Disk Full Message

Q. Today while working on my computer I received this message, "the disk is full".
   What does this mean?
A. First you need to determine what kind of disk is full...are you writing files to a
   floppy disk, to a CD, to a flash drive or to an external hard drive, or internal slave
   drive?
IF none of these are being used, then you must suspect it is your hard drive which is
   also a "disk" and is "full".

1. Doubleclick My Computer
2. Rightclick the C: drive which is generally the primary, master drive disk in your
   computer.
3. This brings up the "hard drive pie". Three bits of info are here. The total space on
   the C: drive, the amount of used space and the amount of free space. IF your free
   space is very small, the hard drive is going to crash if you continue to add data.
   Some free space is required for some of the hard drive space to be available when
   resources (RAM) gets too low. Virtual Memory is created by your computer
   system using available free hard drive space.
4. If it is determined that you are running out of hard drive space, you must copy
   your important data files immediately to some other media so you don't lose them
   when the impending crash occurs. You may use an external hard drive, flash
   drive, floppy disks, CDs,etc. But get your important data to a safe place. IF you
   have none of the above, you can attach the most important files to emails and send
   them to yourself. IT may take many emails but this method can be used as a last
   resort. Do NOT open those emails. When the problem with the hard drive is
   remedied, you can then open the files and download them to your new hard drive
   or to your old hard drive which now has more space. Or if you got it fixed before
   the crash, you can delete the emails.
5. Once the data is safe, it's time to do a clean up of your hard drive to see if enough
   space can be recovered for it to be useful.
     a. Cleanout all old email and if using AOL compact the Personal File Folder. IF
   using some other ISPs you may have a Purge Deleted email option.
     b. A lot of space may be recovered by copying pictures and or music to CDs and
   deleting them from your computer.
     c. Old programs that are no longer used may be removed via the control Panel
   and add/remove programs.
     d. Do a Disk Cleanup.
     e. Perform Error Correcting on the hard drive.
     f. Delete all old Restore points. It will keep the latest restore point.
     g. When all the above are done, run Defrag.
Restart your computer and check hard drive disk space again as in steps 1,2 & 3
   above. IF the disk space is still very little, consider a new computer with a larger
   hard drive, or if you computer is less than 3 years old consider adding a second
   Slave hard drive or external hard drive. Don't spend big bucks adding a second
   hard drive to a 6 year old computer.
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