

LESSON 96

CHECKING ON MAINTENANCE - OPTIMIZATION - THE REAL DEAL

System Tools includes ScanDisk and Disk Defragmenter. These tools are designed to keep your hard drive lean and mean. In a previous lesson I showed you how to automate the process of running ScanDisk and Disk Defragmenter on a schedule. I run those programs about once every two weeks, at a time that is convenient for me. I don't use the scheduler.

What should you do if you can't remember the last time you ran these utility programs? The answer is simple. Double-click on My Computer and right-click on the drive you wish to work on. Click on Properties and then on Tools. Windows will tell you how long ago you ran ScanDisk, Disk Defragmenter and Windows Backup. It's that easy.

Windows 98 has a new feature in Disk Defragmenter that can place your most frequently used programs on the fastest part of your hard disk. The problem here is, only certain programs can be optimized. Most of them are Microsoft programs. Your computer keeps a list of the programs that are optimized each time you run Disk Defragmenter. Here's how to find the list.

Click on Start and then on Find. Select Files and Folders. In the Named box type "optlog.txt" (without the quotes) and in the Look In box type "C:\windows\applog" (also without the quotes). Click OK. A Notepad file will open and display the files that are eligible for optimization. Scroll down the list and you'll find a list of programs that are ineligible for optimization.

Scroll all the way down and you'll see a list of parameters used to determine which programs have optimized. The list also displays the abbreviation codes used to show why various programs were placed on the ineligible for optimization list.

