

Diskeeper 7.0

Review by Don Droege

1. **Background:** Diskeeper 7.0 is an automatic disk defragmenter for Windows and is the product of **Executive Software** located in Burbank California. Two versions of Diskeeper are available viz., Diskeeper Workstation, and Diskeeper Server. This review will evaluate Diskeeper Workstation which is supported on Windows 95,98,Me, NT4.0 and Windows 2000/XP. File systems supported are Fat 16 and Fat 32 for Windows 2000/XP, and Windows 95/98/Me.
2. **Resources:** The disk space requirements for Diskeeper depend on several factors. On Windows 2000/XP systems, 6.5 MB will be required. You should allow about 10 MB of extra free space for temporary files during the installation.
3. **Set it & Forget it Mode:** Diskeeper is designed to be operated in several ways: the Manual Defragmentation and Set it & Forget it Modes which run while your disk volumes are on line and available to other applications and users. The Manual Defragmentation mode allows you to control Diskeeper operation directly. You have direct control over which volumes are defragmented, when defragmentation is started and stopped, and the priority at which Manual Defragmentation jobs run. (You can also change the priority of Set it & forget it).
4. **Analyzing Fragmentation:** To start Defragmentation, highlight the volume you want to defragment, and click the Defragment button in the Diskeeper snap-in display. (First click on Analyze to determine the degree of fragmentation). If you exit Diskeeper, (or even log off your computer) while a manual defragmentation job is running, the job will continue running until it is complete.
5. **Priority Settings:** By default, manual defragmentation jobs are run at “normal” priority. You can change the priority by clicking on the Action menu and selecting a lower or higher priority. The speed at which Diskeeper runs is a function of the priority setting. As a further enhancement to Set it and Forget it, Diskeeper includes the “Smart Scheduling” feature, which will schedule defragmentation runs more often when the fragmentation level increases, and less often when it decreases.
6. **Scheduling Diskeeper:** With the addition of Smart Scheduling, you no longer have to decide how often to defragment your disks. Diskeeper will automatically determine the optimum defragmentation schedule for each of your disk volumes and adjust it accordingly. When Smart Scheduling is enabled, Diskeeper keeps track of the number of files moved every time it runs on each disk volume. When the number of fragmented files moved during a defragmentation run increases, Diskeeper is automatically scheduled to run more often. When the number of files moved decreases, the time between defragmentation runs is increased.
7. **Defrag Results:** Diskeeper installs using the auto run feature. To install on non-auto run systems, double click Setup.exe. To find out how badly fragmented your C drive is, highlight it in the Diskeeper display, then click the Analyze button. On my Windows 2000 Professional, this took about 2 minutes on a 19 Gig hard drive. After analysis, Diskeeper showed 620 fragmented files, and 1062 excess file fragments. My C drive was moderately fragmented with 69% of the total volume space available for defragmentation. The time taken for defragmentation was slightly more than 2 hours.

8. **Comments:** Diskeeper is an excellent program and runs considerably faster than built in defraggers. Also, built in defraggers have no Set it and Forget it or Smart Scheduling features. It is a smart and user-friendly program that can be readily recommended. The cost is 49.95. Additional information can be obtained by accessing the Executive Software website at: www.diskeeper.com.