

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD

System Mechanic

The people who trouble shoot computers for a living pretty much know what to do when a computer starts to seem less friendly; they don't need System Mechanic. If you don't have that kind of expertise or a friend who does, you might want to give System Mechanic a spin. It can perform many of the household cleaning operations necessary to keep your computer running fast and uncluttered.



You don't need to be an expert

For easy "fix it and forget it" solutions, System Mechanic offers:

- **One-click repairs** One button can instantly repair all problems
- **All-in-one solutions** Run the essential fixes at once with one-click PowerTools™
- **Automated maintenance** Let patented ActiveCare® technology do all the work and fix issues automatically

System Mechanic is designed to locate system problems and fix them before the problems reach a critical mass which will turn your computer into a problem that needs professional help. This program will make certain that your hard drive doesn't get too fragmented, system clutter is removed, registry errors are repaired, and the Central Processing Unit (CPU) isn't tied up performing unnecessary operations.

After you load the program onto your computer and go through the initial registration process you will find that it wants to run in the background and keep an "eye" on your system without you needing to get too involved. It will automatically download tune-up updates that it will use to keep your system humming. Not only will it download new tune-up definitions it will also upload program updates as they become available so you always have the latest version of the program. This further improves the program's ability to keep your machine running smoothly.

After a busy day on my computer using numerous programs and searching many different websites I usually perform the following operations to keep my system ship shape. First I close down all the programs that I have running on the system including my Internet browser. I then double click the System Mechanic icon

and see if System Mechanic feels that anything needs to be repaired. See next figure. Since it did indicate that some problems existed, I clicked "Repair All". After the repair is done it might tell me that a system restart is needed for the repairs to take place.



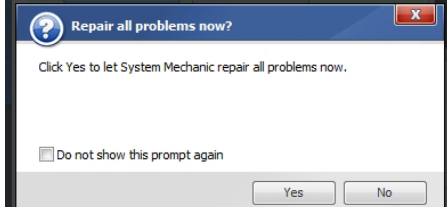
System Status is Fair
 5 problems and 1 warning are lowering your system's overall status.

Repair All View Problems

Last analyzed 6 minutes ago Re-analyze ▾

Perfect for the novice or busy user: click **Repair All** and fix all issues at once.

Want more details and more control over repairs? Click **View Problems**.

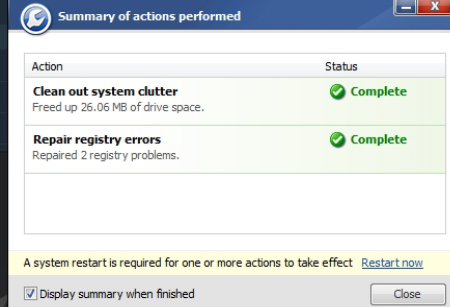


Repair all problems now?

Click Yes to let System Mechanic repair all problems now.

Do not show this prompt again

Yes No



Summary of actions performed

Action	Status
Clean out system clutter Freed up 26.06 MB of drive space.	Complete
Repair registry errors Repaired 2 registry problems.	Complete

A system restart is required for one or more actions to take effect [Restart now](#)

Display summary when finished Close

Since I am already shutting down the machine anyway, I just close System Mechanic and perform a normal shutdown. When I start the computer the next day the computer will boot with all the corrections and fixes now operational.

Reasons to Drool

Having simple computer problems fixed automatically before they become big problems.

Not So Cool

System Mechanic does not do everything; you still need a good anti-virus program to protect you from outside threats.

*Alan is co-author of **Introduction to Technology** Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010 and a **TechDirections Magazine** Columnist . Visit www.technologytoday.us for past columns, reviews, and resources.*