



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

July 12, 2023

Share

Add Google Drive to File Explorer

HOME > REVIEWS > TECH

How to add Google Drive to File Explorer and use it as an alternative hard drive in Windows

Written by **William Antonelli**; edited by **John Lynch** Dec 9, 2022, 6:32 PM EST

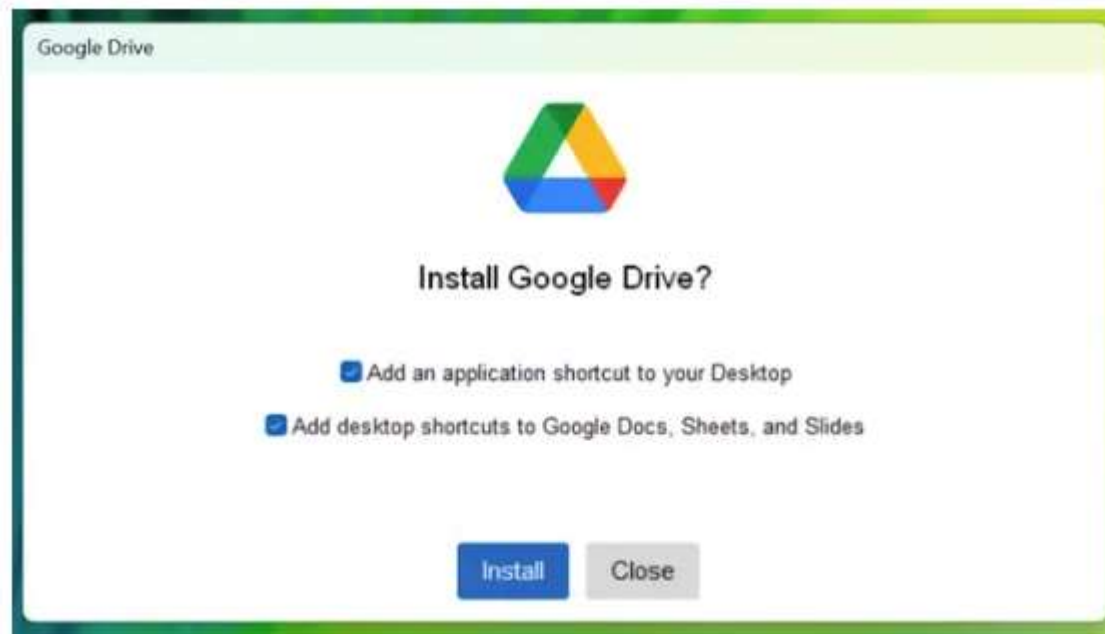


You don't have to access Google Drive through a browser. Nopparat

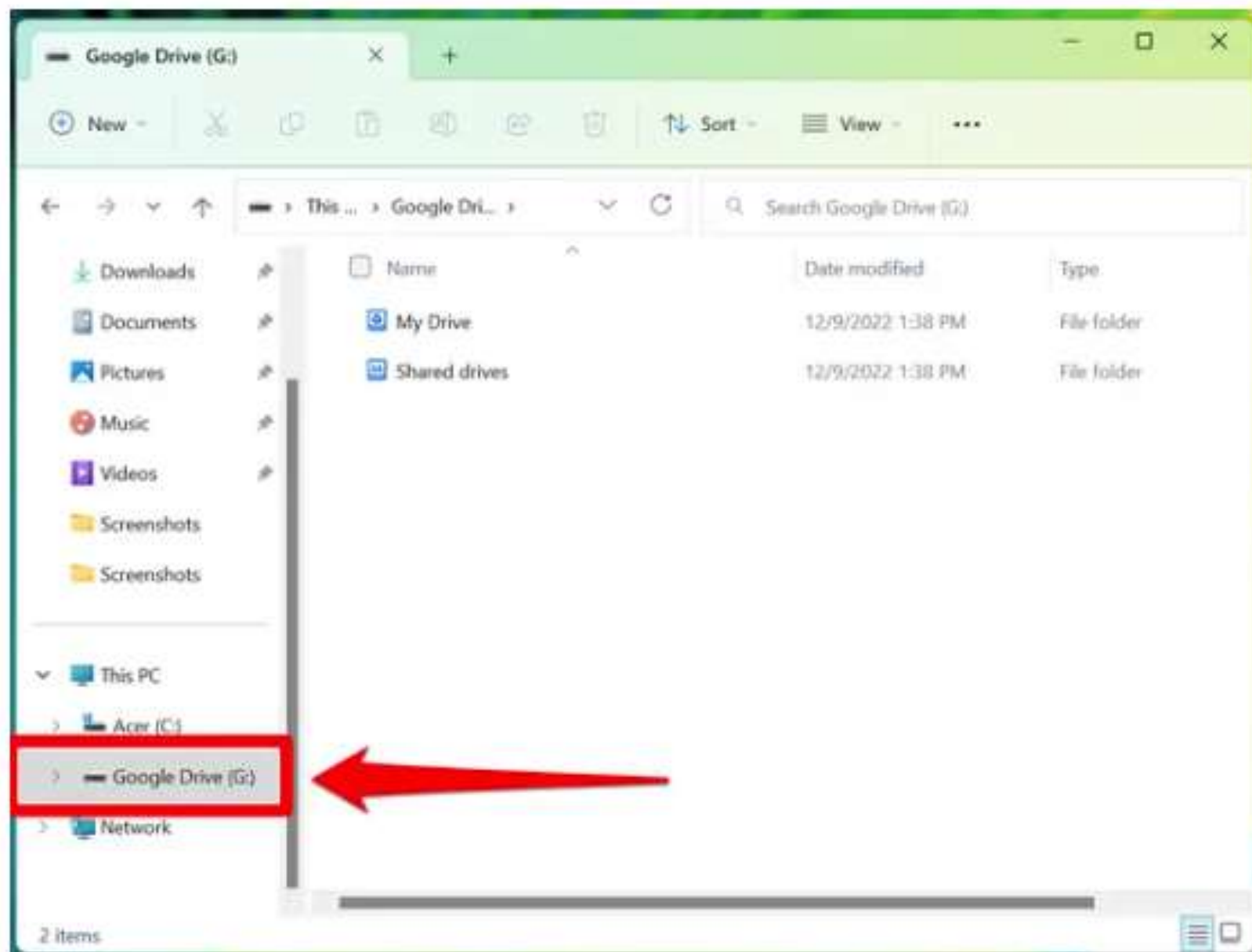
<https://www.businessinsider.com/guides/tech/add-google-drive-to-file-explorer>

Harvey Hope

- To add a Google Drive link to Windows' File Explorer, you'll need to install the Google Drive app.
- Once you install Google Drive, it'll appear in File Explorer like a separate hard drive.
- You can also remove Google Drive from File Explorer by signing out of the app.



<https://www.google.com/drive/download/>

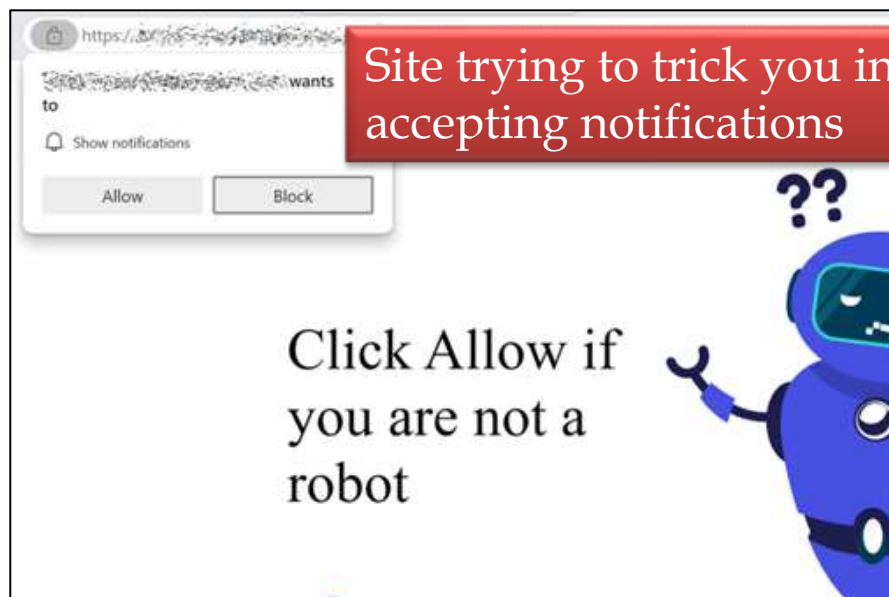


Unless the drive letter is already taken, Google Drive will list itself as drive (G:).

William Antonelli/Insider

Share

Edge now blocking spam web notifications



Site trying to trick you into accepting notifications

They then spam you with notifications to try to trick you into further actions



Edge now takes steps to

- avoid the first notification
- make it simpler to get out of notifications you have accepted

Details:

<https://blogs.windows.com/msedgedev/2023/07/06/fighting-notification-spam-microsoft-edge/>

Share

Microsoft slogans

...and Paul Thurrott replies...



Paul Thurrott @thurrott · 3h

I still think Windows 8's slogan---"F@#\$ you, that's why" is the best one of all time.

Microsoft tweets...



Windows On Win... @wowstart... · 6h

Microsoft often uses slogans to market new Windows releases. Famous examples are Windows XP's "Yes you can" (2001) & Windows Vista's "The 'Wow' starts now" (2006). Others include Windows 7's "Your PC, simplified" (2009) & Windows 11's "Brings you closer to what you love" (2021).



