



PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



July 2026

Published by the Plateau PC Users Group, Inc. 221 Tomlon Road Crossville TN 38555
"JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE'S COMPUTER CLUB"

July 2026 Volume 32 Issue 7

This Month's General Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2026
will start at 3:00 P.M. @
FFG Christ Lutheran Church

July 14th Presentation
@ 3:00 P.M.

Stan Stillwell from the Lifetime Learning program.

Will speak on significant "problems" in the current tax code which is causing confusion.

Learn of this year's changes to be prepared.



July 4th America's 250 Year Anniversary

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Please Note: All Meetings will now be on the second Tuesday of each month. Starting at 3:00 P.M.

Location: Christ Lutheran Church
481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade TN

Join the Club!

Anyone interested to attend the general meeting or any of the SIG meetings as a guest will be charged \$3.00 per person for any or all meetings in that month. Afterwards, you are encouraged to become a member of the Plateau PC Users Group. Our Club cannot exist without you, the members.

Membership Dues

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st. of each year. Annual dues are \$24 per single person / \$30 per family. Persons/families joining during the fiscal year have dues payable as follows:

<u>Join In</u>	<u>July - Sept</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - June</u>
Single	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	\$30	\$22	\$15	\$7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCLAIMER

All members of the Plateau PC Users Group are willing to help one another in the area of advice and tutorial instruction over the phone. If you should require more involved services or instruction, we have a few members who are very knowledgeable in several areas. As a responsible consumer, it is up to you to discuss, before retaining a member, any and ALL charges for repair services and time consuming tutorial activities.

It is not the desire of this Board of Directors to set fees for individuals for services rendered, nor the responsibility to intervene between members who enter into a contract among themselves.

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Windows 11 quietly added a 3-day "undo button."

Don't confuse it with System Restore.

Windows 11 quietly switched on a feature that's taking full snapshots of your entire PC, and it never asked your permission. It's called **Point-in-Time Restore**, and on most home machines it's already running: **on by default** for any Windows 11 Home or Pro PC that isn't managed by a company and has a main drive of 200GB or larger.

Here's how it works. Roughly every 24 hours, Windows quietly captures a complete snapshot of your system and keeps the last 72 hours' worth. If a bad update, a dodgy driver, or a failed install wrecks your PC, you boot into the recovery screen, pick a time from the last three days, and you're back in minutes. No reinstall, no troubleshooting marathon.

Now the part everyone's getting wrong. This is **not** just a fancier System Restore, and the difference matters.

The big picture: System Restore only rewinds system files, drivers, and apps. It deliberately leaves your documents, photos, and downloads untouched. Point-in-Time Restore rewinds *everything*: the OS, your apps, your settings, and your personal files, passwords, and certificates. So if you restore to yesterday, that document you wrote this morning is gone with it. Files in OneDrive or the cloud are safe, but anything saved only on the PC after the snapshot disappears.

Two more things worth knowing. You can't trigger it manually from inside Windows the way you can with System Restore. Snapshots happen automatically, and you can only restore from the recovery environment (WinRE), where you'll need your BitLocker recovery key handy. And it doesn't replace System Restore. Both run side by side.

Bottom line: treat this as a brilliant rescue button for when Windows breaks, not as a backup for your files. Keep real backups for those. And go find your BitLocker key before you ever need it. The full official breakdown is here in Microsoft's documentation.

☐ **Still on Windows 10, or stuck on Home?**

Point-in-Time Restore is a Windows 11 feature, and it only kicks in on version 24H2 or newer. If you're still on Windows 10 (support ended last year) or limping along on an unactivated copy, you're missing this and every other improvement Microsoft is shipping in 2026.

**** Visit the PPCUG Website ****

At: www.PPCUGinc.com Read all about our club activities and scheduled monthly meetings, also current and past issues of the Gazette Newsletter. Links also to the Meeting Handouts on past presentations.

Send your comments and suggestions to the PPCUG Webmaster,
Alan Baker @ jackal33980@gmail.com (931) 239-0877

Disk Cleanup vs Storage Sense – Which Should You Use in Windows 11?

