

Notes from talk on spring-cleaning your computer using ccleaner software

Why do this?

-To stop your computer 'silting up' with unwanted info and slowing down: does it take so long to start up that you can make a cup of tea, or keeps you waiting after every click?

-It's recommended by 'Which' computer supplement April 2014, as effective and worthwhile, free access, via www.piriform.com/ccleaner

- it cleans temporary files, history, cookies, download history, form history (you can exclude anything you feel you need to keep, though the recommended items are well advised.)

It will work for PCs and laptops using current versions of Windows; it isn't applicable to ipads or other Apple products, nor tablets using Android system, as far as I'm aware.

How to do it.

Close any open programs on your desktop

Open website with www.piriform.com/ccleaner and click on Download option (don't need 'buy now', it's free!) choose version, ccleaner free, it should download automatically. Open the file, message 'welcome to ccleaner', choose English language, next.

A box gives install options, ticked, OK this. It will then install within a few seconds, 'run ccleaner v4.12' -updated versions may become available.

A new box, (maybe behind the previous box) with tabs for 'Windows' and 'applications' at the top, and categories of use down the left hand side, shows the ticked boxes of operations it can clean- it's advised by 'Which' to go ahead as it is.

The Windows tab clean includes Internet Explorer (temp files, history, cookies, recently typed websites, index files, last download locations) also Windows Explorer (recent documents are OK if you've saved them, etc) System (empties recycle bin, temp files, clipboard, memory dumps, file fragments, log files)

-so, click 'Analyze' button at bottom left, and it will run this for a minute or two, according to how much data there is to be dealt with- it will show you what it has to be cleaned, generally OK to agree with and let it proceed

-next, click on 'Run cleaner' button at bottom right, it gives a message 'this process will permanently delete files from your system'- click on OK to proceed; it will then take a minute or two to complete the task.

You can then choose the other tab 'applications' at the top and run the 'Analyse' and 'Run' processes for this

Similarly you can run the analyse and run processes for the sections on the left side of your screen, labelled 'Registry' and 'Tools'; Registry scans and fixes selected issues, using tick-boxes again, then Tools allows you to select and remove any programs you no longer use- but beware of removing

anything by Microsoft, Windows, or Java, since they're normally essential for your computer's operation!

That's it done! You should do this periodically, according to how much you use your computer, at least annually; look out to see if it's starting up and responding faster after you've run it.

Other computer function checks and improvements may also be useful- from our 'computer aims' responses

Speedtest for your broadband connection, using eg www.speedtest.btwholesale.com to check if you're getting your expected speed for downloads etc, which is especially noticeable if you're getting stuck on video downloads on iplayer etc.

Other topics:

- how to back up data on hard drive, so it isn't lost if the hard drive fails

- how to block pop-ups and adverts- adblock etc

- ensuring security programs are in place and functioning- antivirus (Norton, Malwarebytes etc), Microsoft security with automatic updates and firewall.

Any of these issues can be talked through at one of our computer help groups.

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