9

1

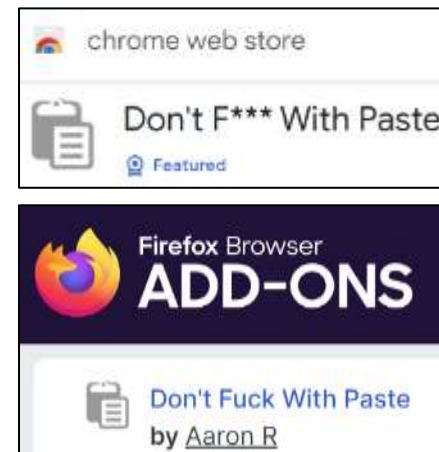
43

6,310



Share

Don't F*** With Paste



- Browser extension
- Prevents websites from blocking copy/paste operations
 - doesn't prevent sites interfering with
 - keyboard shortcuts (control-v, etc.)
 - right click menu
 - for those annoying sites try *Edit > Paste* from browser's menu
- Can be configured to only operate on specific sites
- Available for
 - Firefox <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/don-t-fuck-with-paste/>
 - Chromium browsers (Chrome, Edge, Opera, Brave, Vivaldi...)
 - load URL using browser for which you want the extension

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/dont-f-with-paste/nkgllhigpcljnhoakjkgaieabnkmgdkb>

Share

Brave memory saver setting

- Going through my browser's settings for some maintenance, I noticed a flagged "new" item
- Brave now has a setting to deactivate unused tabs until the user returns to them
- Might be handy for folks who keep several tabs going regularly

p.s. The same feature is available on Chrome but under the "performance" setting, not "system"

<https://support.brave.com/hc/en-us/articles/13383683902733>

Stewart Bruce



YouTube Tech

- Some OPCUG members must use YouTube and can identify gems that would be of interest to others
- What YouTube videos or channels would you recommend?
- Restrict suggestions for Q&A to tech items (no cute cats or babies!)



Pocketnow

- Mobile tech reviews in the USA tend to sound similar
- Maybe this is because most of the best known reviewers have at one time or another all worked at Pocketnow
- Some of these channel hosts include Mr Mobile (Micheal Fisher), Joshua Vergara, and Juan Bagnell
- Collaboration is common with the channels sharing resources to review the same devices
- Juan Bagnell is an outlier in this crowd, reviewing many non-mainstream manufacturers and devices
- Host Jaime Rivera has remained the one constant reviewer with the channel and has been tireless in bringing us the latest in what is happening in the USA



<https://www.youtube.com/@Pocketnow>

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Loonie Bits

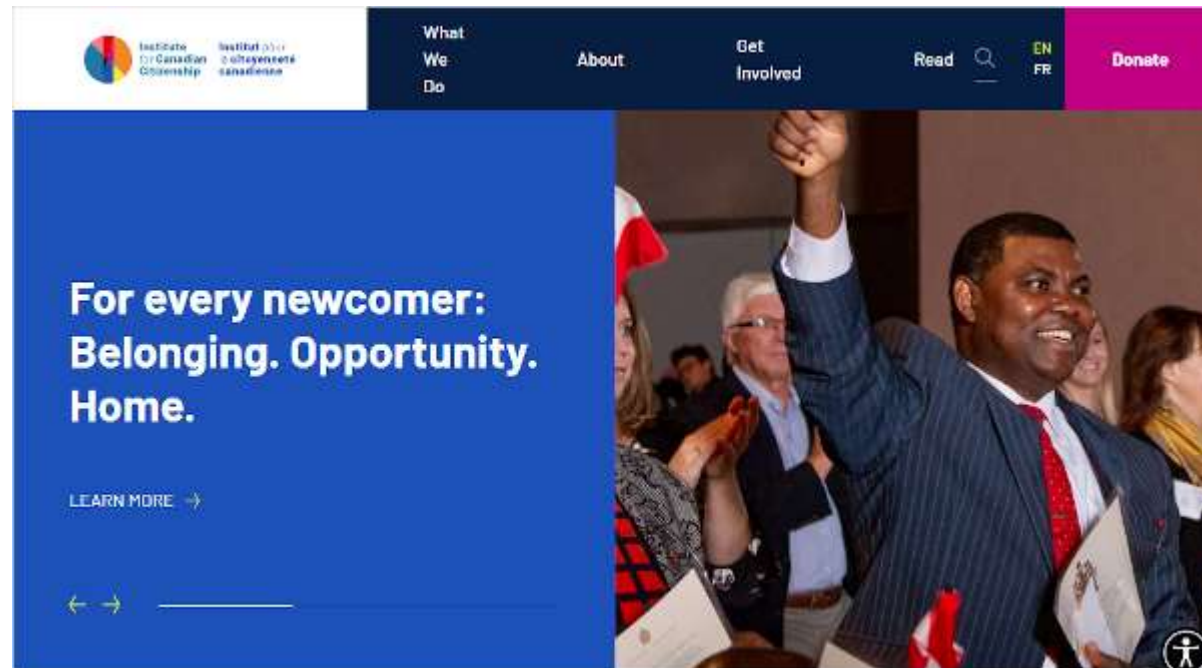


- Highlighting Canadian sites with information of interest to Canadian consumers
- Can you help fulfill our motto *Users helping users?*
 - do you know of Canadian sites with interesting info?
 - you could speak to the items or just submit the info for inclusion at a future Q&A

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship



- Since stepping out of the limelight, one former Governor General has created a foundation for introducing new immigrants to Canada



- You can become involved if you like...

<https://www.inclusion.ca/>

Top 70 Canadian News Websites



If Google and Facebook stop posting Canadian news items, check out...

FeedSpot HOME MEDIA CONTACT DATABASE FOR PUBLISHERS

Get 20k News websites with journalists email contacts. [Export Full Database](#)

News Websites Directory

Top 70 Canadian News Websites

Total Views 137K · Jul 05, 2023 · [Contents](#)

The **best Canadian news websites** from thousands of news websites on the web ranked by traffic, social media followers & freshness. [Learn more](#)

[Promote Your Website](#) [Sponsor this list](#)

[Get Bloggers Contacts](#) [Export Contact List](#)

Canadian News Websites

Here are 70 Best Canadian News Websites you must follow in 2023

- CBC News » Top Stories**



Toronto, Ontario, Canada
CBC News services keep Canadians at home and abroad informed about their communities, their country, and the world. Top news stories, breaking news, f... [more](#)
[cbc.ca/news](#) [+ Follow](#)
f 3.1M · t 3.5M · @ 656.3K · 14 posts / day

https://blog.feedspot.com/canadian_news_websites/

Share

FreeFileSync – Part 2

Replacing
Windows *File History*
with
FreeFileSync

Part 2 - automation

Share

Our *FreeFileSync* journey

Want to replace *File History* with *FreeFileSync*

- Why? Microsoft is destroying *File History* in Windows 11
https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230628_PowerPoint.pdf

Q&A 2023-07-05

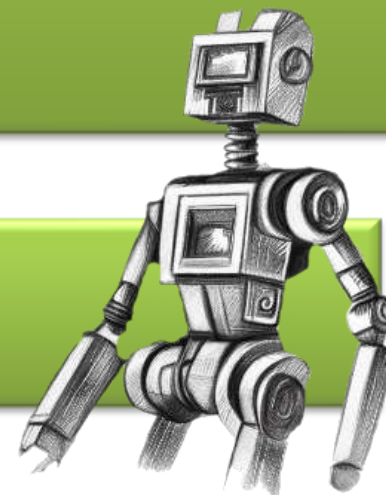
https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230705_PowerPoint.pdf

- use FreeFileSync to mirror
C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents to *E:\Backup\Documents*
 - *manual* process to synchronize
 - old versions of files *not saved*
 - *only Documents* folder backed up



This week

- *automate* the process



Share

FreeFileSync batch job

Click *Save as...Batch job*

Select job created to *mirror* source & destination

Run minimized

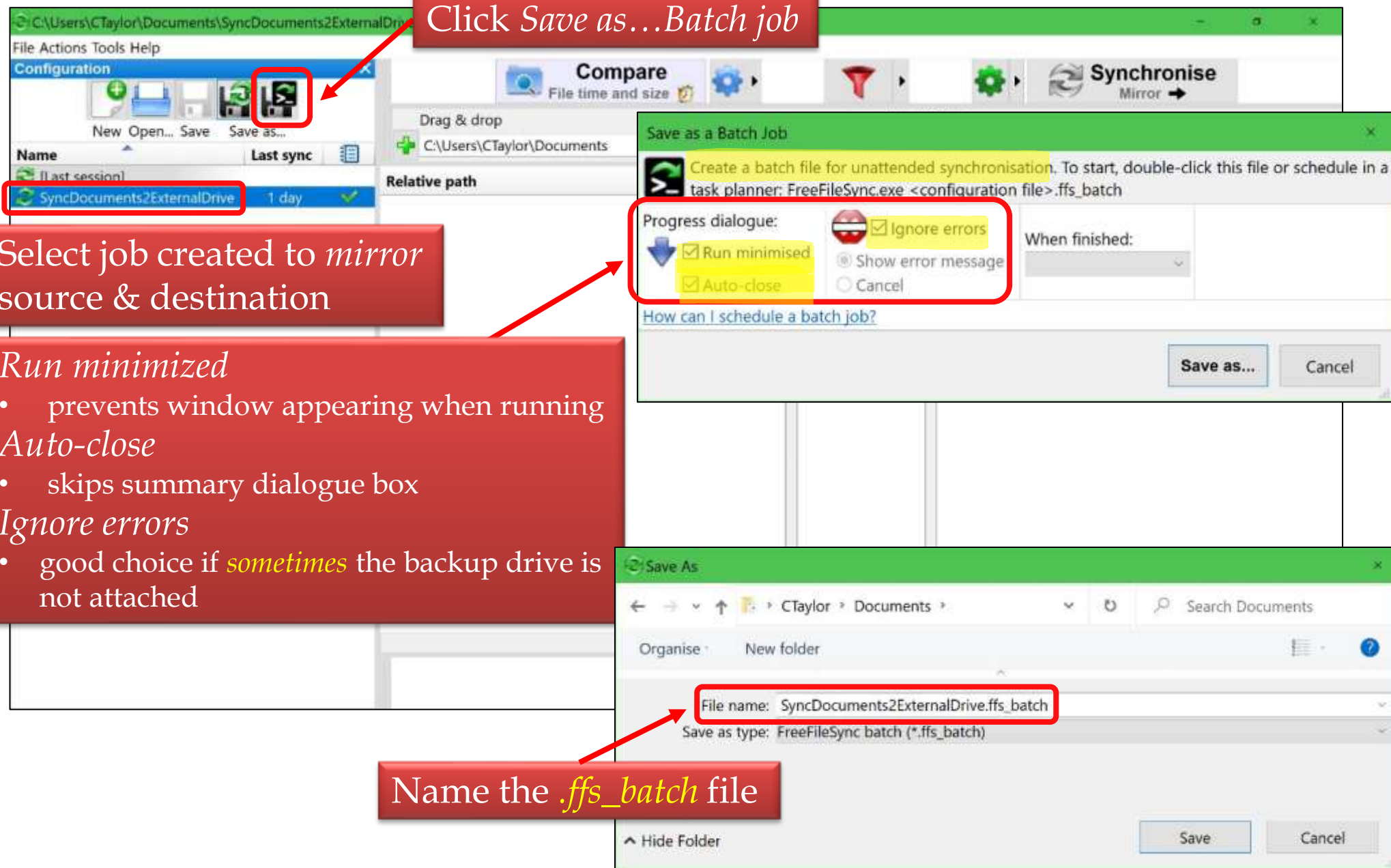
- prevents window appearing when running
- Auto-close*

