

6 ways to clean up the Windows Registry

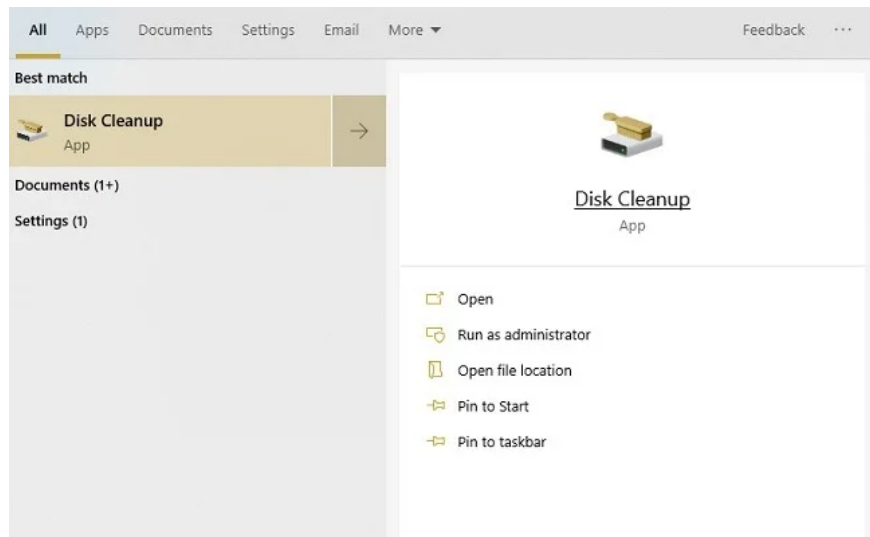
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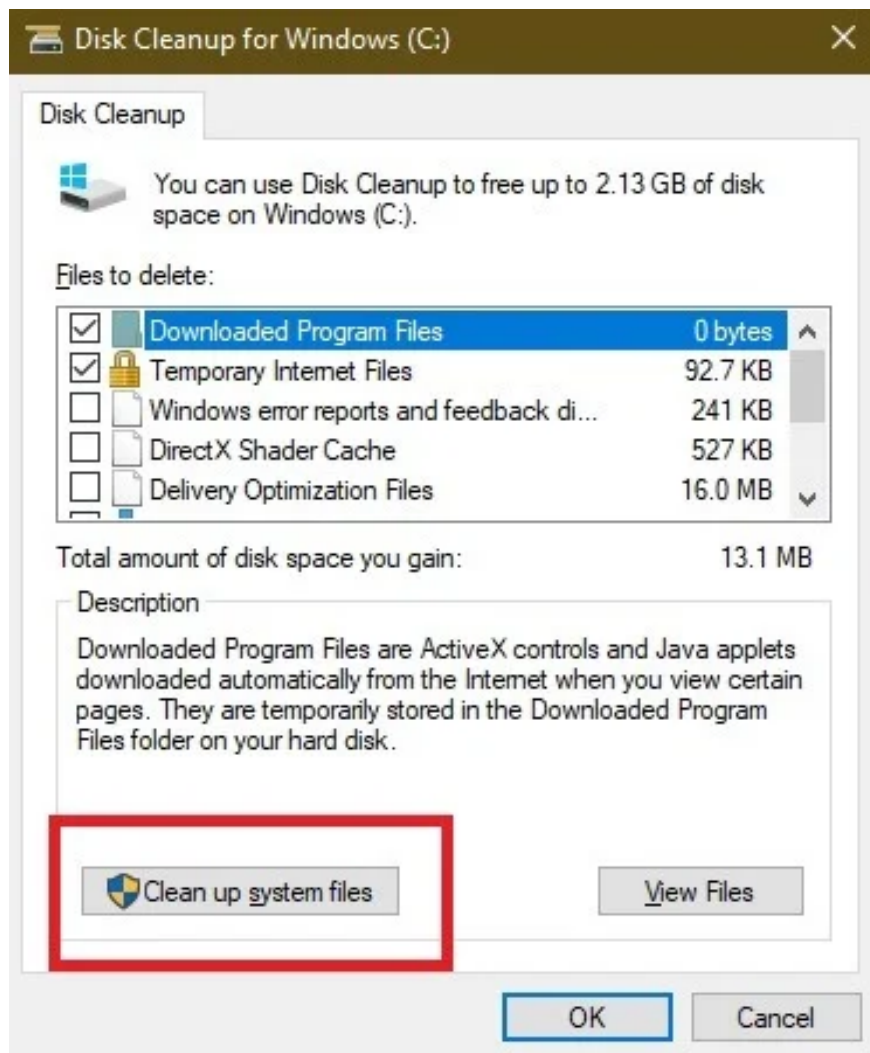
1. Use the Disk Cleanup feature

