



How to
Spring Clean
your PC this season



Is it time to spring clean your computer?

At the time of writing this Australia was heading into Winter, so to humour us all, let us just pretend that it is Spring. *It is Spring somewhere in the world!*

Spring means its cleaning season, and it's not just your house that needs a freshen up your computer does too (physically and the hard drive). Over time your computer slows down thanks to unused applications, junk files and caching; a spring clean will help speed up your computer.

Here's eight tips to clean and speed up your computer:

- **Clean your computer**

First things first you need to physically clean your computer or laptop, all you need is can of compressed air and a lint-free cloth. Laptops won't need too much cleaning just use the lint-free cloth to clean the screen (wiping in circular motions) and then the track pan keyboard. For desktop computers, you can use the compressed air to blow away the dust and dirt from the keyboard using the lint cloth to wipe away the dust. Once the outside is clean you can take off the panel from the processor and carefully, following the instructions on the can, blowing (from the inside to outside) the dust and fluff from the inside of the computer. To clean the fan blades hold them still.

- **Clean up mailbox**

In our personal and private lives, we're inundated with emails and using an email client on your laptop means you've got a lot of old emails sitting on your hard drive taking up space. So go further than just deleting your spam, empty your trash and delete unneeded emails e.g. promotions, updates Etc.

- **Removing temporary files and cleaning up your web browser**

The top two internet browsers are Chrome & Safari, with a market share of 60% and 15% respectively. With the average adult spending 5.9 hours per day with digital media (including smart phones, desktops and laptops), that's a lot of time for viruses and ransom-ware, or hackers to try access your system through browser loopholes or outdated plugins.

- **Empty Recycle Bin/Trash**

Remember when you do empty the trash, this is not a secure data erasure, you only destroy the link to those files. If you want to erase the data permanently, you'll need a professional data erasure software, from companies like [Blancco](#) or [Ontrack](#), which overwrite the data using a special algorithm; only then can be sure your personal data has been deleted.

- **Install any system updates**

It's pain to install system updates which can take up to 10+ minutes to install (depending on how long you left it) especially if you have pressing work to do, but system updates help protect your computer from harmful viruses and malware. So take the time now to make you're fully up to date.

- **Check your security preferences**

It's good to check your security preferences, you hold a lot of personal identity information on your computer, name, address, phone, banking details and passwords. It's good practice to change key passwords to make sure you stay protected.

- **Back up your data**

Now that you've removed all those unused applications and files, now's the time to back-up all the important files you have left, you'll be left with nothing if your computer crashes. Memory is cheaper than ever, you can get [1 Terabyte of storage from \\$50](#). Then use it to back it up your files. Time Machine on Apple and Microsoft

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Good luck with your Spring Clean! If you get stuck let us know how we can help you out.