- skips summary dialogue box

Ignore errors

- good choice if *sometimes* the backup drive is not attached

Name the *.ffs_batch* file



Share

Windows Task Scheduler

Click Windows *Start* button

- type *Task Scheduler*
- hit *Enter* when it appears at top under *Best match*

While not strictly necessary
good idea to create a folder for tasks you create

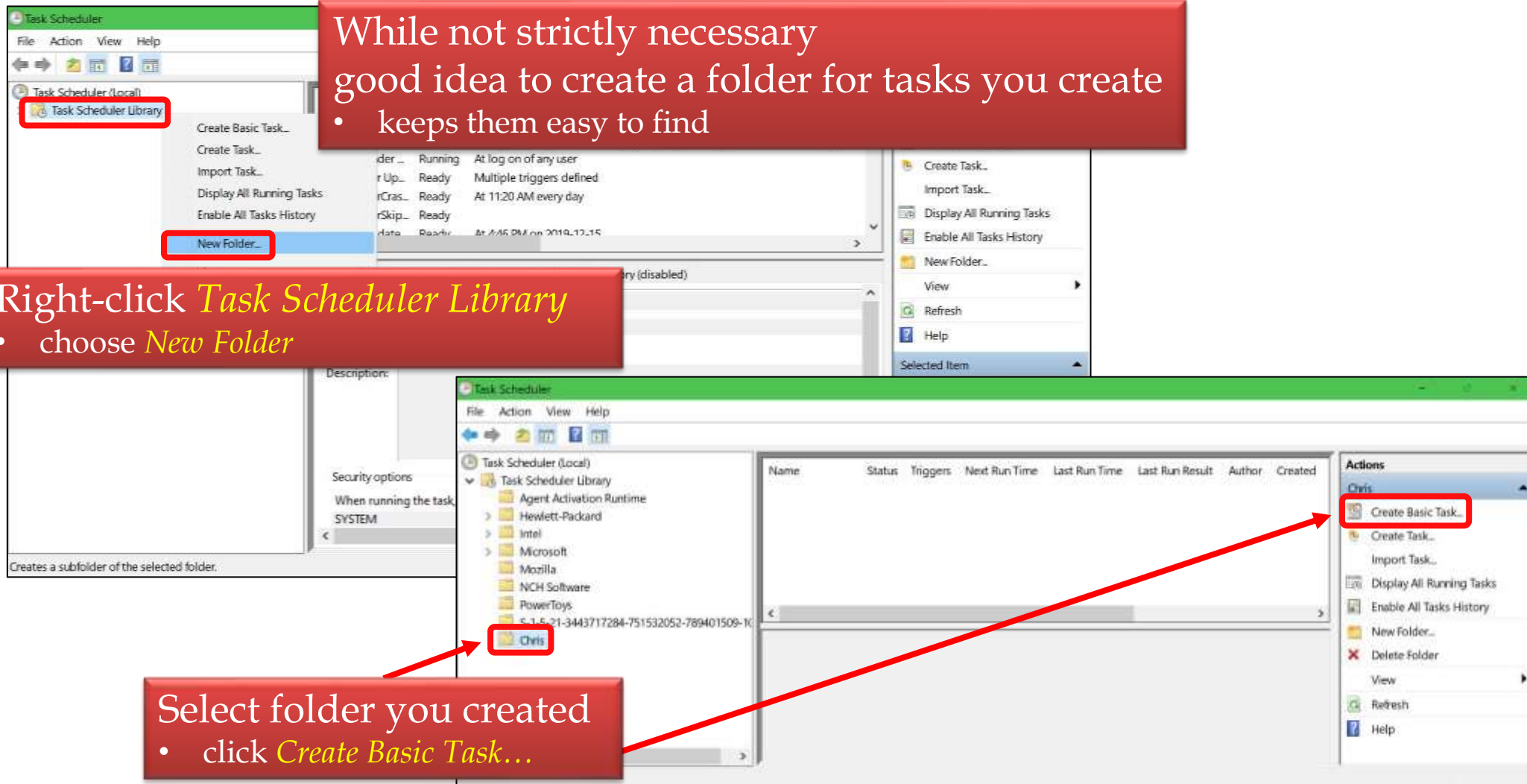
- keeps them easy to find

Right-click *Task Scheduler Library*

- choose *New Folder*

Select folder you created

- click *Create Basic Task...*



Share

Name & Trigger

Give a name & description

- so you can figure out what it is for a year from now

Create Basic Task Wizard

Create a Basic Task

Use this wizard to quickly schedule a common task. For more advanced options or settings such as multiple task actions or triggers, use the Create Task command in the Actions pane.

Name: Documents backup to external hard drive

Description: Use FreeFileSync to backup all the files in C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents to E:\DocumentBackup every 5 minutes

< Back Next >

Click *Next*

Create Basic Task Wizard

Task Trigger

Create a Basic Task

When do you want the task to start?

☒ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ One time

☐ When the computer starts

☐ When I log on

☐ When a specific event occurs

Next > Cancel

Select *Daily*

Click *Next*

Create Basic Task Wizard

Daily

Create a Basic Task

Start: 2023-06-30 3:19:54 PM ☐ Synchronize across time zones

Trigger

Daily

Recur every: 1 days

Action

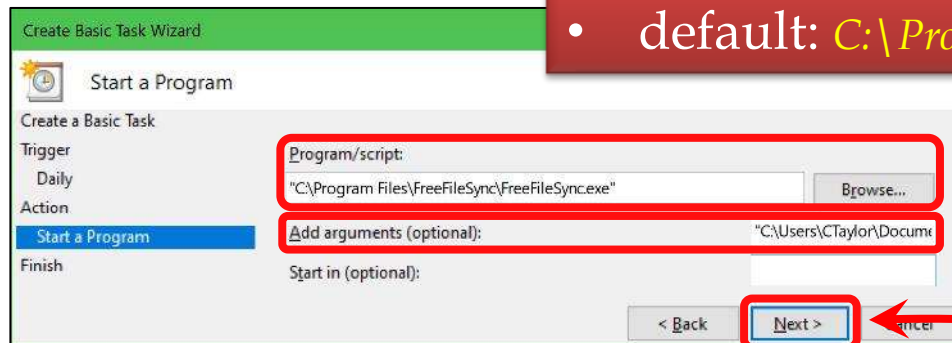
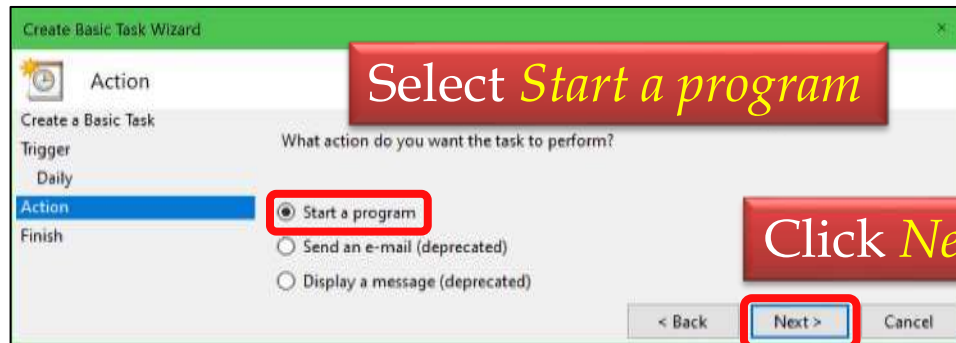
Finish

< Back Next > Cancel

Click *Next*

Share

Action



Add arguments:

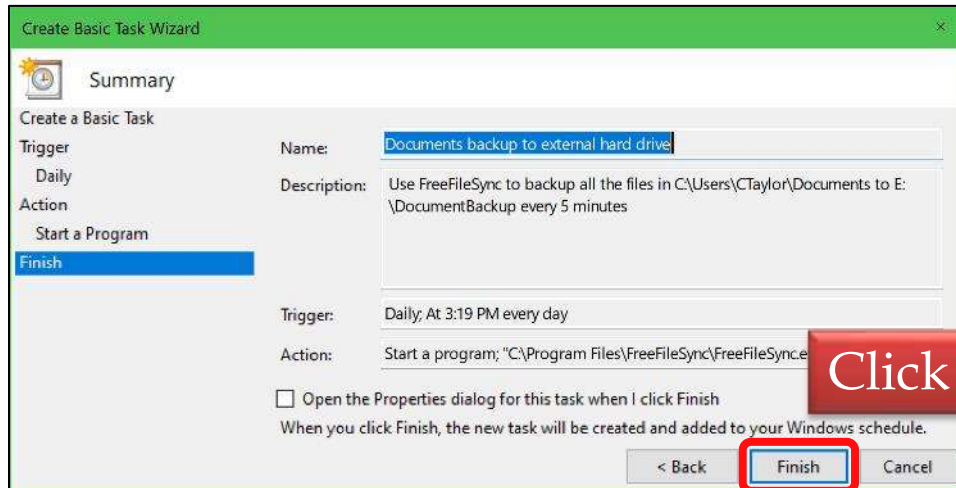
- Enter complete path to your FreeFileSync batch job, e.g.
C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents\SyncDocuments2ExternalDrive.ffs_batch

