

LESSON 57

USE SYSTEM FILE CHECKER TO REPLACE BAD DLL FILES

We constantly hear about drivers. In Windows 95/98 drivers are software programs that let our computer communicate with such devices as our printers, video cards, modems, etc. These driver files are often contained on original Windows 95/98 CD-ROM disks in folders called cabinets. DLL or Dynamic Link Library files are also stored in these CAB files. DLL files help Windows keep track of various application programs and data files that work together. Now when you hear or read about CAB files you know that CAB is short for cabinet files.

Original Windows 95/98 CD-ROM disks store CAB files in the \WIN95 or \WIN98 directory. If Windows came preloaded on your computer and you don't have an original CD-ROM disk, the driver and system CAB files are stored on your hard drive in a folder called WIN\95 or WIN98. From time to time driver or DLL files can become corrupted and cause problems with Windows. The System File Checker utility helps you to copy an original driver or DLL file from the CAB file to the correct location on the hard disk. System File Checker can also back up your System files and then check all of them for problems. If a problem is found you need only tell System File Checker to replace the bad file with a good copy of that same file.

To use System File Checker click on Start and then on Programs. Now select accessories and then System Tools. Open System Information and click on Tools. Now click on System File Checker. System File Checker can scan your hard disk for altered system files. By clicking on Settings you can configure System File Checker to notify you of deleted or changed files.

If you need to restore a good copy of a damaged system file you can select "Extract one file from the installation disk". Type in the name of the file you wish to restore and then click on Start. If you know the name of the driver or system file you are looking, for but you don't know where to tell System File Checker to look, click on Browse and follow down the folders to find the correct original.

This utility can be set to always back up system files before restoring, or to at least prompt you before it restores a file.

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

