

# Hard Disk Drive Integrity Check

A customer courtesy support document by Jon Benjamin [www.exenvoid.com](http://www.exenvoid.com)

This will test your primary hard disk drive for physical damage and filing system corruptions. It will attempt to repair any problems found. This process can take a long time depending on hard disk size, amount of files and folders on your system and amount of problems detected.

The main purpose of this test is to check for 'bad sectors'. Bad sectors are a possible sign of future serious mechanical failure of the hard disk mechanism. In earlier computer times Bad Sectors were simply 'mapped out' and users simply put up with the fault, ( taking the risk that the problem didn't get worse ). Technically, a bad sector is a faulty area of the hard disk where data can no longer be safely stored. 'Mapping it out' is like putting a fence around it preventing the hard disk controller from placing data in that area. The trouble is, bad sectors can grow and even cascade into a disaster taking the entire contents of the hard disk to the grave with it.

These days since hard disk drives are no longer expensive, most sensible computer users immediately replace a hard drive that develops any 'Bad Sectors' to avoid the risks of losing everything.

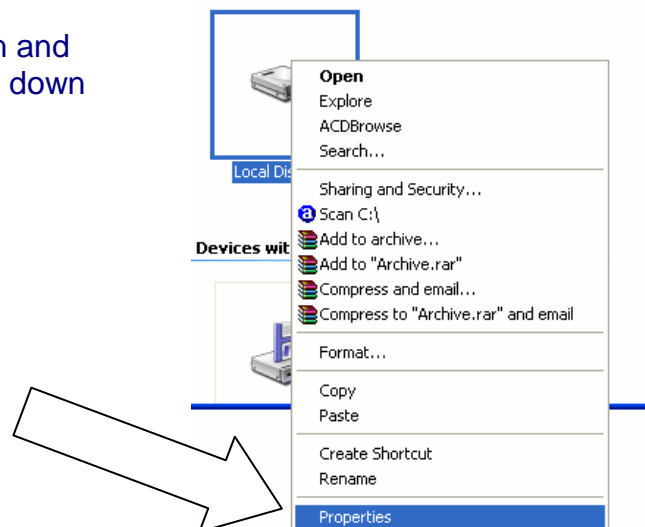
1. Double left click the 'My Computer' Icon on your desktop



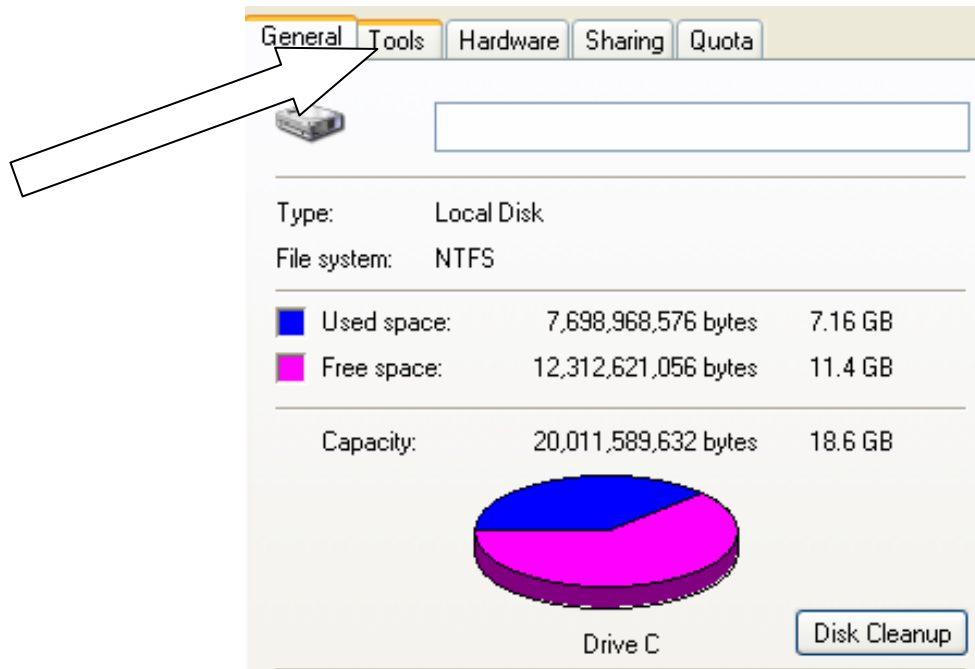
2. Locate your C: Drive usually labeled 'Local Disk'



