

How to clean, speed up your Mac

Feeling that your Mac is much slower than when you first bought it, here are ways to help you speed up your Mac quickly and easily to get it running at top speed.

Here are the steps to clean up, and speed up your Mac

1. Software update



The latest security patches are essential to keep your Mac working well, and Apple is doing well in optimizing new software updates for better performance. To update MacOS, just follow these steps:

Step 1: Click the apple icon in the upper left corner, then select About This Mac.

Step 2: Click Software Update to see if there's a new version of MacOS available.

To update software and apps from the App Store, do the following:

Step 1: Click the Apple icon located in the upper left corner and select App Store on the drop-down menu.

Step 2: Select Update in the left column and click Update all.

2. Use the Optimization function



Apple introduced Optimize Storage in MacOS Sierra to help free up space and improve speed.

Step 1: Click the Apple icon located in the top left corner and select About This Mac on the drop-down menu.

Step 2: Click the Storage tab on the pop-up window.

Step 3: Click Manage.

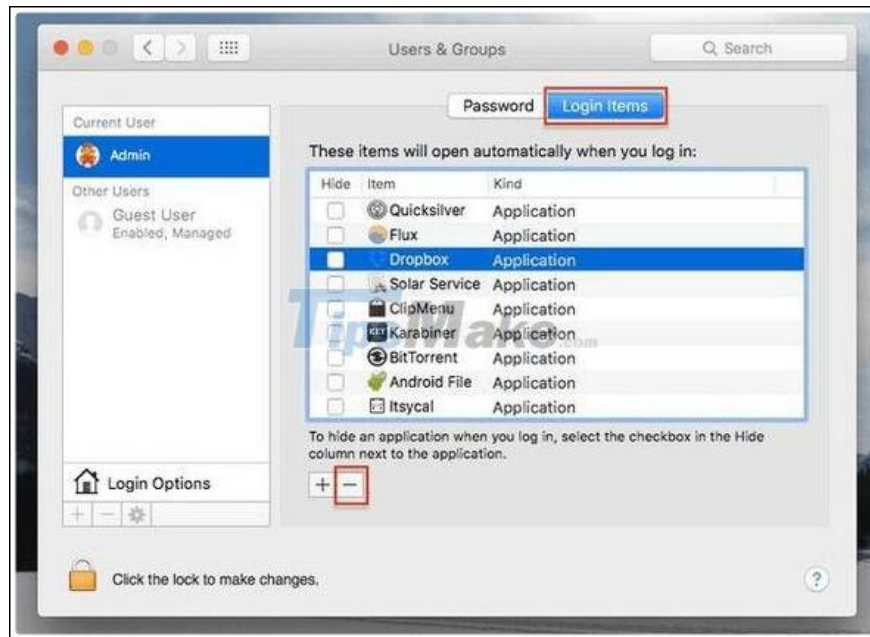
Here, you'll find many useful tools, including ways to store all your files in iCloud and the unnecessary things you can delete. However, the most useful tool is Optimize Storage, which allows you to delete downloaded TV shows, recent attachments, etc.

3. Scan for malware

While it is true that macOS has certain security advantages since most malware is for Windows, Mac is not completely immune to malware. Experts recommend downloading an anti-virus application.

There are plenty of trusted and free apps out there, offering free one-time scans for malware, for example.

4. Turn off the login entries



If your Mac has been booting for too long, there may be too many applications starting with the system. Disabling these logins not only speeds up the boot process, but also can free up system resources and speed up your entire system.