- by John Edward

Tags: **WINDOWS 11**



Keeping your Windows 11 PC running smoothly requires regular maintenance, and one of the easiest ways to improve performance is by managing your storage. Over time, your computer collects temporary files, old update files, cache data, delivery optimization files, and other digital clutter that can consume valuable disk space.

Windows 11 gives users two built-in tools for cleaning up storage: **Disk Cleanup** and **Storage Sense**. Both tools help remove unnecessary files, but they work differently. So, which one should you use? The answer depends on how much control you want, how often you want cleanup to happen, and what type of files you need to remove.

In this guide, we will compare **Disk Cleanup vs Storage Sense in Windows 11**, explain their differences, benefits, limitations, and help you choose the right option for your PC.

What Is Disk Cleanup in Windows 11?

Disk Cleanup is a classic Windows utility that has been available for many years. It is designed to help users manually remove unnecessary files from their system drive.

When you open Disk Cleanup, Windows scans your computer and shows categories of files that can be safely deleted. These may include:

- Temporary internet files
- System temporary files
- Windows update cleanup files
- Recycle Bin contents
- Delivery Optimization files
- Device driver packages
- Previous Windows installations

One of the biggest advantages of Disk Cleanup is that it gives you detailed control. You can review exactly what will be deleted before starting the cleanup process.

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For advanced users, Disk Cleanup also includes a “Clean up system files” option. This performs a deeper scan and can remove old Windows installation files or leftover update data that may take up many gigabytes of space.

However, Disk Cleanup is mostly a manual tool. You need to open it and run it whenever you want to clean your system.

What Is Storage Sense in Windows 11?

Storage Sense is the newer storage management feature built into Windows 11. Instead of waiting until your drive is full, Storage Sense can automatically clean unnecessary files in the background.

Storage Sense can automatically remove:

- Temporary files
- Recycle Bin items after a chosen period
- Files in the Downloads folder after a chosen period
- Local OneDrive files that are not frequently used

The main idea behind Storage Sense is automation. Once configured, it can regularly maintain your storage without requiring you to remember to run a cleanup tool.

You can customize Storage Sense settings by choosing when Windows should run cleanup, such as daily, weekly, monthly, or when storage space is low.

For most everyday users, Storage Sense provides a simple “set it and forget it” approach.

Disk Cleanup vs Storage Sense: Main Differences

Although both tools remove unnecessary files, they are built for different purposes.

1. Manual Control vs Automation

The biggest difference is how they work.

Disk Cleanup is manual. You open it, select what you want removed, and start the process.

Storage Sense is automatic. Once enabled, Windows manages cleanup based on your settings.

If you like checking everything before deleting files, Disk Cleanup gives you more control. If you prefer convenience, Storage Sense is easier.

2. Cleanup Options

Disk Cleanup generally provides more detailed cleanup categories, especially when scanning system files.

Storage Sense focuses on common storage problems and ongoing maintenance.

For example, if you recently upgraded Windows and have a large “Previous Windows installation” folder, Disk Cleanup may be the better option.

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For regular removal of temporary files, Storage Sense is usually enough.

3. Frequency of Use

Disk Cleanup works well when you need a one-time cleanup.

Examples:

- Your hard drive is almost full
- Windows updates created large leftover files
- Your PC feels slower than usual

Storage Sense is better for regular maintenance because it runs automatically.

4. User Experience

Storage Sense is easier for beginners because it is integrated into Windows Settings.

You can find it by going to:

Settings → System → Storage → Storage Sense

Disk Cleanup is a traditional desktop utility and may feel less modern, but it still remains useful.

Which One Should You Use?

For most Windows 11 users, **Storage Sense is the better everyday choice.**

It keeps your computer clean automatically and reduces the chance of running out of storage unexpectedly. You do not need to remember monthly maintenance because Windows handles it for you.

However, Disk Cleanup is still valuable when you need deeper cleaning.

A good strategy is to use both:

- Enable Storage Sense for automatic maintenance
- Use Disk Cleanup occasionally for deeper cleanup

This combination gives you convenience and control.

How to Enable Storage Sense in Windows 11

To turn on Storage Sense:

1. Open Windows Settings
2. Select System

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3. Click Storage
4. Choose Storage Sense
5. Turn it on
6. Adjust cleanup preferences

You can decide how often Windows runs cleanup and what files it should remove.

