SCANDISK and DEFRAGMENTER

Q. Every time I try to run scandisk or defrag it keeps starting over until it gives me a message that it has restarted 10 times because there are programs running. I don't think I have programs running. What can I do to make it complete these?

A.
 I think MS has slipped something to our computers to interfere with Win98 defragmenter. Almost everyone using win98 did scandisk and defrag before Jan in windows mode. Now almost everyone must switch to SAFE MODE, MS-DOS or msconfig and turn off LOAD THESE ITEMS AT STARTUP in order to complete these tasks.

Msconfig:
1. Click START....RUN type in msconfig and click OK.
2. On the screen that comes up, click the bottom box, "LOAD THESE ITEMS AT STARTUP" to disable (remove check).
3. Click APPLY...OK and say YES to restart.
Now try scandisk and defrag. Should be no restarts.
Must also disable any Screen Savers and Power Management sleep modes.
Upon completion, return to START...RUN...msconfig and put the check back into the bottom box. This time click STARTUP and select only those boxes for programs that you wish to have start up each time you start your computer.
The only ones I have checked are System Tray, Registry Scan, Norton's and my firewall. After making selections, click Apply...OK and Yes to restart.

SAFE MODE:
Restart computer, hold down the CTRL key so that it brings up the menu to give you the choice to open in SAFE MODE.
Once opened in Safe Mode, run scandisk & defrag.
Again restart, hold down CTRL key to get menu. Select NORMAL.

MS-DOS:
Click START...SHUTDOWN...RESTART IN MS-DOS.
At the C:\windows> type cd C:\ and press ENTER.
At C:\ type scandisk and press ENTER
upon completion, at the C:\ type defrag and press ENTER

I prefer to use the **SAFE MODE** method

IF neither of the above work, there must be another problem:

Q: Why does Scandisk keep restarting?

A: You probably have some utility program running that is accessing the hard drive, it may be a screen saver program or a power management 'sleep' schedule or you may have a virus.

Restart your computer. When Windows starts, press Ctrl-Alt-Del to see what's running. With the exception of Explorer and Systray, select each program and click End Task. You'll have to press Ctrl-Alt-Del each time because the window closes).

After you end the extra programs in the list, try Scandisk again. If the problem is still there I suggest that you buy an anti-virus program such as McAfee or Norton's or download the free version of AVG. Follow their instructions carefully to check for a virus.

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