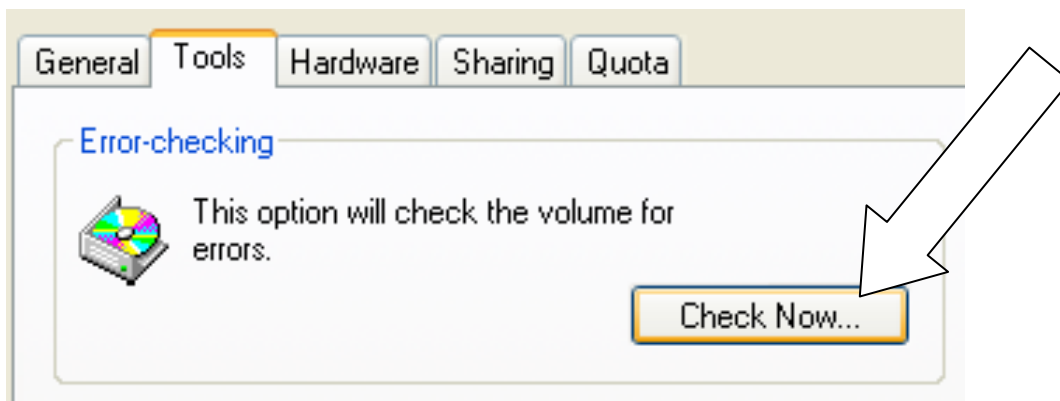
3. Single right click on the C: drive icon and then select 'Properties' from the pull down menu with a single left click



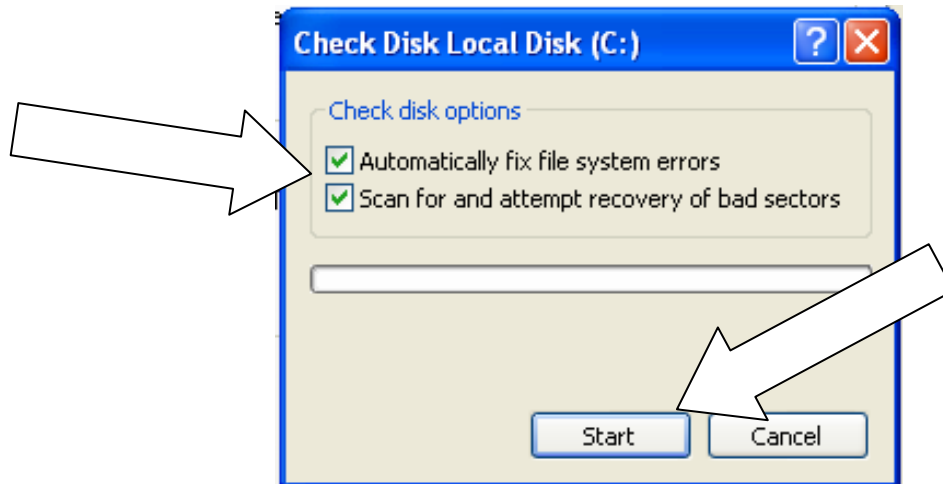
4. On the following screen, select the 'TOOLS' tab on the top of the menu with a single left mouse click.



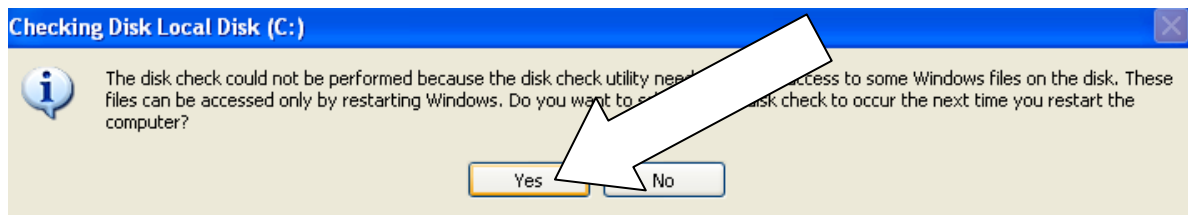
5. On the following screen, select the 'CHECK NOW' button with a single left mouse click.