For example, you may want Windows to automatically clear temporary files but keep your Downloads folder untouched.

How to Run Disk Cleanup in Windows 11

To use Disk Cleanup:

1. Press Windows + S
2. Search for Disk Cleanup
3. Open the application
4. Choose your drive
5. Select the files you want removed
6. Click OK

For deeper cleanup:

1. Open Disk Cleanup
2. Select your drive
3. Click “Clean up system files”
4. Review the available options
5. Start cleanup

Always review the selected items before deleting, especially if you are unsure about a file category.

Does Storage Sense Delete Important Files?

Storage Sense is designed to remove unnecessary files, but settings matter.

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The Downloads folder option deserves attention. If enabled, Storage Sense can remove files from Downloads after a certain period. If you store important documents there, adjust the setting carefully.

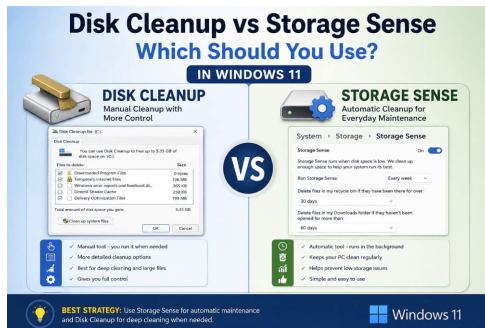
Most temporary files and system cache files are safe to remove.

Does Disk Cleanup Improve PC Performance?

Disk Cleanup does not magically make your computer faster, but it can help when storage space is low.

A nearly full drive can affect Windows performance, updates, and application behavior. Removing unnecessary files creates more free space and can help your system run more smoothly.

For SSD users, keeping reasonable free space is especially helpful for maintaining good performance.



The winner depends on your needs.

Choose **Storage Sense** if:

- You want automatic cleanup
- You do not want to manage files manually
- You want simple Windows maintenance

Choose **Disk Cleanup** if:

- You need deeper cleanup
- You want full control
- You need to remove old Windows files

For the best Windows 11 experience, use Storage Sense as your regular maintenance tool and keep Disk Cleanup as a backup option for occasional deep cleaning.

Both tools are useful, but Storage Sense is the modern solution for most users

How to Use Resource Monitor and Performance Monitor in Windows 11: **A Complete Guide**

- by John Edward



A slow computer can be frustrating, especially when you are working, gaming, studying, or running important applications. Many Windows 11 users notice problems like high CPU usage, low memory, slow startup times, or applications freezing but do not know where to find the cause.

Fortunately, Windows 11 includes powerful built-in tools that help you understand what is happening inside your system. Two of the most useful tools are **Resource Monitor** and **Performance Monitor**. These tools allow you to view detailed information about your computer's CPU, memory, storage, and network activity without installing third-party software.

In this guide, we will explain what Resource Monitor and Performance Monitor are, how to open them, and how you can use them to improve your Windows 11 experience.

What Is Resource Monitor in Windows 11?

Resource Monitor is a built-in Windows tool that provides a detailed view of how system resources are being used in real time. While Task Manager gives you a quick overview, Resource Monitor provides deeper information about running processes and hardware activity.

With Resource Monitor, you can check:

- CPU usage by individual programs
- RAM and memory activity
- Hard drive and SSD usage
- Network connections
- Running processes and services

It is especially useful when your computer suddenly becomes slow and you want to find the exact program causing the problem. **How to Open Resource Monitor in Windows 11**

There are several ways to launch Resource Monitor.

Method 1: Using Windows Search

1. Click the Start button.

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2. Type **Resource Monitor**.
3. Select the Resource Monitor application.

Method 2: Using the Run Command

1. Press **Windows + R** on your keyboard.
 2. Type:
resmon
 3. Press Enter.
- Resource Monitor will open immediately.

Method 3: Through Task Manager

1. Press **Ctrl + Shift + Esc** to open Task Manager.
2. Click the **Performance** tab.
3. Select **Open Resource Monitor** at the bottom.

Understanding Resource Monitor Tabs

When Resource Monitor opens, you will see several tabs that provide different types of information.