Enclose entire line in quotes

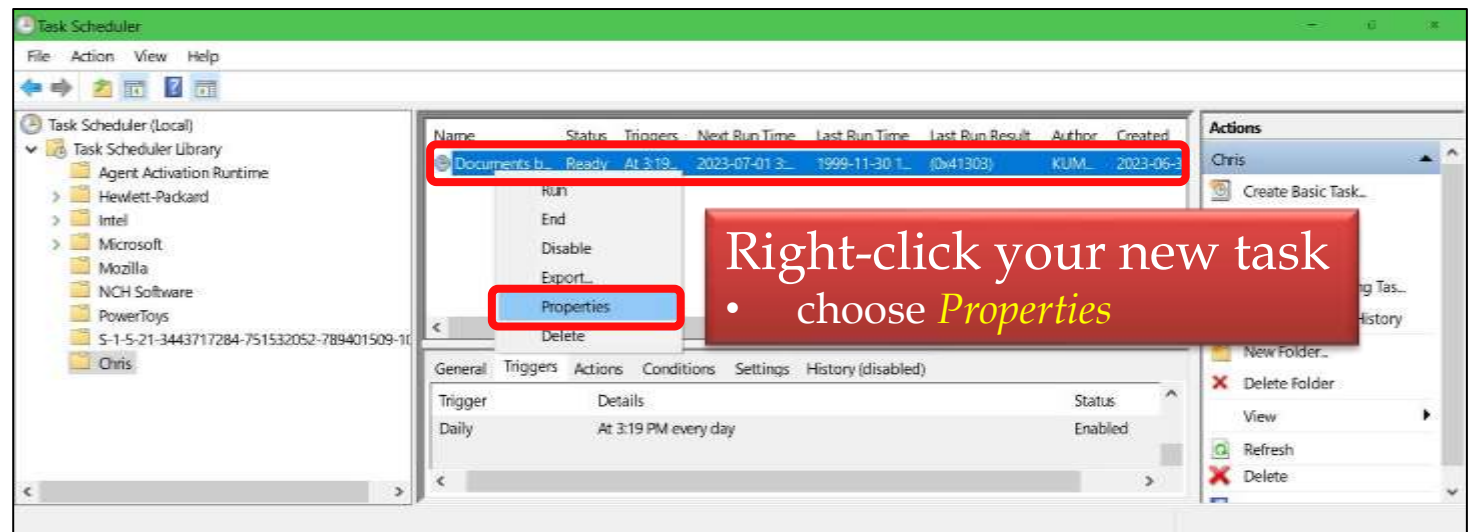
Click *Next*

Share

Finish



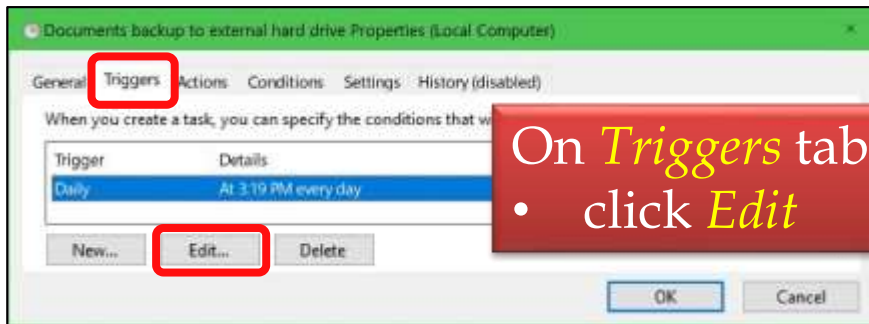
But not quite really finished



Share

Task is set to run **once a day**

- we want it to run every 5 minutes

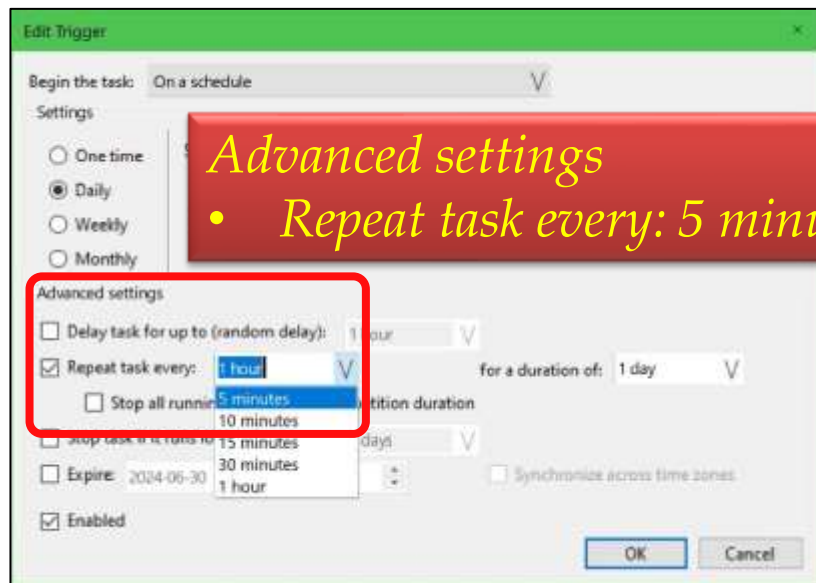


On **Triggers** tab

- click **Edit**

If you have a laptop

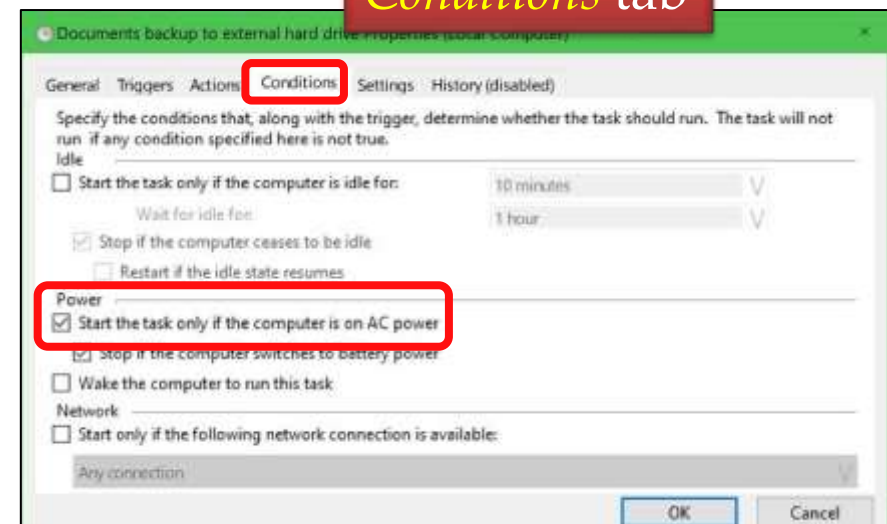
- default for tasks:
 - *don't run if on battery*



Advanced settings

- *Repeat task every: 5 minutes*

Conditions tab



Deselect

- *Start the task only if the computer is on AC power*

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Results

- **E:\Backup\Documents**
will always have exactly the same files as
C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents
- Checked every 5 minutes for changes
 - if signed into Windows
 - no point in running if not signed in: *no files changing*
 - as long as the external hard drive is plugged in
 - if not plugged in, the job silently fails: *that's okay*
- Are we done?
 - not quite...
 - currently, the job runs as a *mirror*
 - *backup folder on external hard drive will always contain copies of the files in the document folder on C drive*
 - what about old versions of files?
 - what about deleted files?
 - what if I want additional folders backed up?

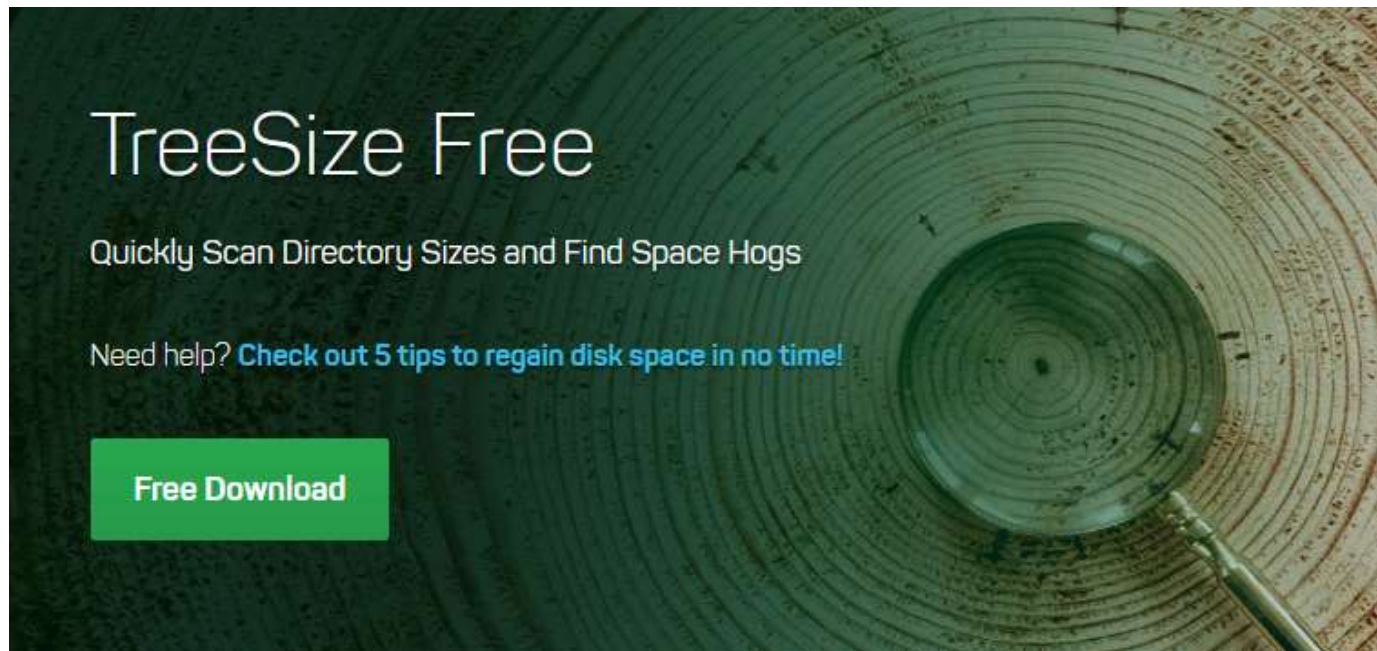


MORE TO COME...

