

# How to Maintain Your Computer

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“The test of the machine\* is the satisfaction it gives you. There isn’t any other test. If the machine\* produces tranquility it’s right. If it disturbs you it’s wrong until either the machine\* or your mind is changed.”

— Robert M. Pirsig, Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry Into Values

\* Computer

## Good Practices

### Hardware - stuff you can hit with a hammer

- Check to make sure you have 15–20% free space
  - Clean unneeded files from C-drive periodically (Win)
  - Clean unneeded files from your account (Mac)
- Blow out dust
- Keep computer cool
- Document your computer configuration -
  - Belarc Advisor (Win), Machine Profile (Mac)
- Make backups and test them periodically
  - EaseUS ToDo Backup (Win), CarbonCopyCloner & Time Machine (Mac)

### Software - stuff you can only swear at

- Repair the registry
  - Glary Utilities (Win), unnecessary on Mac
- Eliminate “cruft”
  - Glary Utilities (Win), CleanMyMac X (Mac) – avoiders MacKeeper!
- Run Malwarebytes often
- Keep all software updated, particularly anti-virus definitions
- Reboot periodically
- Keep your downloads folder clean
- Organize your files using folders & subfolders

## Nature - stuff you can't control

- Use a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply)
  - Whole house
  - Stand-alone
  - Both!
- Create off-site backups
  - Backblaze, Carbonite, etc.
  - External drive at a friend's house

## Wetware (PICNIC, PEBKAC) - stuff you can control

- Attend computer club meetings – ask questions – offer answers
- Help each other
- Think before you act
- Learn about your computer
- Learn about your software
- Document problems carefully
- When problems strike, don't run in circles, scream, and shout!
- Relax – chill out!

## Links

- Source: <https://machelp.tech/useful-software-for-pc-and-mac/>
- Clean out your C-Drive (win) <https://ztechzone.net/dl/how-to-clean-windows-10-drive.pdf>
- Belarc Advisor (Win) <https://www.belarc.com/>
- Machine Profile (Mac) <https://www.micromat.com/products/machineprofile>
- EaseUS ToDo Backup (Win) <https://www.easeus.com/backup-software/tb-free.html>
- CarbonCopyCloner (Mac) <https://bombich.com/>
- Glary Utilities (Win) <https://www.glarysoft.com/>
- CleanMyMac X (Mac) <https://cleanmymac.com>
- Backblaze <https://www.backblaze.com>
- Carbonite <https://www.carbonite.com>