CPU Tab

The CPU tab shows how your processor is being used. You can see:

- Active processes
- CPU percentage usage
- Services running in the background
- CPU time used by applications

If your computer feels slow, check whether a program is using an unusually high amount of CPU power.

For example, a browser with many open tabs, a background update, or a poorly optimized application may consume too many processor resources.

Memory Tab

The Memory tab helps you understand RAM usage.

You can monitor:

- Used memory
- Available memory
- Memory faults
- Applications consuming RAM

If your available memory is consistently low, Windows may start using virtual memory, which can make your system slower.

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Disk Tab

The Disk tab shows which programs are reading or writing data. This is helpful when:

- Your computer takes a long time to open files
- Applications freeze
- The hard drive stays active

You can identify programs that are constantly accessing your storage.

Network Tab

The Network tab displays internet and local network activity. You can check:

- Programs using the internet
- Data transfer rates
- Active connections

This can help find applications using bandwidth in the background.

What Is Performance Monitor in Windows 11?

Performance Monitor is another advanced Windows tool designed for tracking system performance over time.

Unlike Resource Monitor, which focuses on real-time activity, Performance Monitor allows you to collect and analyze performance data.

It is useful for:

- Long-term monitoring
- Finding repeated performance problems
- Creating reports
- Tracking system health

IT professionals often use Performance Monitor because it provides detailed information about Windows systems.

How to Open Performance Monitor in Windows 11

Method 1: Using Windows Search

1. Open the Start menu.
2. Search for **Performance Monitor**.
3. Open the application.

Method 2: Using Run Command

1. Press **Windows + R**.
 2. Type:
perfmon
 3. Press Enter.
- Performance Monitor will launch.

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How to Use Performance Monitor

When you open Performance Monitor, you will see a graph displaying performance data. By default, it monitors basic counters, but you can add many more.

Adding Performance Counters

To add a counter:

1. Click the green plus (+) button.
2. Select a performance category.
3. Choose a counter.
4. Click Add.
5. Press OK.

Some useful counters include:

- Processor usage
- Available memory
- Disk activity
- Network traffic
- Application performance

These counters help you understand how your computer behaves over time.

Creating Data Collector Sets

One of the strongest features of Performance Monitor is Data Collector Sets. They allow you to record system information automatically.

To create one:

1. Open Performance Monitor.
2. Expand **Data Collector Sets**.
3. Right-click **User Defined**.
4. Select New.
5. Choose Data Collector Set.

You can schedule monitoring and review the collected reports later.

This is useful when troubleshooting problems that happen randomly because you can analyze what happened when the issue occurred.

Resource Monitor vs Performance Monitor

Although both tools monitor Windows performance, they serve different purposes.

Resource Monitor is best for:

- Checking current problems
- Finding programs using too many resources
- Real-time troubleshooting

Performance Monitor is best for:

- Recording performance history
- Advanced system analysis
- Creating detailed reports

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Using both tools together gives you a complete picture of your computer's health.

Tips for Better Windows 11 Performance Monitoring

Here are some practical tips:

Check After Installing New Software

If your computer slows down after installing a new program, use Resource Monitor to see whether it is consuming too many resources.

Monitor Startup Issues

Performance Monitor can help identify repeated slowdowns after Windows starts.

Watch Background Applications

Many applications continue running even when you are not actively using them. Monitoring CPU, memory, and network activity can reveal unnecessary background processes.



Use Reports Before Upgrading Hardware

Before buying more RAM or a new drive, check your system usage. Performance Monitor can help determine whether hardware is actually the problem.

Resource Monitor and Performance Monitor are two powerful tools included with Windows 11 that many users overlook. They provide detailed information about what is happening inside your computer and can help solve many common performance issues.

Resource Monitor is perfect for quick troubleshooting because it shows real-time activity. Performance Monitor is better for detailed analysis and tracking problems over time.

Learning how to use these tools can help you keep your Windows 11 PC running smoothly, identify hidden issues, and make smarter decisions about system upgrades

Printing your photos

By Lynda Buske
Published in Ottawa PC News (Month Year)
Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada
<https://opcug.ca>
Editor: brigittelord(at)opcug.ca

Despite our digital world, it is really nice sometimes to print a photo that you can stick on your fridge, display on your wall, or even frame and give as a gift. The main thing to remember is that the print size for a digital image may be limited.