Share

TreeSizeFree

- Display file folders ranked by size
- Freeware from jamSoftware



https://www.jam-software.com/treesize_free?ca=1



How can I fix low disk space?

A Cleaning up

- Surprising amount of space can often be recovered
- *The ultimate guide to saving disk space*
 - Q&A 2020-11-04 & 2020-11-11
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20201104_PowerPoint.pdf
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20201111_PowerPoint.pdf
 - TreeSize Free
 - CCleaner
 - Awesome Duplicate Photo Finder
 - SearchMyFiles
 - Turn off disk indexing
- **Disk Clean-up** (built-in Windows utility)
 - Q&A 2018-10-12
 - <https://opcug.ca/qa-2018/>
 - can often find dozens of GB of recoverable space
 - *especially Windows Update Clean-up*
 - Q&A 2022-03-16
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20220316_PowerPoint.pdf





Windows 10 (C:) Properties



Security

Previous Versions

Quota

General

Tools

Hardware

Sharing



Windows 10

Type: Local Disk

File system: NTFS

Used space: 147,929,468,928 bytes 137 GB

Free space: 1,726,074,880 bytes 1.60 GB

Capacity: 149,655,543,808 bytes 139 GB



Drive C:

Disk Cleanup

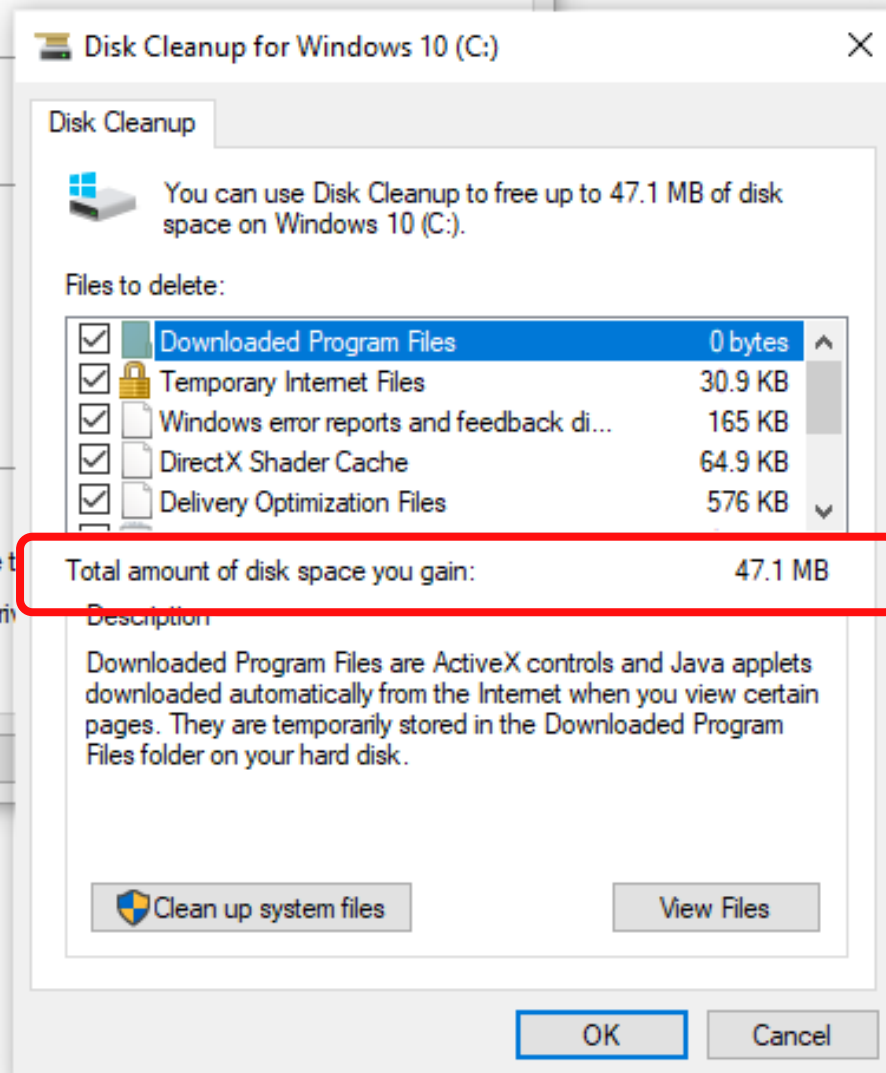
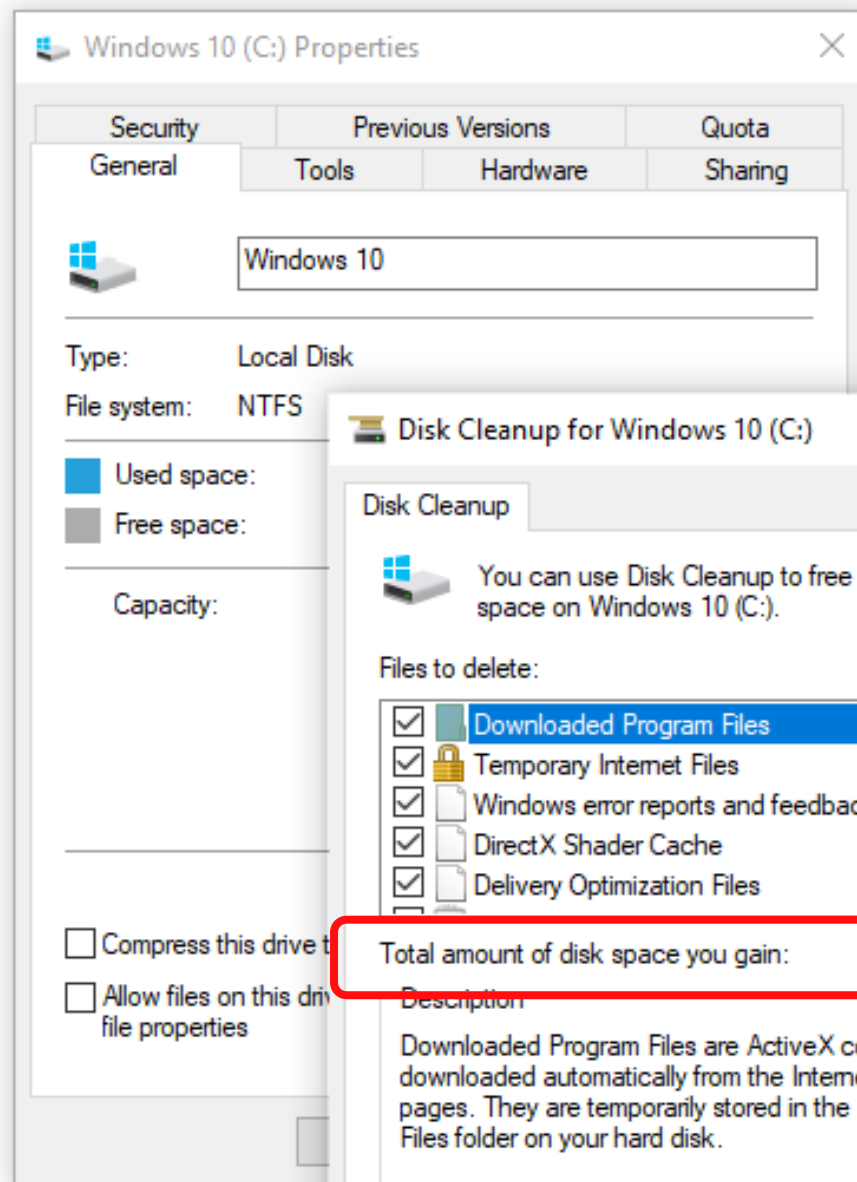
☐ Compress this drive to save disk space

