

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. In this month's article I'm going to look at another useful utility for Windows.

While working on a client's notebook, I was having problems getting the hard drive to defragment with the Windows Defragmenter. During a break I was talking with a colleague and he mentioned trying a free defragmenter called JkDefrag which is available at <http://www.kessels.com/JkDefrag/>. This is indeed a freeware defragmenter that uses the same API calls as the Windows Defragmenter but it moves files in small chunks called sectors instead of moving whole files at a time. This process allows for better defragmentation on with less free space, which is the problem I had with my client's notebook. Windows like to operate with plenty of free space on the hard drive. It starts to slow down when the free space drops below 40%, and it has a real hard time with its defragmentation process when the free space drops below 25%. So these are 2 very important numbers to be mindful of on your computers.

As for the setup and operation of JkDefrag, it's very simple. Once you have downloaded the small file from the web site, you simple unzip it to any directory on your hard drive. To run the program, just double-click on it and a dialog box pops up providing you with progress information. When the defrag is finished, just close the dialog box. Now I should give a word of caution here, there are known problems with the program and these are detailed on the web site. Please read them and either follow the workarounds if the problems apply to your computer or don't use the program.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.