

Automate Disk Cleanup using Task Scheduler in Windows XP

By using Task Scheduler in Windows XP, you can set Disk Cleanup to run at any scheduled day, week or time. You can also set it to run when you start your computer or when you log in. It's a good way to clean out temp files and Internet temp files.

Before you start this procedure, make sure have an account (user name) on your computer that has a password. The task won't run if you have a blank password. To create an account, go to control panel/user accounts. Select create a new user. Type in a new user name, I use Admin, give the user account Administrative rights and set a password.

What we are going to do is use a Windows utility that creates information in the registry that will be used by the disk clean up utility and tell it what items you want the utility to clean from your system.

Let's Start



<http://windowsxp.mvps.org/images/Cleanmgr1.JPG> Type **cleanmgr /d c:/sageset:100** in the RUN box. The Disk Cleanup dialog box appears. Check the items you want to clean every time you run this process, for example Recycle Bin, Temp files, Temporary Internet Files, Old Chkdsk files and then click on OK.

/d driveletter: - *This switch selects the drive that you want Disk Cleanup to clean. In this example, the C drive. Note that the /d switch is not used with /sagerun:n command we will use next.*

Create a new shortcut in your Windows folder using **cleanmgr /sagerun:100** as the command line. Name it as *CleanupTask*.

Browse to your Windows folder and open it. In a blank area, right click and select New, then select short cut. In the location enter **cleanmgr /sagerun:100**, click next. Enter the short cut name as **Cleanup Task**. You can use any name you want. Click on Finish.

Using the Task Scheduler

- Open Scheduled Tasks from Start Menu, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools.
- Double-click *Add Scheduled Task*
- Choose *Next*
- Click on *Browse* and locate the shortcut file that you just created [CleanupTask]
- Choose *Weekly* and click Next
- Select the Time and day during which you want the CleanupTask to run or to start when you log on.
- Click *Next*
- Type-in the Username and password. [*By default, task scheduler won't run with blank password*]
- Choose *Next, Finish*



NOTE: `sageset:n` - option displays the Disk Cleanup Settings dialog box and also creates a registry key to store the settings that you select. The `n` value, which is stored in the registry, allows you to specify tasks for Disk Cleanup to run. The `n` value can be any integer value from 0 to 65535. To have all of the options available when you use the `/sageset` option, you might need to specify the drive where Windows is installed. You can have any number of tasks created [in Sageset 1, you can select "Recycle Bin", in Sageset configuration 2, you can deselect Recycle-bin. Each of the Sageset configurations are stored in the following registry key and sub-keys:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SOFTWARE \ Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ Explorer \ VolumeCaches
```

Information from Microsoft and Ramesh's Windows XP Troubleshooting web sites were used in the preparation of this document.

Revised 6/14/2009 JMM