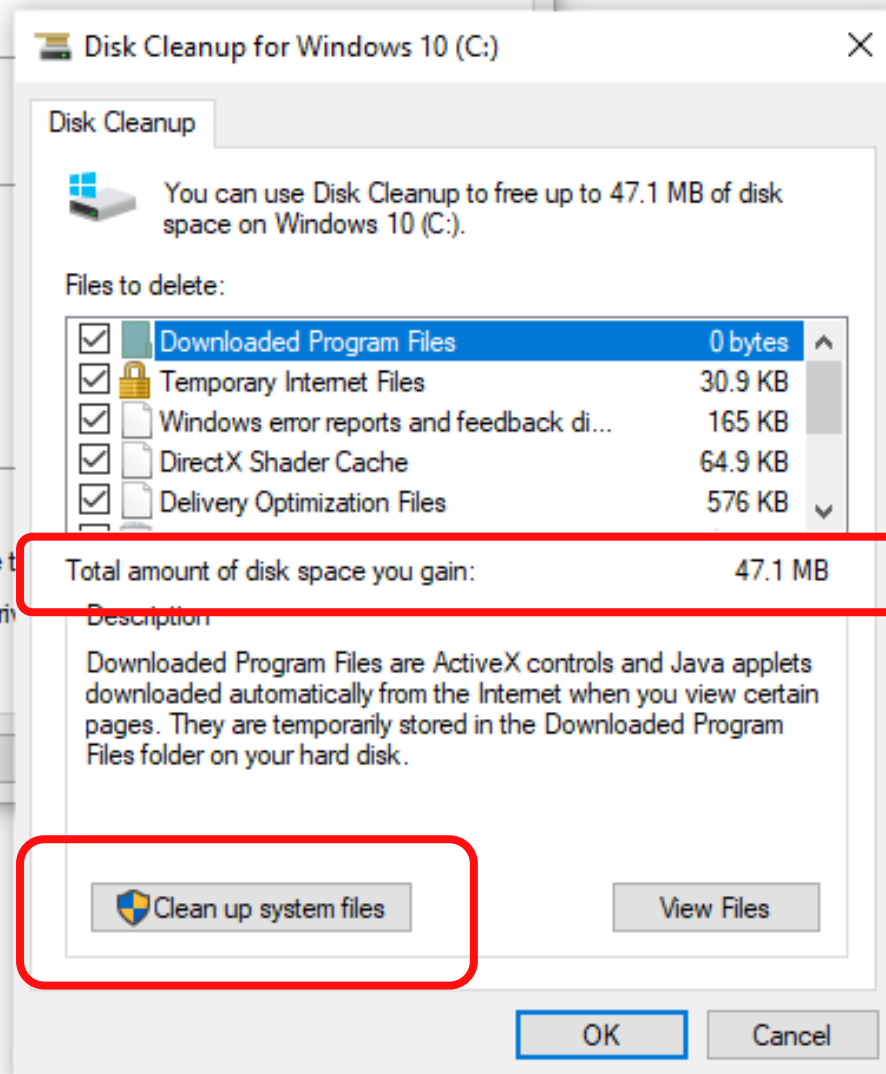
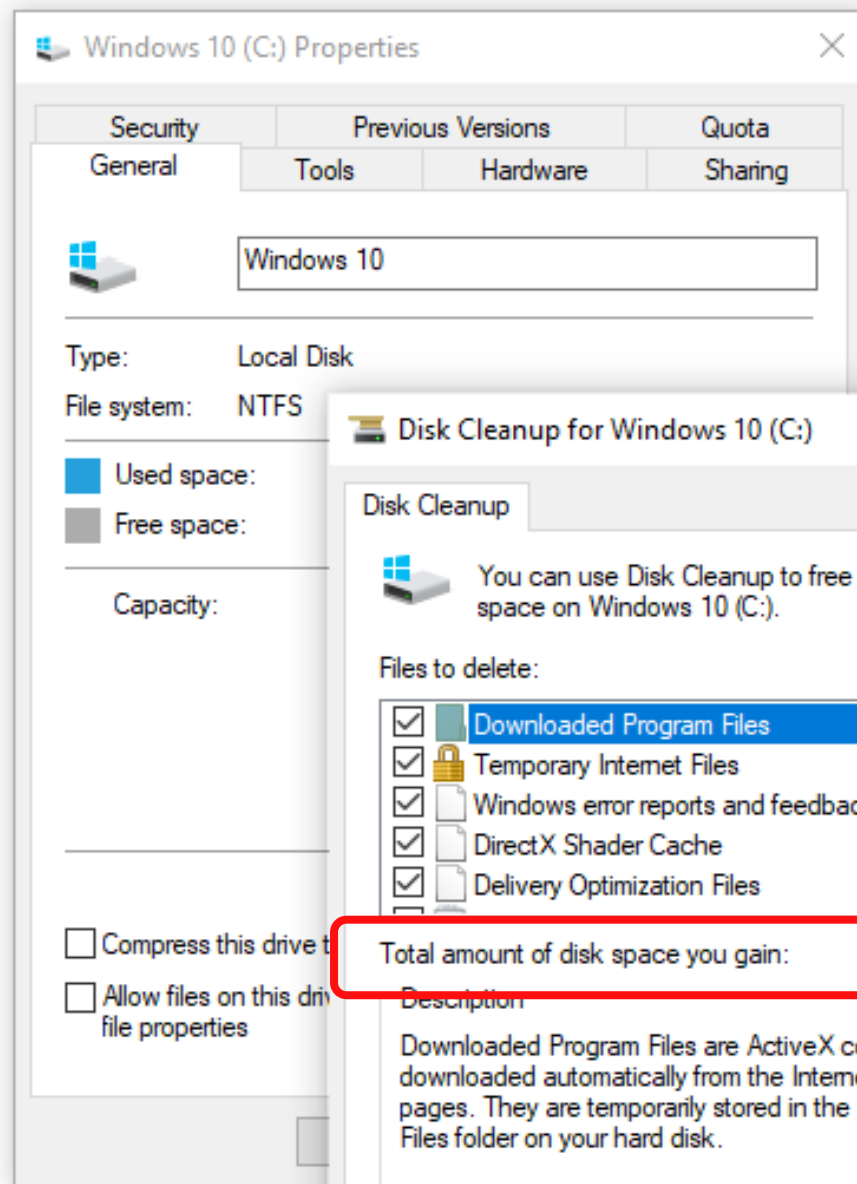
☐ Allow files on this drive to have contents indexed in addition to file properties

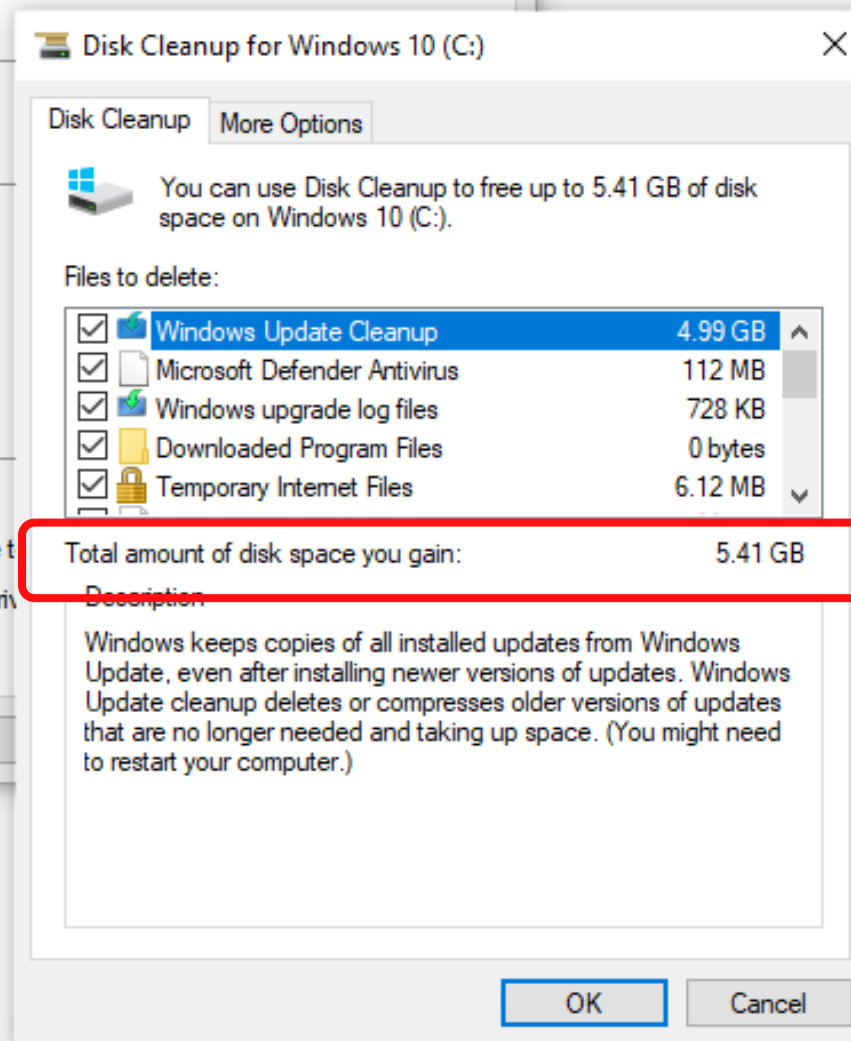
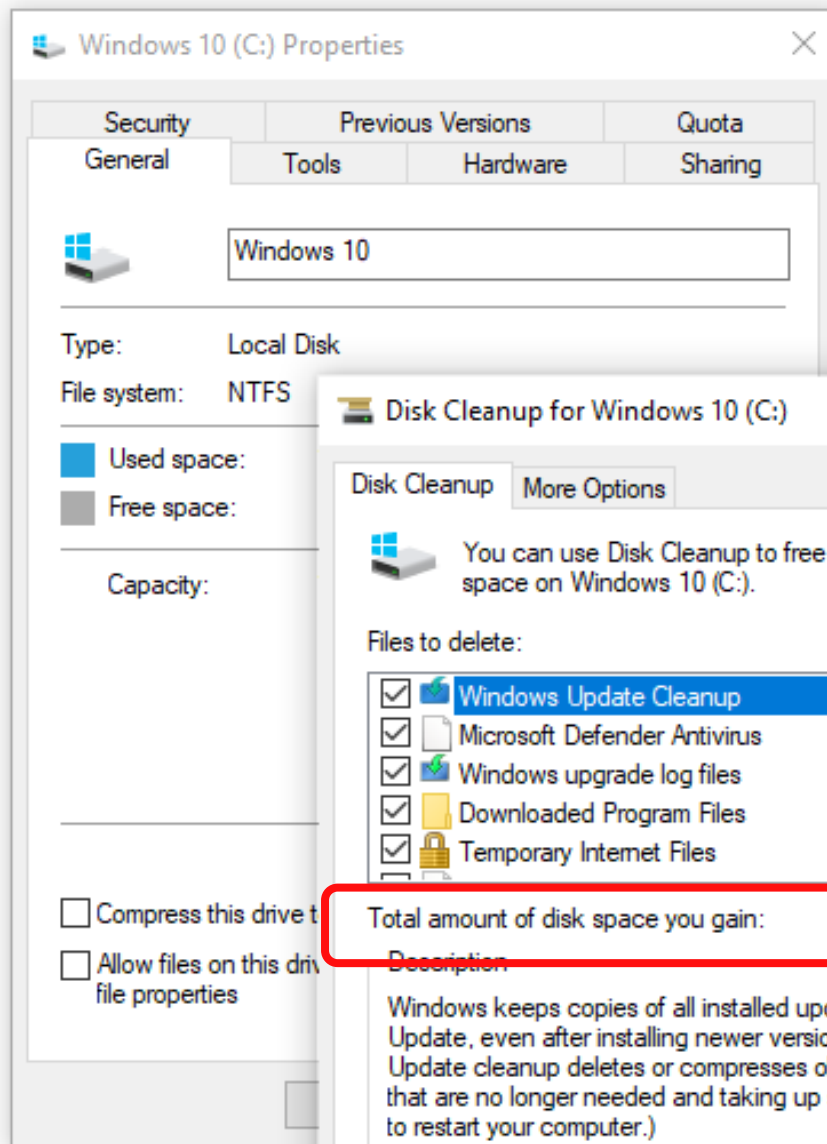
OK

