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Using Defraggler to Optimize Your Windows System

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Today we will have a look at an interesting alternative to the Windows hard disk defragment utility. That alternative is Piriform's Defraggler, which provides a number of useful features not present in the Windows utility. As with many free software packages, there are also professional versions which you have to pay for, and which pays the bills so that we can enjoy a free version. You can download Defraggler at: http://www.piriform.com/defraggler

We will have a brief look at the install process, and then move on to highlight some of the useful features that Defraggler offers. After downloading the binary, go ahead and run the install. We are going to run this on Windows XP, but Defraggler is fully supported on Windows 7, and other modern versions of Windows. Below we see one of the install pop-ups, with important installation options to be subsequently explained.

🐻 Defraggler v2.09 Setup	
Install Options Select any additional options	۵
 Add Desktop Shortcut Add Start Menu Shortcuts Add Defraggler menus to Windows Explorer Replace Windows Disk Defragmenter Automatically check for updates to Defraggler 	
Advanced < Back Install	Cancel

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The selections we have made below involve both personal taste as well substantive feature configuration. To start with, we have unchecked Add Desktop Shortcut. Here personal taste dictates that the desktop not be cluttered with pointless shortcut icons. The Add Start Menu Shortcuts is important because this is where I would rather find an application when launching it; also a matter of taste. Others may have different preferences.

The next choice, Add Defraggler menus to Windows Explorer, is more substantive. This will allow us to run Defraggler directly from Windows Explorer. We will be able to defragment individual folders and even files in this way. This feature is something that is not present in the Windows defragmentation utility. Having this level of granularity can be quite useful when you just want to target the analysis and/or defragmentation of a specific folder, for instance.

On the other hand, I'm not ready to fully replace the Windows Disk Defragmenter. If you are ready, by all means check the box. Lastly, I'm not interested in being pestered with update notices, so I uncheck that box. If I want the latest version, I'll go and look for it myself, again a matter of taste.

🐻 Defraggler v2.09 Setup	
Install Options Select any additional options	۵
 Add Desktop Shortcut Add Start Menu Shortcuts Add Defraggler menus to Windows Explorer Replace Windows Disk Defragmenter Automatically check for updates to Defraggler 	
www.piriform.com	Cancel



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After going through the remaining setup screens (not shown), you will eventually need to reboot. Do so, now or later. Next we will have a look at how to invoke and use Defraggler.





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After the Defraggler install has completed, we first look at its capabilities by bringing up Windows Explorer. We right-click on a folder, and we see that now Defraggler is one of the options. In our example below, we select the analyze option – Check Fragmentation. We can see the results in the next screenshot.

🖄 Downloads										
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help										
🔇 Back 🔹 🌍 🖌 🏂 Search 🔊 Folders 🛄 -										
Address 🛅 C:\Documents and Settings\rross\My Documents\Downloads 🔹 🄁 Go										
Folders X Name 🔺	Size	Туре С 🔨								
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We see the result of the analysis in the pop-up below. Both the number of fragmented files, and the number of fragments are displayed. In the next screenshot, (after closing the current pop-up) we will run Defraggler to defragment the same folder.





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Here we again select the same folder, but this time we specify Defragment, instead of simply analyzing how fragmented the files are contained in that folder. The next screenshot shows the result.

😂 Downloads 📃 🗖 🔀										
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help		A								
Search 💫 Search 🎼 Folders										
Address 🛅 C:\Documents and Settings\rross\My Documents\Downloads 🔹 🄁 Go										
Folders × Name ▲	Size	Туре С 🔨								
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Here we see that defragmentation of the Downloads folder has been completed. In the next screenshot, we launch the Defraggler application directly, and begin to have a look at how to use it.

🔄 Downloads									
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help									
🔇 Back 🔹 🌍 🖌 🏂 Search 🔊 Folders									
Address 🛅 C:\Documents and Settings\rross\My Documents\Downloads									
Folders X Name	A	Size Type	C 🔼						
My Documents Coqueries Downloads T.1.2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.: T.1.2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.:<	offering.disk_win32 Standard-Full-I20091211-0451 w150 2.2.4-RATL-RCC-WIN-FP04.zip 580,71 2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RRP-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 273,32 20.exe 1,00 .2.4-RATL-RCQ-WIN-FP04.zip 2,00 .2.4-RA	File Folder File Folder File Folder 21 KB zip Archive 29 KB zip Archive 29 KB zip Archive 55 KB Application 14 KB zip Archive 56 KB Microsoft C 13 KB Adobe Acro	4) 1) 1(1(1(1) 1(1) 1(1) 5) 0 0 0 11 12 13 14 15 14 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15						
My Videos	Open Defraggler C	lose	9) 12 12						
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Type: Windows Installer Package Author: Citrix Systems, Inc. Title: Citrix St	reaming Client 1.1.3600 for Windows De 8.07 MB	🚽 🛃 My Com	puter 🦽						



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After launching Defraggler, we see that it presents preliminary statistics about the state of hard disk drives associated with the computer. Note first that the fragmentation statistics are unknown because we have yet to analyze the disk drive. Another thing to watch is the used vs. free space stats. Note that they may continually adjust themselves in real time as Defraggler monitors these values.

In the next screenshot, we will analyze the disk drive to see what level of fragmentation the disk drive is currently at.