The simplest way to clean up the Windows Registry is to use the built-in Disk Cleanup utility. This utility is also great for cleaning excess files from your hard drive. It is not for the registry but it can complete the removal of leftovers from applications and drivers. When it removes these files, the corresponding registry entries are usually also deleted.

Open Start, type **disk cleanup** and select the **Disk Cleanup** result .



After the tool runs a scan, click **Clean Up System Files** . There will be some additional options available after the tool runs a second time.

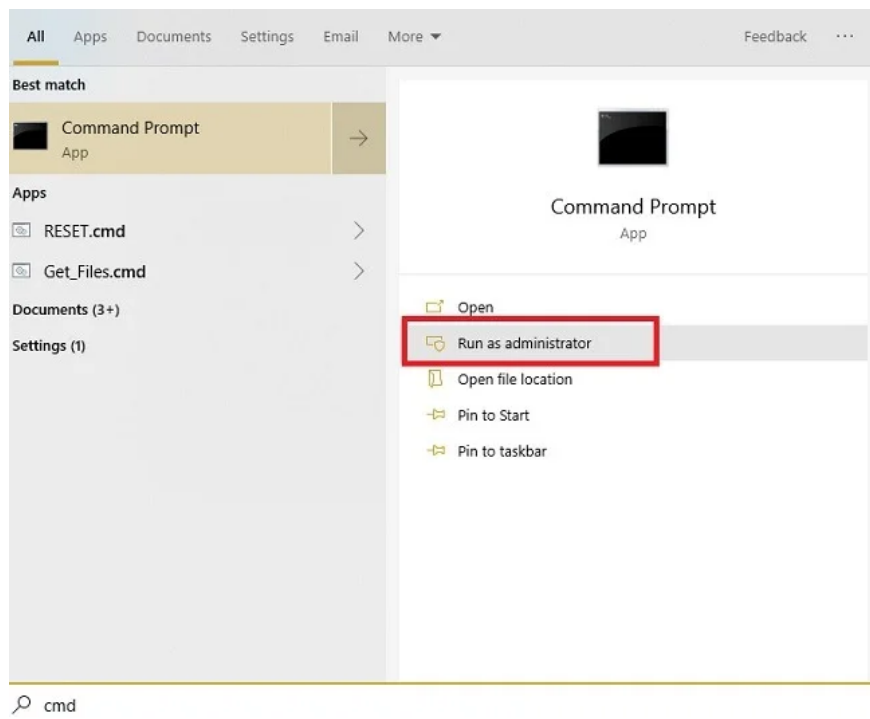


Check any options you want or select them all. Just make sure there isn't anything in the Recycle Bin that you want to keep. Click **OK** to clean up the system.