Cancel

Apply







Windows 10 (C:) Properties

Security Previous Versions Quota
General Tools Hardware Sharing



Windows 10

Type: Local Disk

File system: NTFS

Used space: 136,140,705,792 bytes 126 GB

Free space: 13,514,838,016 bytes 12.5 GB

Capacity: 149,655,543,808 bytes 139 GB



Drive C:

Disk Cleanup

☐ Compress this drive to save disk space

☐ Allow files on this drive to have contents indexed in addition to file properties

OK

Cancel

Apply

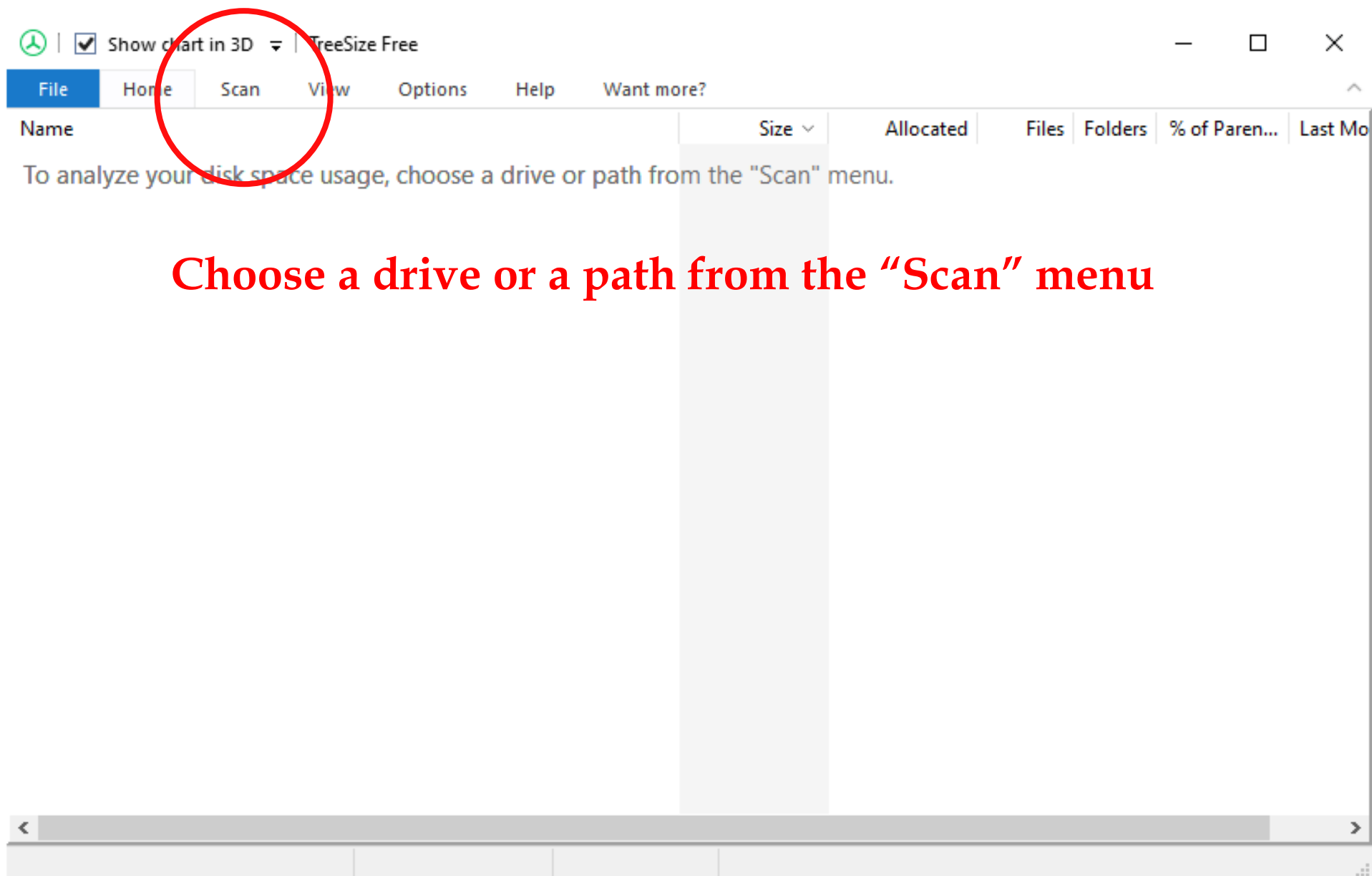


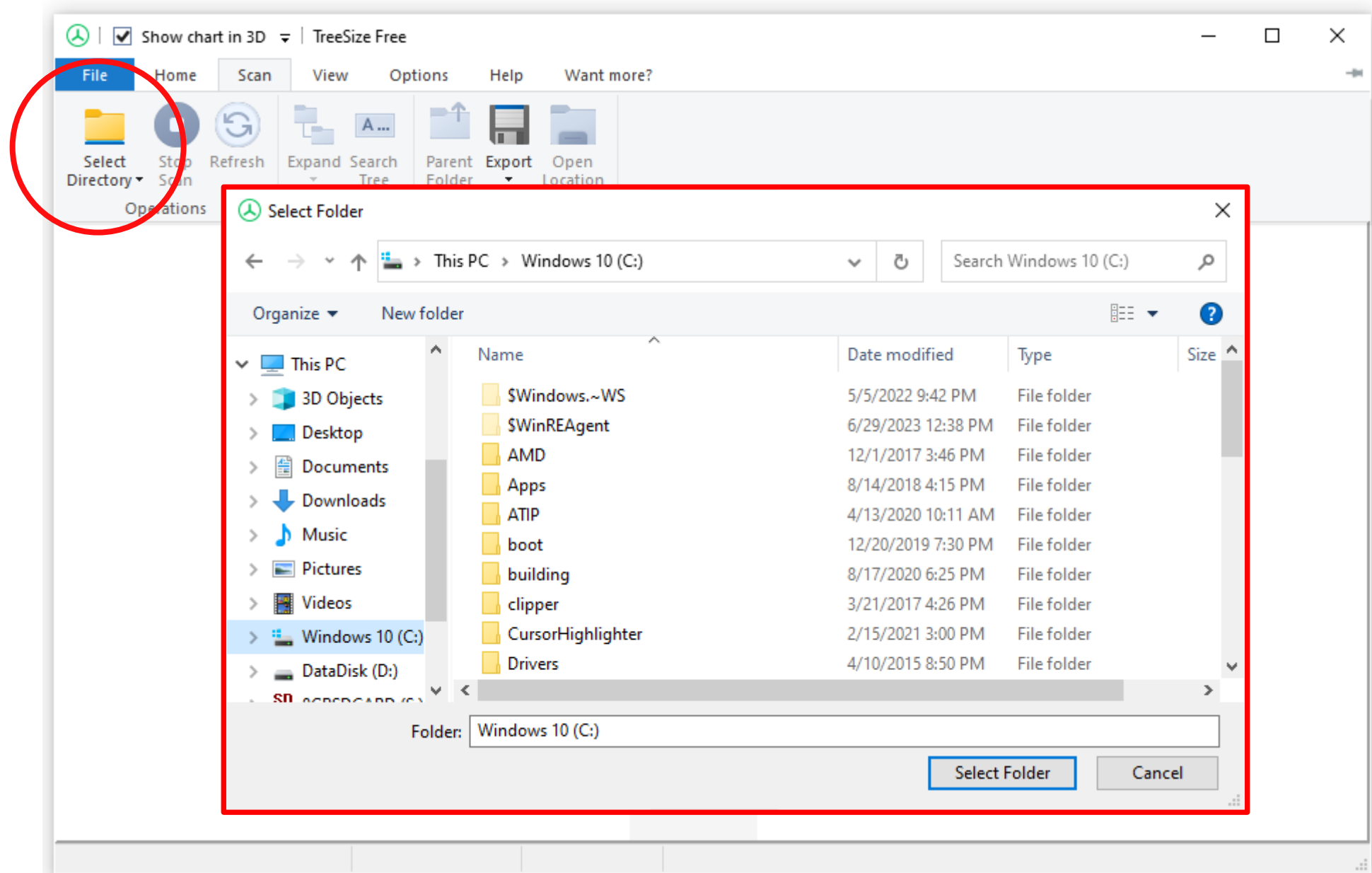
How can I fix low disk space?

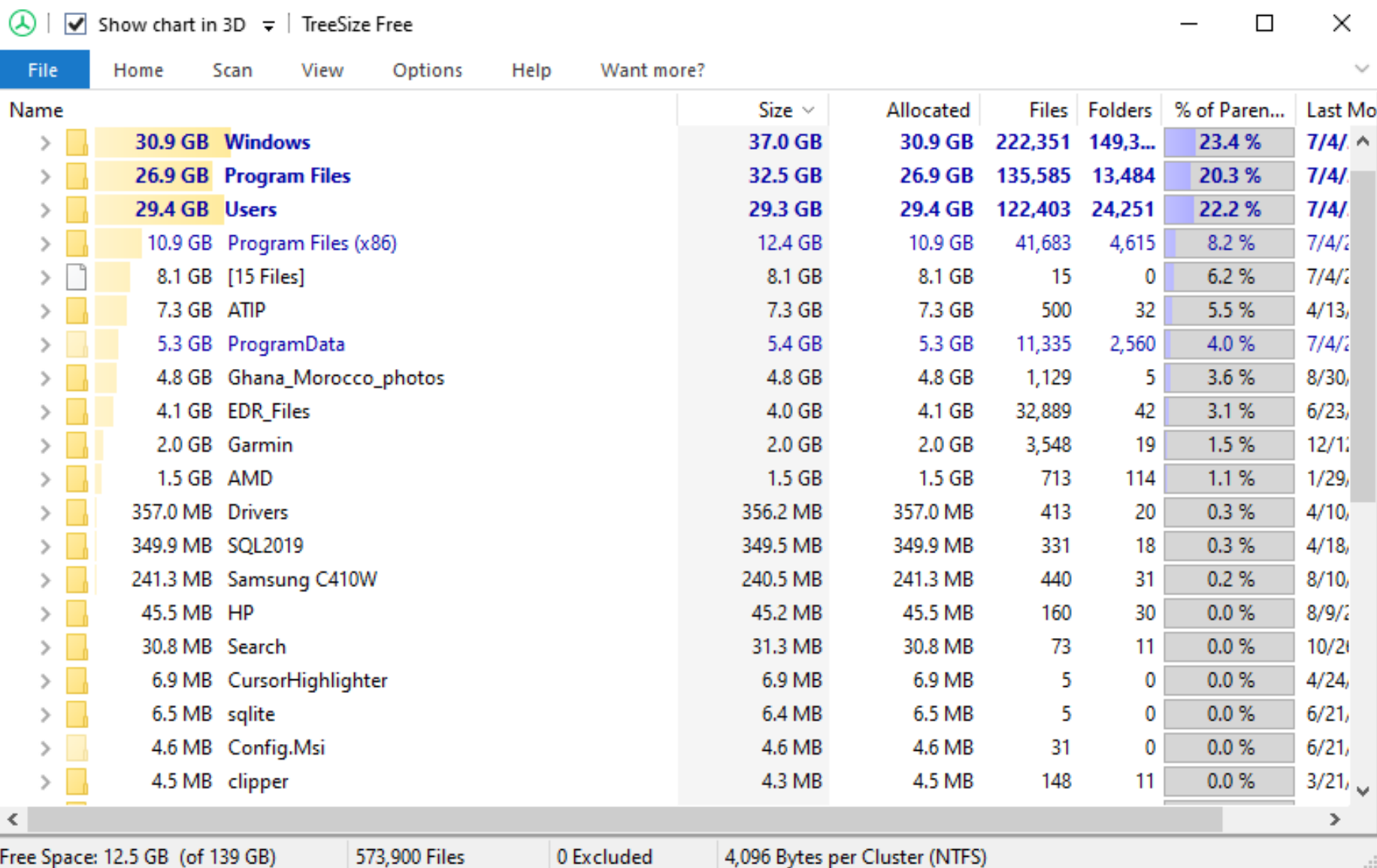
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 - can often find dozens of GB of recoverable space
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 - Q&A 2022-03-16
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20220316_PowerPoint.pdf