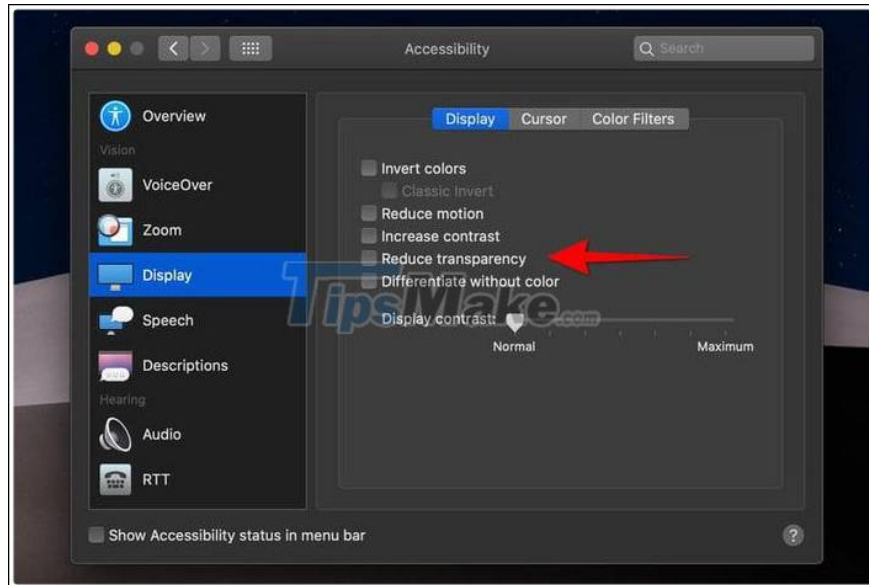
Step 1: Click the Apple icon located in the top right corner and select System Preferences on the drop-down menu.

Step 2: Select Users & Groups in the following window.

Step 3: Click the Log Items tab.

Here, you will see a list of the applications that load when your Mac boots up. If you see the apps you don't need, select them from the list and click the minus button at the bottom of the window.

5. Reduce transparency



MacOS visual effects first appeared in Yosemite, but some affected the speed of the machine, such as transparency, the biggest culprit.

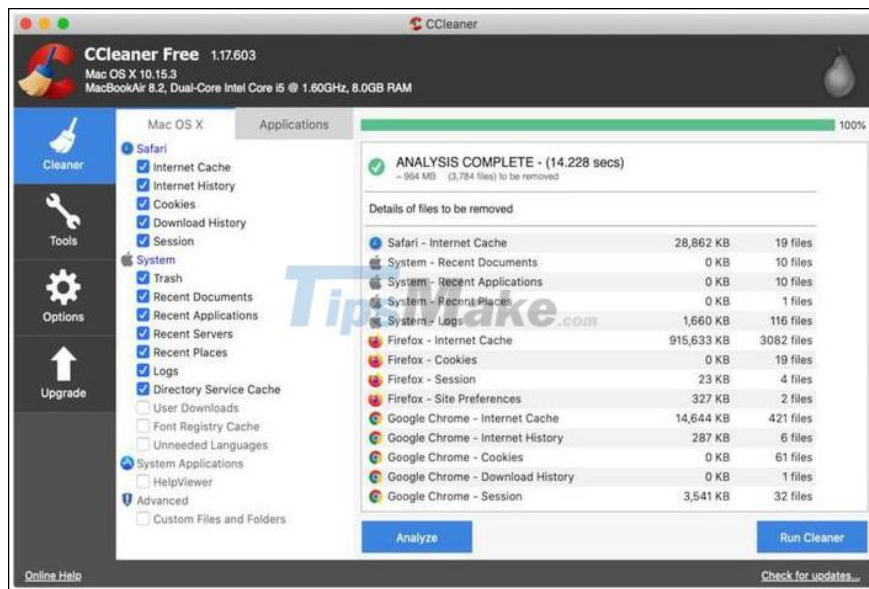
Step 1: Click the Apple icon located in the top left corner and select System Preferences on the drop-down menu.

Step 2: Click the Accessibility icon in the pop-up window.

Step 3: Select the Show listed on the left and tap the box next to Decrease transparency.

The UI will stop using transparency effects once off and run a lot faster.

6. Clear the cache



The cache memory builds up over time, consuming space on the hard drive. That is why you should clear the cache from time to time.

This free app can simultaneously clear your browser cache and the cache your system collects over time. Although it has a premium version, the free version is more than enough for most users.

