

LESSON 48

TWEAK & TUNE HARD DRIVE CACHE

I've talked about cache several times on the show and last week in Lesson 47 I showed you how to adjust the CACHE settings in your browser program to get more performance.

This week we'll tweak cache for your hard drive. Windows uses Vcache as a disk-caching virtual device driver. Vcache can take a large chunk of memory and it can resize itself often so that your hard drive light blinks even when the system is at idle. Let's tweak Vcache to give it better performance. Click on Start and open Run. Type SYSEDIT and press the Enter key. Close the AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS and the WINDOWS.INI windows by clicking on the X in the top right-hand corner of the window. You are now at the SYSTEM.INI window. Scroll down until you locate [Vcache]. Position your cursor just below [Vcache] and press the Enter key to create a new blank line.

On that line type: MinFileCache=8192 and press Enter.
On the next line type: MaxFileCache=8192 and press Enter.
On the next line type: ChunkSize=512. Press Enter again.

Now click on the X in the upper-right corner of the window. Answer Yes to save the changes you made. The numbers I gave you work for systems with 32 Megs of RAM. For 8 Megs of RAM use 2048 for MinFileCache and MaxFileCache. For 16 Megs of RAM use 4096 and for 64 Megs of RAM use 16384. The ChunkSize setting remains set at 512.

Restart your computer and see the difference in your computer's performance. Between Vcache and tweaking your browser programs, your computer's overall performance both on and off the Internet will be improved.

See, that wasn't so hard, was it?