2. Use DISM

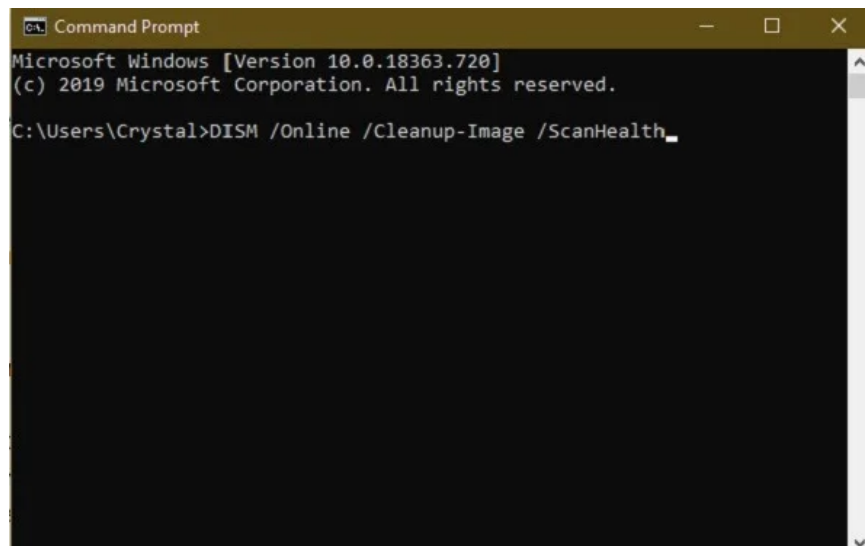
DISM, short for Deployment Image Servicing and Management, is a built-in Windows tool used to repair system and update errors. It can also help repair problems related to corrupt registry entries. Although not a full Registry cleaner, it can improve the health of the Registry.

Open Start and type **cmd** . Select **Run as administrator** in Command Prompt.



Enter the following information at the command prompt:

```
DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /ScanHealth
```