All digital cameras and cell phones have sufficient megapixels to provide the resolution for a 4x6 or 5x7 photo enlargement. Many would have enough for much larger prints (e.g., 8x10 or 11x14). However, cropping in post-production will reduce your image dimensions.

The best starting point is determining what a good quality home or commercial printer will provide. In most instances, the gold standard is 300 dpi (dots per inch), which you can equate to 300 pixels. That means if you want to print an 8x10, the long side of your image would ideally be at least 3000 pixels (10x300). For 16x20, you would probably like the long side to have around 6000 pixels.

The table below provides a rough guideline for the maximum print size of good quality that you can expect based on the number of megapixels your camera has.

Camera resolution	File size at high resolution (pixels)	Max print size at 330 dpi
2 megapixels	1200 x 1600	4 x 5
3 megapixels	1536 x 2048	5 x 7
	2448 x 3264	8 x 10
8 megapixels	2592 x 3888	8 x 14
	2800 x 4000	8 x 14
10 megapixels	3264 x 4920	11 x 14
	3744 x 5616	12 x 18
12 megapixels	4000 x 6000	16 x 20
16 megapixels		
21 megapixels		
24 megapixels		

If you have a 24MP camera, your images will probably be 6000x4000 pixels. This means you can do a lot of cropping before going under the 3000-pixel threshold. If you shoot with a 12 MP camera and then crop your images significantly, you may not be able to print an 8x10. However, if your cropped image dimension is still around 1200x1600, based on the chart above, you could print a 4x6. Some older cell phones have only 5 or 6 megapixels, so be careful when deciding what size to print. Unfortunately, many family pictures we want to treasure are taken at social events with cell phones, so get close to minimize the need to crop. Unless you are sure your cell phone has an optical zoom on the camera, don't "zoom" with the finger spread as that is just cropping and hence losing resolution. Even if cell phones tout 20MP or 100MPs, almost all only output 12MP due to pixel binning [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pixel_binning].

The easiest way to see your image's dimensions in the Windows environment is to go to *File Explorer* and right-click on the photo. Then click on *Properties*, select the detail tab, and find the dimensions below.

One final consideration when making prints is the viewing distance. If you print a 4x6, there is a good chance it will be held in your hand or an album and, hence, very close to your discerning eye. If, on the other hand, you make an 11x14 print for your wall, it may never be viewed at less than a few feet, and therefore the resolution does not have to be as good.

You may have to experiment as to which image dimensions produce an adequate enlargement for your viewing needs and which printing service provides the quality you want. I recommend printing one 8x10 as a test before committing to a company. When submitting digital photos online, many services will warn you if the resolution is not adequate for the print size you requested.

I have found the quality of prints at Shutterfly and Photobook Canada to be very good, but there are significant delivery fees. On the other hand, Staples has the quality but no delivery fees if you pick it up at the store. However, it takes five business days. If you want a quick turnaround of 4x6 prints, a place like Walmart is probably all you need.



Plateau PC Users Group, Inc.

Application for Membership for 2026-2027

----- New Member

----- Renewing Member

Return this application with a check for annual dues payable to "PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP"
Return to the club Treasurer during our meeting or mail to
"PPCUG Treasurer. 221 Tomlon Road, Crossville TN 38555"

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st. of each fiscal year.

Persons// families joining during the fiscal year have dues payable as follows:

<u>Join In</u>	<u>July - Sept</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - June</u>
Single	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	\$30	\$22	\$15	\$7

Date: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____ by Cash _____, or Check (# _____)

Last Name *First Name* *Family Member (if family membership)*

Address:

City *State* *Zip Code* (*Phone Number*)

E-Mail address: -----
Please Print

I have belonged to a Computer Club before: Yes _____ No _____

I have used PC's since (year): _____

I have knowledge in the following areas that I would be willing to share with club members:



August 2026



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
						1
2	3	4	5 10:00 A.M. PPCUG Board Mtg.	6	7	8
9	10	11 3:00 P.M. General Mtg. Presentation. Followed by Q&A Session	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					