Cleaning/Speeding up a Computer

6 Steps to a faster computer [Link](#)

These are the step a computer pro uses when his clients complain of a slow computer. They follow a specific logical order.

Step #0:

Before deleting/changing your system create a backup and a system restore point. We will check system restore is enabled.

Step #1: Uninstall Unwanted/Disreputable Software

We don't need a portable tool, so will download and use Revo uninstaller. Revo automatically creates a restore point before uninstalling a program.

Revo lists the programs it finds, if you do not know what they are Google their names.

Uninstalling these programs will often result in a noticeable improvement.

Step #2: Scan the System for Malware/Adware [Link](#)

Malware/adware constitutes one of the most common culprits for a slow/sluggish system. I use Malwarebytes, Emisoft is editor's choice on the link above which gives a good explanation of what these products do.

Step #3: Disable Auto-Starting Programs

Programs which are set to auto-start with Windows are, unfortunately, all too common and, in most cases unnecessary. Cumulatively they can really slow your computer down.

On Win10 they are managed via the startup tab in task manager. It's a very simple process – just highlight (click on) the item in question and then click the **Disable** button. (this has been simplified in version 1803 – Start > Setting > Apps > Startup, then turn off the apps you don't want to startup).

On other versions of windows use the msconfig command. Press the Windows + R keys to open up a Run command box, type **msconfig** into the dialogue box, then either click **OK** or press Enter.

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Step #4: Disable Non-Microsoft Services

Open msconfig as above.

In the Configuration Utility, open the **Services** tab and enable the option to "*Hide all Microsoft services*". The list will then be re-populated with non-Microsoft (third party) services only. Remove the tick from any unnecessary services, then click **Apply**, **OK**. Note this requires a restart to make effective.

Step #5: Clean the System

Download and run CCleaner from majorgeeks.com.

Also run the inbuilt windows tool Disk Cleanup (right click the C:drive in File Explorer and select properties) to remove old update software. Be patient it takes several minutes.

Step #6: Check and Adjust Privacy Settings

In win10 open settings and click on background apps.

Further Optional Steps

Check what system resources the installed antivirus program is consuming via Task Manager. Antivirus programs can be notoriously heavy on resources, especially some of the commercial programs at startup.

Defragment the Hard Drive (traditional hard drives only – damaging to Solid State Drive (SSD) drives): This is not something I generally do. However, if your particular steps have involved a lot of uninstalling, cleaning, and deleting it may help.

Summing Up

On their own, the effect of many of these steps may be barely noticeable, however, the cumulative effect should result in a noticeable improvement in both speed and responsiveness.

On Cora's old laptop I replaced the hard drive and migrated the entire system over to a Solid State Drive. The improvement with this machine's overall speed and responsiveness is quite remarkable. Small 120 GB SSD are now quite inexpensive.