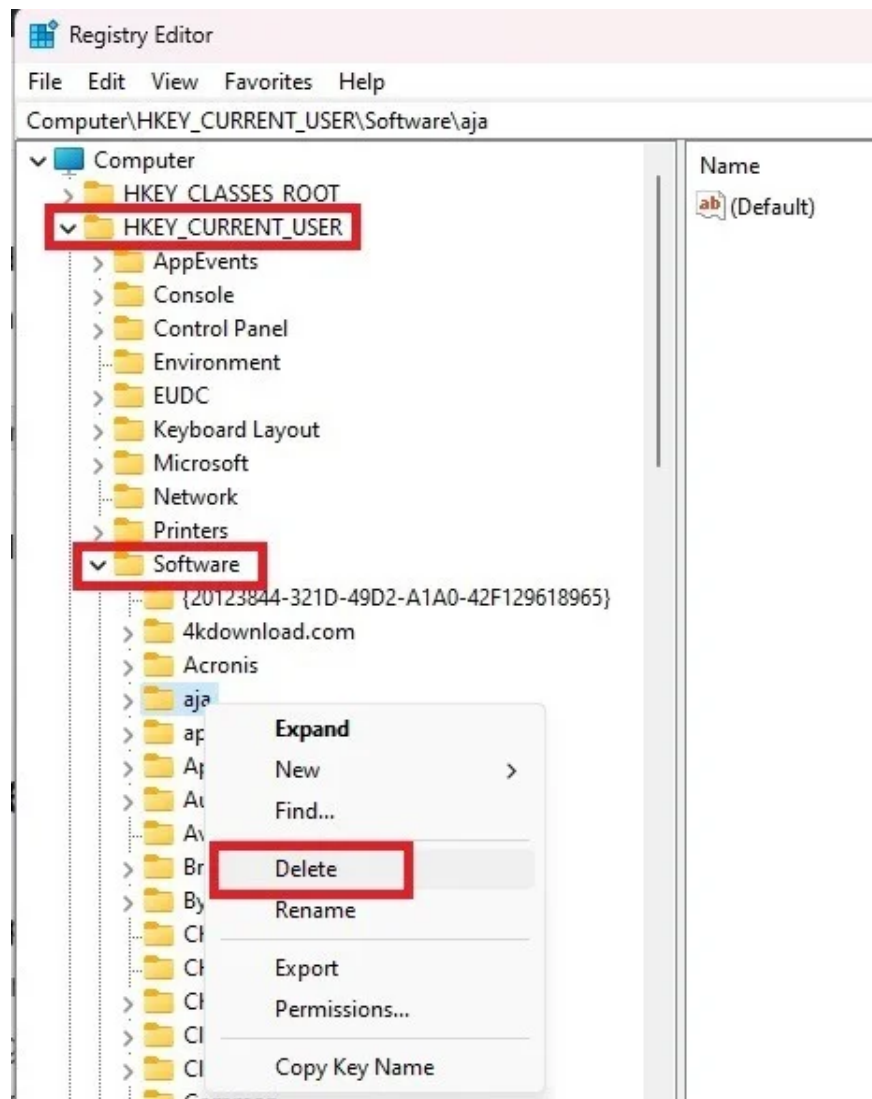


The scanning process finds and cleans up errors. All of this will have nothing to do with the Registry. This can help your PC run better by fixing problems encountered.

3. Clean up the Windows Registry manually

If you don't mind digging into the Registry, clean the Registry manually without using any other tools. When using this method, always have a backup first.

Press **Win + R** and type **regedit** to open Registry Editor. Navigate to **HKEY_CURRENT_USER > Software** . Search for any uninstalled software/apps. If you see a folder containing software, right-click it and select **Delete** .

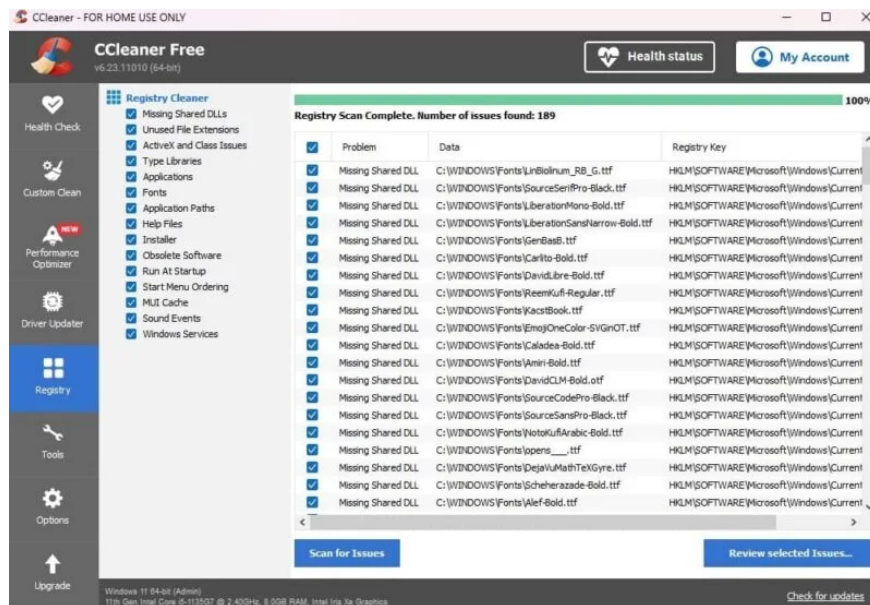


Once done, navigate to **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE > Software** . Repeat the process of deleting folders of uninstalled software.

4. Use CCleaner

CCleaner has been a popular PC cleaner for many years. From deleting cookies and temporary files to helping manage startup options, it does a number of things, such as cleaning up the Windows Registry. It can also make a Registry backup before cleaning, which is a good idea.