7. Uninstall software you don't use



Freeing up space on your boot drive can increase performance, which is even more important for older Macs that don't have an SSD. An easy way to reclaim space is to delete apps you don't use. If you usually install a large number of apps and then forget about them, then it's time to delete them.

Step 1: Open Finder, tap Go on the menu bar and choose Apps on the drop-down menu.

Step 2: Right-click on all unwanted apps and choose Move to Trash on the pop-up menu.

But don't just drag your apps to the Trash icon - that leaves a pile of trash you don't need. Consider free apps instead. Drag any application into this window, and you can also delete all associated files, including cache and configuration files. Or, if you want, you can browse through your complete list of apps and remove them from there.

This is the best way to make sure an app you don't want won't leave anything behind. You can also use it to find software that consumes a lot of RAM.

8. Find and delete unnecessary files



The free app gives you an overview of your files, with the largest files as the largest chunks. You can see if there are any large files you want to delete or move to an external hard drive for long term storage.

9. Clean the desktop

If your screen is cluttered, clean it up. Your desktop is a window like any other, so if the file is overloaded it can also slow down your system as it has to put everything on the screen. .

10. Turn off Dashboard



If you are running an older version of MacOS, you can disable Dashboard

Step 1: Click the Apple icon located in the top left corner and select System Preferences on the drop-down menu.

Step 2: Select Mission Control in the pop-up window.

Step 3: Select Disable on the drop-down menu next to Dashboard to disable this feature.

Note: Dashboard is automatically disabled in MacOS Mojave, and Apple has removed it entirely with the release of MacOS Catalina.

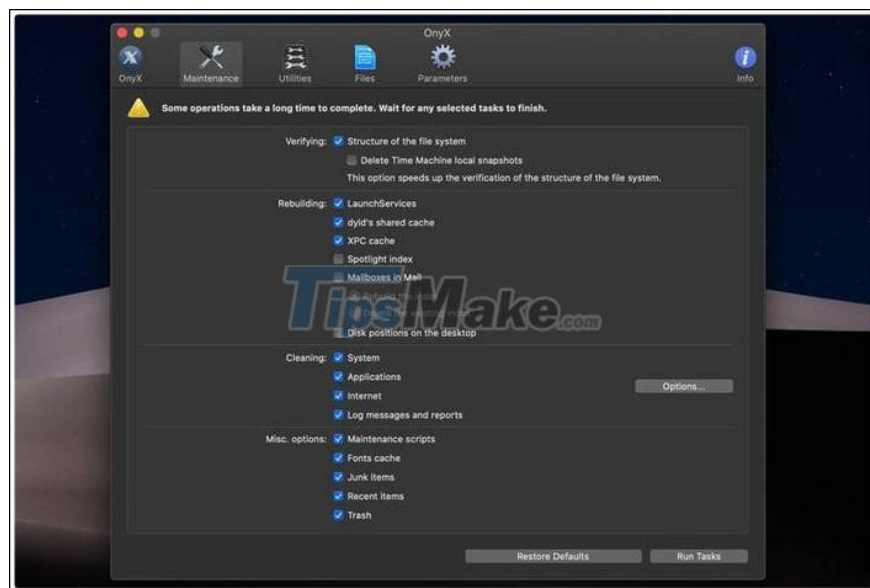
11. Close the application



To close the application properly, right-click the icon and select Exit. Alternatively, you can close an application using the Command + Q keyboard shortcut to shut down any application.

A general rule of thumb is to prioritize closing unused apps because the more apps you have open, the slower your system will be.

12. Run OnyX if everything is still slow



You can download free apps that allow you to optimize different aspects of your Mac's performance.

Onyx will first verify your hard drive. If everything is checked, go to the Scripts section in the Maintenance tab.

In the Scripts section, force run the Mac maintenance script regularly. Then, go to the Rebuilding section, where you can force MacOS to rebuild various caches to make it faster. The Cleaning feature is also very helpful.

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