💞 Piriform Defraggler							
Action Settings Help							
Drive	File System	Capacity	Used	Free Space	Fragmentation	Status	
≫Local Disk (C:)	NTFS	74.5 GB	53.5 GB (72%)	21.0 GB (28%)	Unknown	Ready	
🗇 Drive C: 🛅 File list ,	🔎 Search 📕	Drive map 🔗 He	ealth				
Status			Propertie	5			
Disk Hea	alth: GOOD						
						1	
				Used space:	57,409,	.739,776 bytes	53.5 GB
				Free space:	22,581,	.075,968 bytes	21.0 GB
				Capacity:	79,990,	815,744 bytes	74.5 GB
Analyze	Defrag	Pause	•	Stop			
Check for updates							Online Help



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To begin the defragmentation process, we pull down the Action menu, and select Analyze Drive. The next screenshot displays the analysis in process.

💞 Piriform Defraggle	r						
Action Settings Help							
Analyze Drive	File System	Capacity	Used	Free Space	Fragmentation	Status	
Defrag Drive Quick Defrag Drive Defrag Folder	NTFS	74.5 GB	53.8 GB (72%)	20.7 GB (28%)	Unknown	Ready	
Defrag File							
Exit							
🧼 Drive C: 🛅 File list	🧈 Search 🛃 Driv	e map 🔗 He	ealth			ا ک د د ک ک	
Status			Properties				
Read Disk	ly Health: GOOD				F		
				Used space: Free space:	57,723, 22,267	,116,544 bytes .699,200 bytes	53.8 GB 20.7 GB
				Capacity:	79,990	,815,744 bytes	74.5 GB
Analyze	Defrag 🗸 🗸	Pause	•	Stop			
Analyze selected drive							.:



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Piriform Defraggle Action Settings Help	r						
Drive	File System	Capacity	Used	Free Space	Fragmentation	Status	
Socal Disk (C:)	NTFS	74.5 GB	53.8 GB (72%)	20.7 GB (28%)	Unknown	Analyzing (68%))
🧼 Drive C: 🛅 File lis	t 🔎 Search 🛃 I)rive map 🖌 🖌	fealth				
Status	lyzing (68%)		Propertie		F		
				Used space:	57,723,	116,544 bytes	53.8 GB
				Free space:	22,267,	699,200 bytes	20.7 GB
Analyze	Defrag	≠ Pau	5e	Capacity:	79,990,	815,744 bytes	74.5 GB

Defraggler analyzes the disk drive, and presents the results in the next screenshot.



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The results are in. We see that there are 3,575 fragmented files, with 56,418 total fragments. The broader statistic for drive fragmentation is 12%, not too bad, but something that can be improved. So let's see how much we can improve the statistics that we have been presented with. The next screenshot depicts launching the defragmentation process.





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Here we launch the full defragmentation process for the disk drive. Note that if there are files in the Recycle Bin, there will be a query to ask if they should be deleted before defragmentation begins. The next screenshot shows defragmentation in process.

💞 Piriform Defraggler						
Action Settings Help						
Drive	File System	Capacity	Used	Free Space	Fragmentation Status	
Second Disk (C:)	NTES	74.5 GB	53.8 GB (72%)	20.7 GB (28%)	12% Analysis	; Complete
🗇 Drive C: 🛅 File list	🔎 Search 📕 Dri	ve map 🔗 H	lealth			
Status			Propertie	s		
Analys	sis Complete					
Analysis results: 3 575 Fragm	ented Files (11.6 GB)					7
56,418 Total F	Fragments					
12% Fragm	entation					
Viev	v files Benchmarl	k drive		Used space:	57,723,788,288	bytes 53.8 GB
				Free space:	22,267,027,436	Dytes 20.7 GB
				Capacity:	79,990,815,744	bytes /4.5 GB
Analyze	Defrag	Paus		Stop		
Hildyzo	Defrag	1003		Jop		
Check for updates	Quick Defrag					Online Help
Remove unneces	sary files				×	
Empty Recycle F	Bin before defrac	iaina?				
This will give you	u an extra 725 K	B of free sp	ace.			
Do not show	this option agair	r				
					_	
	Ye	es	No	Cancel		

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> The defragmentation process is shown here as underway. Note the differences between the number of fragmented files and also the total file fragments in the highlighted sections below. The subsequent screenshot on the next page shows the end result of the defragmentation.





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Here the defragmentation has been completed. We can note that the 3,574 fragmented files have been reduced to 10. Also, 56,415 total fragments is now 211, which is a very large improvement. Also, we started with a disk drive that was 12% fragmented, and now we are down to 4%.

💞 Piriform Defraggl	er						
Action Settings Help							
Drive	File System	Capacity	Used	Free Space	Fragmentation	Status	
Socal Disk (C:)	NTFS	74.5 GB	53.7 GB (72%)	20.8 GB (28%)	4%	Defrag Complete	
Se Drive C: 🛅 File li	st 🔎 Search 🛃 [rive map 🔗 H	lealth				
Status Del	frag Complete		Propertie				
Analysis results: 3,574 Fra 56,415 Tot 4% Fra	igmented Files (11.6 GB) al Fragments igmentation]			F		
	/iew files Benchm	ark drive		Used space:	57,612,	483,584 bytes	53.7 GB
Current state: 10 Fra 211 Tot 4% Fra	igmented Files (2.0 GB) al Fragments igmentation			rree space: Capacity:	22,378, 79,990,	332,160 bytes 815,744 bytes	74.5 GB
Analyze	Defrag	Pau	se	Stop			
Check for updates							Online Help

Defraggler is a useful supplement (or even replacement) to the Windows Defragment utility. As we have seen, it is capable of much finer granularity than Windows Defragment. Another feature, which we did not explore, is Defraggler's ability to consolidate all the free space on a drive into a single unit. Download Defraggler, try it out, and explore some of the additional options. You may find it a very useful tool!