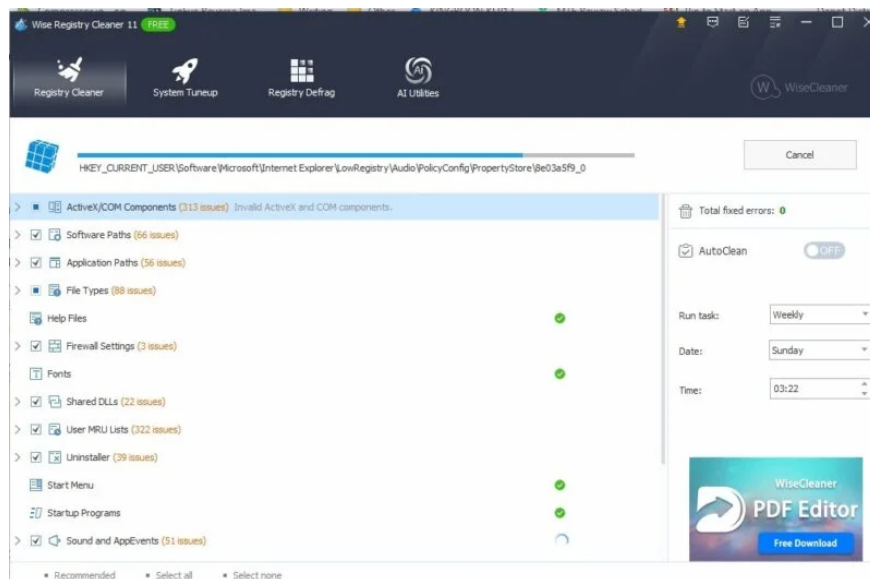
Open CCleaner, select **Registry** , then click **Scan for Issues** . Select **Review selected Issues > Yes** to back up the Registry and delete individual or all entries.



While there are premium options available, the free version is all that is needed. The tool can be run by right-clicking on the Recycle Bin or opening it through the Start menu.

5. Clean with Wise Register Cleaner

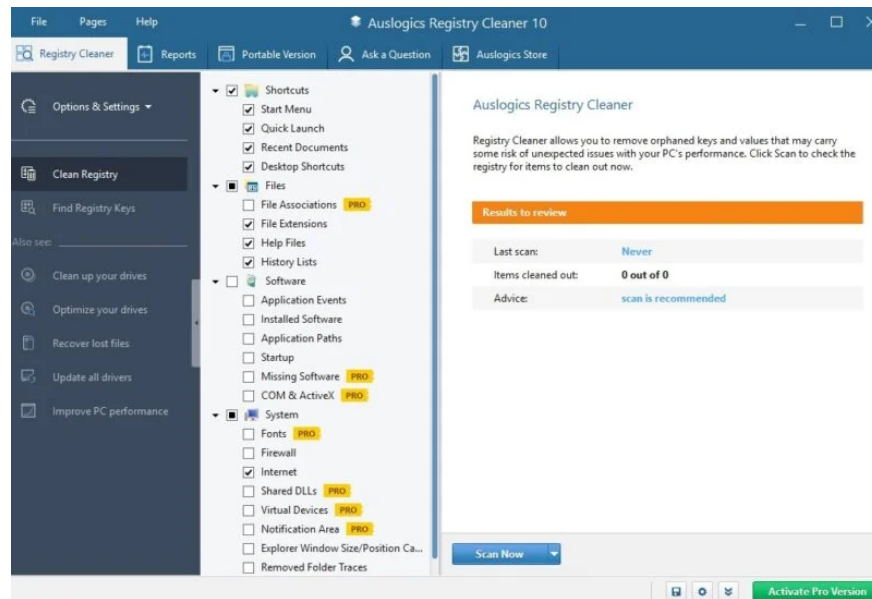
Wise Registry Cleaner is a free, lightweight tool to clean the Windows Registry. Just select **Registry Cleaner** > **Scan** . You will be prompted to back up the Registry for the first time.



There is a premium version available, but the free version handles almost everything needed. The premium version has a scheduled cleaning feature. If using the free version, make a note to use it every few months.

6. Use Auslogics Register Cleaner

Auslogics Register Cleaner has a long history of helping users clean up the Windows Registry. The free version offers basic scanning functionality, which is usually enough for most users. However, it is possible to upgrade to the premium version to receive notifications as well as deeper scanning and cleaning. Select **Scan Now** at the bottom to start scanning for errors.



All can be reviewed before deleting any item, providing full control. However, the tool will only select items that are safe to delete.

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