Name

▼		26.9 GB	Program Files
>		6.6 GB	WindowsApps
>		7.6 GB	Microsoft SQL Server
>		2.4 GB	PowerToys
>		1.6 GB	JetBrains
>		1.2 GB	GIMP 2
>		721.5 MB	Dell
>		683.1 MB	LibreOffice
>		616.5 MB	Google
>		614.9 MB	Azure Data Studio
>		502.9 MB	Macrium
>		463.5 MB	dotnet
>		407.0 MB	obs-studio
>		323.5 MB	Common Files
>		321.4 MB	Shotcut

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Laptop is out of warranty/support
Is this software still useful?

Free edition to be deprecated
in 2024; moved to Rescuezilla;
can run Macrium as live-USB

Name

▼		26.9 GB	Program Files
>		6.6 GB	WindowsApps
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>		2.4 GB	PowerToys
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>		407.0 MB	obs-studio
>		323.5 MB	Common Files
>		321.4 MB	Shotcut

Query editor associated with
SQL Server, but do I need it?

Root folder for .NET Core
(*"open-source development
Platform for building apps"*)
*May be associated with Azure
Data Studio*

Uninstall or change a program

To uninstall a program, select it from the list and then click Uninstall, Change, or Repair.

Organize ▾			
Name	Publisher	Installed On	Size
 AMD Software	Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.	2020-08-17	75.6 MB
 Ashampoo Burning Studio FREE	Ashampoo GmbH & Co. KG	2023-01-26	
 Audacity 3.0.2	Audacity Team	2021-06-07	65.2 MB
 AutoHotkey 1.1.33.10	Lexikos	2022-01-05	
 Awesome Duplicate Photo Finder v. 1.2	Duplicate-Finder.com	2022-01-05	3.88 MB
 AxCrypt 1.7.3156.0	Axantum Software AB	2015-03-22	4.54 MB
 Azure Data Studio	Microsoft Corporation	2023-04-18	604 MB
 Bosch VCI Software (CDR) - 2.5.34.41	Bosch	2023-05-27	123 MB
 Browser for SQL Server 2019	Microsoft Corporation	2023-04-23	14.8 MB
 Bulk Rename Utility 3.4.3.0 (64-bit)	TGRMN Software	2022-01-05	21.2 MB
 BurnAware Free 16.2	Burnaware	2023-01-28	86.0 MB
 CDR	Bosch Automotive Service Solut...	2023-06-24	82.7 MB
 Cisco Webex Meetings	Cisco Webex LLC	2023-01-31	296 MB
 CSV to vCard	csvtovcard.com	2019-02-02	1.04 MB
 Dell SupportAssist	Dell Inc.	2023-05-29	321 MB
 Dell Update for Windows 10	Dell Inc.	2021-05-11	16.7 MB
 Desktop Restore version 1.7.0	Jamie O'Connell	2018-05-01	1.29 MB

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Organize ▾			
Name	Publisher	Installed On	Size
 AMD Software	Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.	2020-08-17	75.6 MB
 Ashampoo Burning Studio FREE	Ashampoo GmbH & Co. KG	2023-01-26	
 Audacity 3.0.2	Audacity Team	2021-06-07	65.2 MB
 AutoHotkey 1.1.33.10	Lexikos	2022-01-05	
 Awesome Duplicate Photo Finder v. 1.2	Duplicate-Finder.com	2022-01-05	3.88 MB
 AxCrypt 1.7.3156.0	Axantum Software AB	2015-03-22	4.54 MB
 Azure Data Studio	Microsoft Corporation	2023-04-18	604 MB
 Bosch VCI Software (CDR) - 2.5.34.41	Bosch	2023-05-27	123 MB
 Browser for SQL Server 2019	Microsoft Corporation	2023-04-23	14.8 MB
 Bulk Rename Utility 3.4.3.0 (64-bit)	TGRMN Software	2022-01-05	21.2 MB
 BurnAware Free 16.2	Burnaware	2023-01-28	86.0 MB
 CDR	Bosch Automotive Service Solut...	2023-06-24	82.7 MB
 Cisco Webex Meetings	Cisco Webex LLC	2023-01-31	296 MB
 CSV to vCard	csvtovcard.com	2019-02-02	1.04 MB
 Dell SupportAssist	Dell Inc.	2023-05-29	321 MB
 Dell Update for Windows 10	Dell Inc.	2021-05-11	16.7 MB
 Desktop Restore version 1.7.0	Jamie O'Connell	2018-05-01	1.29 MB

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To uninstall a program, select it from the list and then click Uninstall, Change, or Repair.

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Name	Publisher	Installed On	Size	
 Taxman 2021 Version 1.2		2023-02-19	32.6 MB	
 Taxman 2022 Upgrade 4.0		2023-04-23	20.9 MB	
 TeamViewer	TeamViewer	2022-12-28		
 TreeSize Free V4.6.3 (64 bit)	JAM Software	2023-07-04	43.9 MB	
 Update for Windows 10 for x64-based Sy...	Microsoft Corporation	2018-12-31	1.01 MB	
 VeraCrypt	IDRIX	2022-12-28		
 Visual Studio 2010 Prerequisites - English	Microsoft Corporation	2021-10-16	23.5 MB	
 Visual Studio Build Tools 2022	Microsoft Corporation	2023-06-21		
 Vivaldi	Vivaldi Technologies AS.	2023-06-27		
 VLC media player	Videolan	2022-12-28		
 VSR_RDDbsoftware_x64	NHTSA	2017-12-11	68.9 MB	
 Webex	Cisco Systems, Inc	2023-01-31	460 MB	
 WebM Media Foundation Components	WebM Project	2020-08-17		
 Windows Driver Package - Garmin (grmn...	Garmin	2020-08-17		
 Xiph.Org Open Codecs 0.85.17777	Xiph.Org	2020-08-17		
 Zoom	Zoom Video Communications, I...	2023-03-22		

Name

▼	132.9 GB	C:\ on [Windows 10]
>	30.9 GB	Windows
>	26.9 GB	Program Files
▼	29.4 GB	Users
▼	25.5 GB	toaster
▼	11.5 GB	AppData
▼	8.6 GB	Local
>	1.4 GB	Microsoft
▼	1.3 GB	Programs
>	597.5 MB	Opera
>	461.2 MB	Cisco Spark
>	305.4 MB	Python
	0 Bytes	Common
	0 Bytes	ConfigAP
>	1.3 GB	JetBrains
>	1.0 GB	WebEx
>	787.3 MB	Vivaldi

WebEx

Zoom's cousin

Used once in a blue moon

Install when needed

Windows 10 (C:) Properties



Security	Previous Versions	Quota	
General	Tools	Hardware	Sharing
 Windows 10			
Type: Local Disk			
File system: NTFS			
Used space: 129,995,493,376 bytes 121 GB			
Free space: 19,660,050,432 bytes 18.3 GB			
Capacity: 149,655,543,808 bytes 139 GB			
			
Drive C:		Disk Cleanup	
☐ Compress this drive to save disk space			
☐ Allow files on this drive to have contents indexed in addition to file properties			

OK

Cancel

Apply

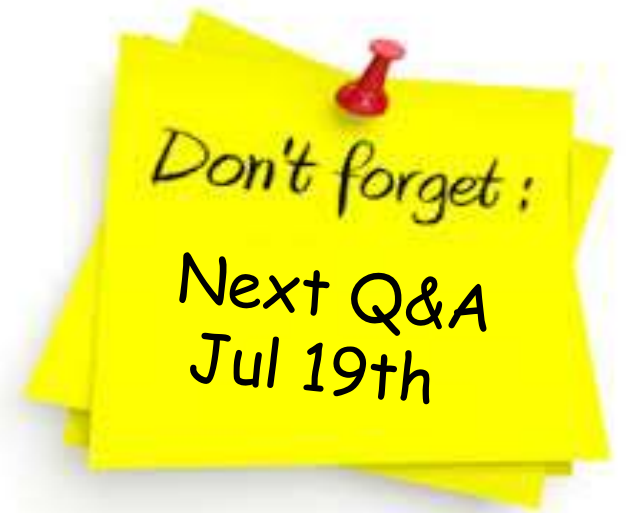
They hide stuff everywhere!

Need multiple tools
to be able to find junk
and remove it





**Any other:
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