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Laptop performance can be largely affected by the modalities of use. Not only are notebooks more subject to movement and impact than desktop computers but they are also used in a way that can slow down its functioning. Sometimes it is not about not using the computer in flat surfaces or in unnatural positions but about making and irregular and intermittent use of files and software.

Such behaviour, inherent to the on-the-go functionality of laptops, can be the cause our computer is running slower than it did when we first bought it. To solve the immediate issues and prevent further problems with performance, some maintenance routines can be adopted that will make the computer run considerably faster.

First, as a basic precaution, it is always good to have enough free space in the laptopâ€™s hard disk and to clean it from temporary files and software we do not use anymore. In order to do this, you can use the tool included in the Windows package or, for better results, you can download one of the many free applications that remove from the hard disk not only all temporary files that enter our computer while surfing the web but also duplicate files and invalid registry entries that more than often remain in the system even after we have removed the associated programme.

With the objective of taking some weight off the driver it is necessary to delete useless software from the Control Panel, as well as programs that install by default when downloading certain applications. In the same way, it is good practice to manage the programmes that start when booting the computer and to remove the ones that are not really useful every time we start working with a pc (for example, Microsoft Office Boot). To do this, go to the Windows menu and click on Run, write â€œmsconfigâ€• on the box and press enter. You will be presented with a menu in which you should select the section â€œStartâ€•, where all the programs that launch at the same time as Windows ar detailed. Cancel the ones you are not really using. If you are not sure whether you should take a programme off this list do a quick research on Google to be on the safe side.

A habit that you should take on is that of defragmenting the laptop once every two or three months. Every time that we open an make changes on a file, all alternations are saved in a different area of the computer, different than the one where the original file is. This means that every time we open a file, the system has to find its pieces across the hard disk, slowing down all the processes working at that moment. By defragmenting the driver, we put together all the pieces of a file in order to make it easier for the computer to find them the next time we call them up. Before defragmenting, make a back up of all your files and take into consideration that the process may last for several hours, especially if you have never defragmented before. To access the defragmentation tool, go to the Start button, select Accessories and then System Tools. Then open Disk Defragmenter from the list of options.

Finally, it is important to check that the cause of our computer slowing down is not spyware. In order to check for this hypothesis, the best thing to do is to run an antivirus scan.

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