknowledge whether a defrag will be necessary or not.

Freebooter - December 17, 2015, 1:57 pm

(Dec 17, 2015 02:42 PM)Knowledgeable Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I gather that it isn't the # of times you should defrag but the volume of fragmentation you should pay attention to and acknowledge whether a defrag will be necessary or not.I agree.?

Knowledgeable - December 17, 2015, 3:42 pm

(Dec 17, 2015 02:57 PM)Freebooter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I agree.?

ok sounds good thank you for the input

?

Freebooter - December 17, 2015, 5:06 pm

(Dec 17, 2015 04:42 PM)Knowledgeable Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) ok sounds good thank you for the input ?Your very welcome, i'm happy to help out answer your question.?

Knowledgeable - December 17, 2015, 8:39 pm

i will pm you about something else, hoping you can help me with that, it'd be appreciated

BLURRYF?CE - December 19, 2015, 3:50 pm

Never ever defrag an SSD, it won't give you any performance boost whatsoever and will directly affect life expectancy of the SSD. However, if your drive is an HDD, you might as well uninstall Defragger because Windows defrags your HDD once a week anyhow, which should keep you around that magical 5% range.

Knowledgeable - December 19, 2015, 5:33 pm

(Dec 19, 2015 04:50 PM)vurezo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Never ever defrag an SSD, it won't give you any performance boost whatsoever and will directly affect life expectancy of the SSD. However, if your drive is an HDD, you might as well uninstall Defragger because Windows defrags your HDD once a week anyhow, which should keep you around that magical 5% range.

what about a flash drive or external seagate drive?

don't try to defrag those either right?

BLURRYF?CE - December 19, 2015, 6:08 pm

(Dec 19, 2015 06:33 PM)Knowledgeable Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) what about a flash drive or external seagate drive?

don't try to defrag those either right?Flash drives, no, external HDD's, yes, external SSD's, no.

Knowledgeable - December 19, 2015, 6:14 pm

So i have a 3TB external seagate with a few system backups on it... you're saying it's safe to defrag that? Should I?

Freebooter - December 19, 2015, 8:37 pm

(Dec 19, 2015 07:14 PM)Knowledgeable Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So i have a 3TB external seagate with a few system backups on it... you're saying it's safe to defrag that? Should I?Giving us the brand name of storage drive does not help us know if the drive SSD or HDD as seagate manufacture both them.

If the 3TB external seagate Solid State Drive (SSD) then no don't defragment the storage drive.

You should use third party defragmenters software they arrange data much better then Windows Defragmenter also some of them can do boot time defragmentation and free space defragmentation.

Check out free "Smart Defrag" software.

"Smart Defrag"

<http://www.iobit.com/en/iobitsmartdefrag.php>

BLURRYF?CE - December 19, 2015, 8:45 pm

(Dec 19, 2015 09:37 PM)Freebooter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Giving us the brand name of storage drive does not help us know if the drive SSD or HDD as seagate manufacture both them.

If the 3TB external seagate Solid State Drive (SSD) then no don't defragment the storage drive.

You should use third party defragmenters software they arrange data much better then Windows Defragmenter also some of them can do boot time defragmentation and free space defragmentation.

Check out free "Smart Defrag" software.

"Smart Defrag"

<http://www.iobit.com/en/iobitsmartdefrag.php>The size should give you some idea, considering it's a consumer device.

P.S. It's a HDD.

Knowledgeable - December 19, 2015, 8:56 pm

I have O&O defrag now as it's top rated and so far I'm liking it much more than Defraggler but Defraggler worked very well.

O&O also has a boot time defrag and free space cleaner.

Also, I'm pretty sure the big external is not an SSD. It's an external requiring a power adapter and everything.

Freebooter - December 20, 2015, 5:26 am

(Dec 19, 2015 09:56 PM)Knowledgeable Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have O&O defrag now as it's top rated and so far I'm liking it much more than Defraggler but Defraggler worked very well.

O&O also has a boot time defrag and free space cleaner.

Also, I'm pretty sure the big external is not an SSD. It's an external requiring a power adapter and everything.Well why don't you check manufacturer website to find out if external drive is SSD or not probably not i'm sure its HDD but make sure its. Power adapter and other everything whatever they are does not indicate which kind of external storage you are using what make you thing external SSD runs without power adapter.

Knowledgeable - December 20, 2015, 8:23 pm

I'm pretty confident it's an HDD to be honest but yeah I can always check.

But why is it a good idea to defrag an external HDD? Haven't quite heard of that being before but doesn't mean it shouldn't be done i guess.

Freebooter - December 21, 2015, 7:04 am

(Dec 20, 2015 09:23 PM)Knowledgeable Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm pretty confident it's an HDD to be honest but yeah I can always check.

But why is it a good idea to defrag an external HDD? Haven't quite heard of that being before but doesn't mean it shouldn't be done i guess. How have you not understand all storage drives store data and they get fragmented so why do you think external HDD somehow store data different than internal HDD. You defragment all HDD.

Knowledgeable - December 21, 2015, 1:33 pm

I never took a minute to actually think about the fact that the external seagate drive would actually be an HDD with a spinning drive. It makes sense now that it's acknowledged but it just didn't occur me in that way. I guess I just saw it as an external storage similar to a flash drive but it would make sense it's much more than a flash drive.