

Regain Disk Space on Your Mac

Reclaim precious disk space with six easy steps

Disk space is a precious commodity. Whether you're running OS X off of a solid-state drive, or have a ridiculously large hard drive that's filled to the brim with partially downloaded media files, it's nice to do a little house cleaning from time to time to ensure that your system is running at full speed. Oh, and it's not always those apps that are the culprit—there's a ton of hidden resources that are usually left behind, even after you've banned an application to the Trash. We'll show you how to get rid of stuff, get your files in order, and regain disk space without losing your mind.

BY CORY BOHON

>>> **WHAT YOU NEED**

LEVEL: **easy**

>> Patience

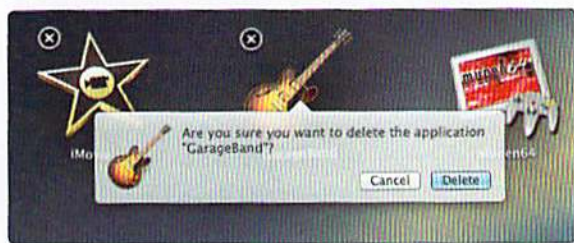
More data means more problems.



1 Delete Apps

For apps downloaded from the Mac App Store, you can simply delete them from Launchpad. Click and hold the application you want to delete and then click the small "x" in the corner of the app icon—just like in iOS. Don't worry if you change your mind later: you can always download the app from the store's Purchased tab—if you have the space for it, that is.

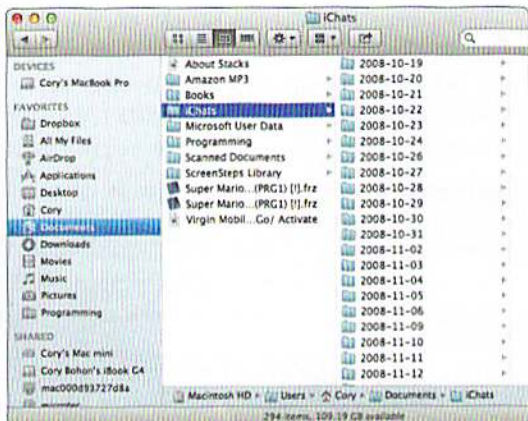
If you installed an application from a location other than the Mac App Store, you can delete it by using an application such as App Zapper. This will ensure that all of the app support files are removed in addition to the application itself.



Easily delete apps from Launchpad.

2 Delete Old Documents and iChat Logs

If you have iChat (or Adium) chat logging turned on, then you've got multiple text files taking up room any time you chat with one of your buddies. While these logs are meant for archiving conversations, a constant instant-messenger might find they accumulate way too many chat logs. But, you can easily view and remove your old log files by going to your user folder and navigating to Documents > iChat in the Finder. If you're using Adium, head to your user folder and navigate to Library > Application Support > Adium > Users > Default > Logs.

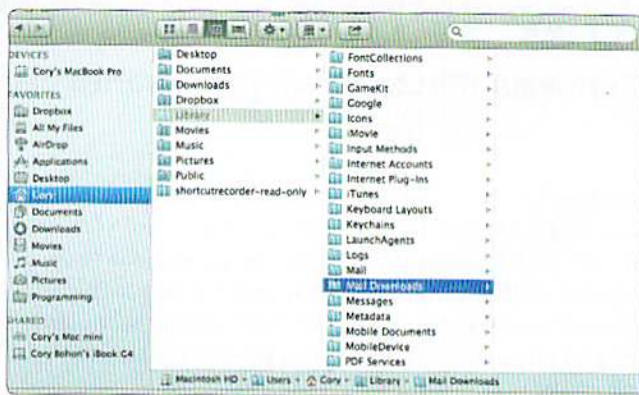


Chat logs can take up a lot of room on your hard drive.

3 Clean Up Mail Downloads

Just like iChat logs, the Mail app is notorious for stowing away Mail attachments, even if you might not want them on your hard drive. You may find these files accumulating in large quantities in your Home folder > Library > Mail Downloads in the Finder. You can generally delete any files here without issue, and as long as you have the original message, the attachment will be paired with it. However, you can still move any file from this location if you don't have the original message.

Mail downloads any attachments you get regardless of whether or not you want them there.

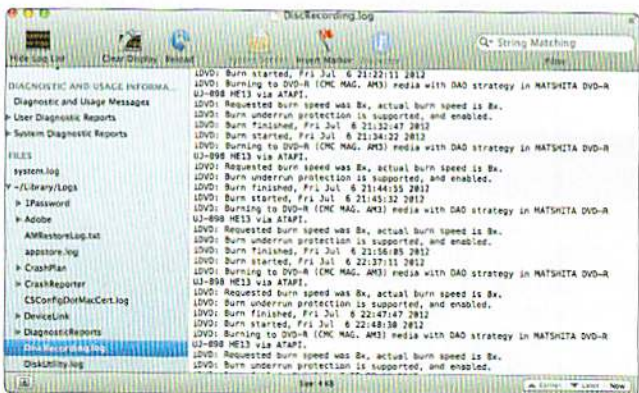


4 Remove Old Log Files

Log files are a way that your Mac archives important system events. If you use your computer every day, these tend to bulk up. Fortunately, you can delete old log files in the Console application, which is located in /Applications/Utilities.

You can manually delete the log files from within the Console application by right-clicking on any of the files and choosing Move to Trash, or you can use an application like Onyx to automate the process.

Remove old log files that may be taking up too much room.

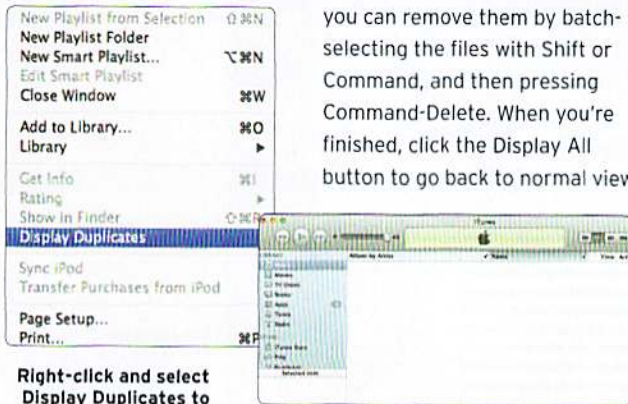


5 Get Rid of iTunes Duplicates

Duplicate media files: it's something we're all victim to. It's all too common with iTunes, but they're easy to get rid of. Launch iTunes and select the sidebar item you want to find duplicates in (Music, Movies, TV Shows, Books, Apps, Tones, and so on).

Next, navigate to File > Display Duplicates. If nothing is displayed, then there are no duplicates and your work here is done.

However, if you do see files, you can remove them by batch-selecting the files with Shift or Command, and then pressing Command-Delete. When you're finished, click the Display All button to go back to normal view.



Right-click and select Display Duplicates to catch 'em all.

Look, ma! No duplicates!

6 Reset Your Browser

It doesn't matter which one you use—your browser is the biggest offender of holding on to files that you don't need. Resetting your browser every now and again will free up space. You can do this in Safari under Safari > Reset Safari. You can also do the same thing in Firefox by choosing Tools > Clear Recent

History. In Chrome, go to Options under the wrench icon in the right corner of the browser, then point your cursor to Under the Hood and click the "Reset to defaults" button.



You can easily reset Safari's settings with the click of a button.