

Get Started Guide - Performance Toolkit

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Performance Toolkit

Getting Started with Performance Toolkit

Installing

What are the minimum system requirements for installing Performance Toolkit?

You will need the following minimum system requirements for installing Performance Toolkit

- Windows XP SP2 (32bit), Windows Vista SP1 (32/64 bit), Windows 7 (32/64 bit)
- 150 MB of free hard disk space
- 56 Kbps modem or faster and Internet service provider account required for Internet access
- CD-ROM or DVD drive (if not installing via electronic software download).
Note: Internet access is required to register the product and receive product updates

Where do I download the latest version of Performance Toolkit?

Thank you for choosing Performance Toolkit. You can download the latest version here: <http://www.pctools.com/performance-toolkit/download/>. More download instructions are available on this page.

How do I install and activate Performance Toolkit?

Once you have downloaded the setup file from our website, double-click it to launch setup. The Installation wizard will guide you through the setup process. During setup, you will be asked for your name, activation code and email address. Enter your licence details exactly as in the email sent to you when you purchased Performance Toolkit. Your name and address details are necessary for product updates.

Note: To activate Performance Toolkit, you will need an Internet Connection. If you are not connected to the Internet during installation, Performance Toolkit installs but will present the activation screen when you first launch the application.

How do I install and activate Performance Toolkit (Retail)?

If you purchased a retail copy of Performance Toolkit, insert the CD into the CD-ROM drive. The installation window opens automatically if AutoRun is enabled on your system. If you have disabled Autorun on your computer, choose **Run** from the **Start** Menu to open the Run dialog box. Type **D:\ptretail.exe** and click **OK**. Note: If your CD drive is not “D”, you will need to substitute it with the correct letter.

During setup, you will be asked for your name, activation code and email address. Enter your licence details exactly as printed in the back sleeve of your CD. Your name and address details

are necessary for product updates.

Note: To activate Performance Toolkit, you will need an Internet Connection. If you are not connected to the Internet during installation, Performance Toolkit installs but will present the activation screen when you first launch the application.

Getting Started

I've installed and registered Performance Toolkit. What do I do next?

1. Open the application by going to **All Programs > Performance Toolkit**. You can also simply double click the icon on desktop or system tray (if you configured these actions during setup).
2. Ensure that your version of Performance Toolkit is up to date. If not, click Smart Update to download the latest product updates.
3. Become familiar with the Main Status and Summary Screen. The Main Status and Summary screen is displayed whenever you first open Performance Toolkit. It provides immediate access to the main functions of Performance Toolkit.



How do I maintain good system health using Performance Toolkit?

Perform the following tasks to maintain good system health:

1. Click **Clean Your Registry**. This will begin a scan of your registry for problems. If Performance Toolkit find any problems, it will list them at the end of the scan. Select and click **Repair** to fix all problems.
2. Click **Defragment your Registry**. Registry compacting removes gaps, wasted space and corrupt keys from the registry, and performs physical defragmentation of the Windows registry files. This screen guides you through the compaction of your Registry.
3. Click **Tuneup Your Services**. The Services Optimizer feature provides different layouts to improve the performance and setup of your Windows services. Simply select the profile which best suits your needs to tune up your services.
4. Click **Clean Your Disks**. This displays the privacy cleaning sections. Clean your Browser Settings, Windows Settings, Plugins and Customs. Also use this screen to Free Space on your system.
5. Recommended: Schedule a weekly scan.

Periodic scans will help keep your system healthy. Click **Options**> **Scheduler** >**Click here for more information** to launch the Scheduler Wizard. Setup a periodic weekly scan at a time of your convenience.

Why is Registry cleaning important?

The Windows registry is a database used to store important settings and configuration information for Windows operating systems, and Windows cannot operate without it. The registry contains information and settings for all the hardware, software, users, and preferences of your computer and operating system. Whenever a user makes changes to the Control Panel settings, file associations, system policies or installed software, the changes are reflected and stored in the registry. Running an application on your computer can make several changes to your registry.

Over time, invalid entries or orphaned references can accumulate in the Windows registry. These problems may accumulate for several reasons:

- Uninstalling or incorrectly removing software, resulting in invalid file or folder references as well as orphaned startup programs
- Having missing or corrupt hardware or software drivers installed
- Deleting files referenced by shortcuts.
- An accumulation of invalid entries can slow down your system, cause it to generate error messages, prevent programs from functioning properly or result in your system becoming unstable and crashing.

How do I permanently shred files?

Performance Toolkit's Shredding feature renders files unrecoverable by standard file recovery methods. Click Shred Your Files. Click Add to add a file, folder or Recycle Bin. Click Shred.

How do I scan for lost or deleted files?

There are two types of scans in Performance Toolkit that let you search for files.

- A Quick scan performs an immediate scan for recoverable files on all partitions on your system.
- A Deep Scan lets you select the File type and apply filters to refine your scan results.

The scan results screen is divided into three sections. All files found are categorized by the directory within which they were found under View By Type. All recoverable files are listed along with their details under File Name. Click on the column heading to sort the files by that parameter. The preview screen lets you view the file where possible.

How do I recover files?

At the end of a scan using the File Recover utility, all recoverable files found are listed in the scan results screen.

- To recover a file, select it from the list and click Recover.
- Files are recovered to the location specified in the Settings screen.
- When recovering a file, if a file is being recovered to the same drive that was scanned, you can configure File Recover to notify you of this and allow you to choose an alternate location in which to save the file.
- In the event that a corrupt Word or Zip file is found during recovery, File Recover can be configured to prompt you to repair it.
- Once the file is recovered, by default, File Recover will automatically open the folder where the file was saved.

How do I repair disks?

Click **Repair your Disks** to launch the Repair tool. Performance Toolkit's repair operations allow you to monitor the health of your computer's physical disk and file systems. Corruption of the physical disk and the file system can cause data loss and system breakdowns.

- Check Disk: Checks the file system of the selected volume for errors and provides a report.
- Repair Disk: Checks the selected volume for errors and fixes them.
- Surface scan: Scans the surface of the volume and marks bad sectors.
- Check Partition Structure: Checks the integrity of your drive's partition table
- Repair Boot Record: Repairs/ Copies the Master Boot Record.

How do I defragment disks?

Click Defragment Your Disks from the Maintain screen. Performance Toolkit's easy to use defragmentation operations allow you to analyse the disk, defragment and consolidate free space.

1. Select **Optimize Your Disks**.

2. Select the volume on which the action is to be performed.

3. Select an Action:

- **Analyze:** Analyzes the disk for fragmented files and displays it graphically.
- **Optimize:** Analyzes and performs a quick defragmentation.

Click **Start** to begin the action.

How do I clean traces of my Internet behavior?

Click **Clean Your Privacy** to begin cleaning your system of your online tracks. From here, you can clean your Browser Settings, Windows Settings, Plugins and Customs. You can also use this screen to Free Space on your system.

What does the Health Report tell me?

In short, the Health Report provides a snapshot of the number of errors that are found under each of these sections: Registry, Privacy and Disk. The combined health of these sections contributes to the overall health of your system. To maintain a healthy system, all three sections need to be cleaned periodically and kept free of errors.