6. On the following screen, place a tick in both white boxes with left mouse clicks. Then press the 'START' button.



7. The following screen simply informs you that the system needs to be restarted to carry out this type of test. Press the 'YES' button with a single left click.



8. Finally, close all your open windows and any programs you were running and RESTART the computer via [Start] – [Turn Off Computer] – [Restart]

9. When your computer restarts, it will halt at the usual start screen and inform you that a Disk Check has been scheduled .... **DO NOT TOUCH ANY KEYS** at this stage or you will abort the disk check.

```
checking file system on c:  
The type of the file system  
A disk check has been sched  
windows will now check the  
CHKDSK is verifying files (C  
File verification completed  
CHKDSK is verifying indexes  
28 percent completed.
```

The disk integrity check operates in DOS mode

10. The checking procedure will then activate. You can leave the computer to complete the test as it **may takes hours to complete**. When it has finished, please note the day and time you carried out the test as you will need to reference this later.

11. After the test is completed and Windows has restarted, follow these steps:

## Warning!

**Do not alter anything in the Administrative tools section  
These tools are for advanced users only!**

We are only going to read the results of the test in a report that was written to the event viewer as the system completed the test and restarted.

Go to the **Control Panel**



Double click the **Administrative tools icon**

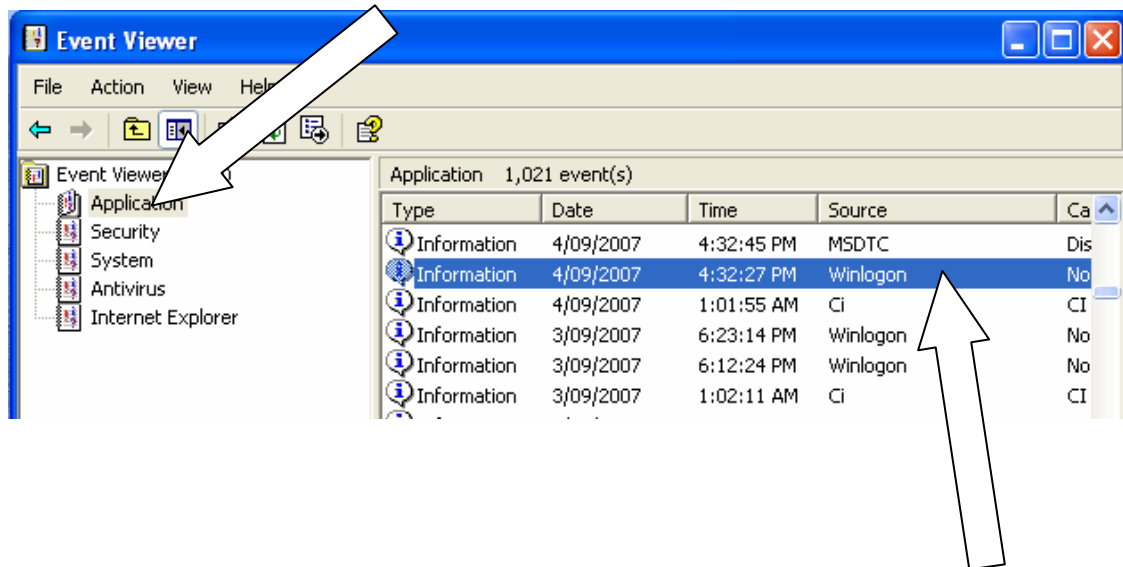


Double click the **Event viewer**

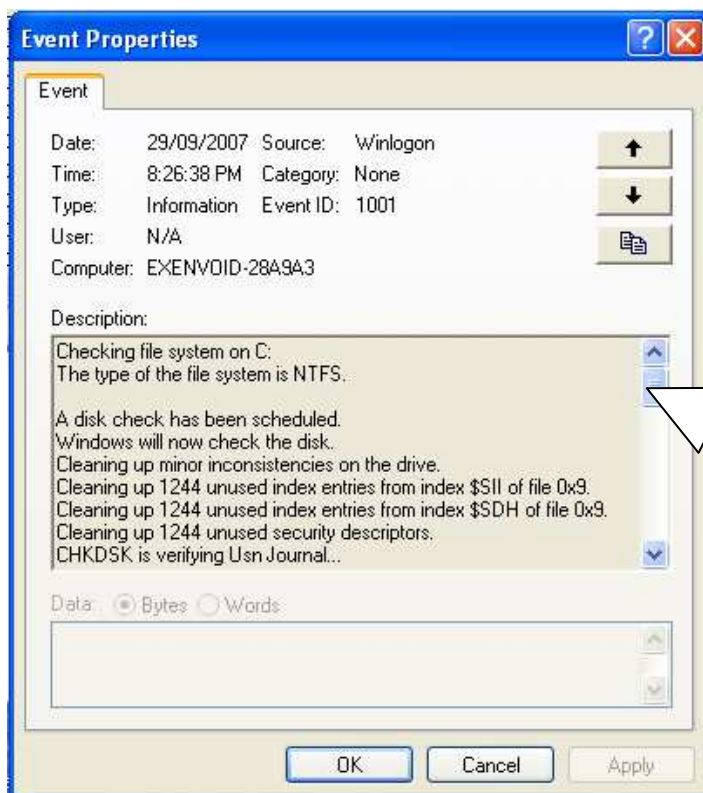


## Select the **Application** section

Single left click on the **Application** word in the left side of the screen.

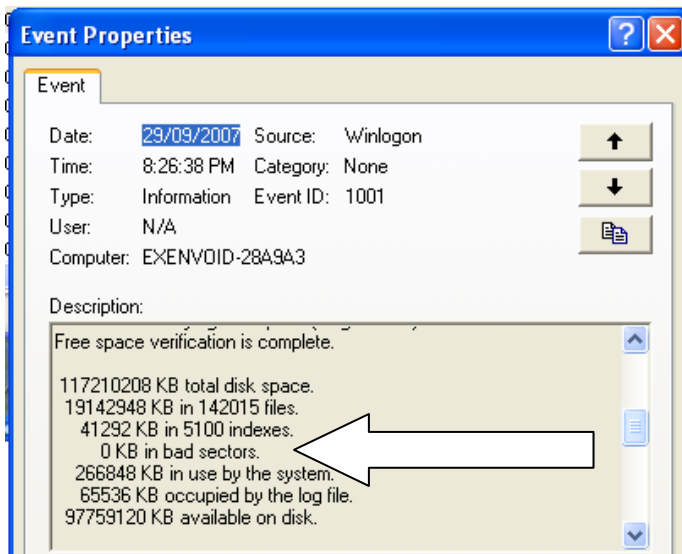


Locate the **Winlogon** report at the date and time you did the test on the right hand side of the event viewer, and double left click on it.



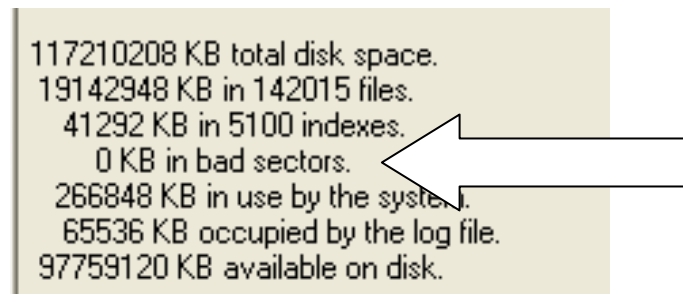
The report appears.

Use the slider to scroll down until you see the Bad Sector Report.



Ensure the report shows  
**0KB in bad sectors**

**Congratulations if your drive  
is healthy!**



*After reading the report, close all open requestors.*

### **Notes about finding bad sectors on your hard drive unit.**

If your hard drive shows that it has any bad sectors it should be replaced as soon as possible. Note that hard drives with bad sectors are covered under the manufacturer's warranties which may exceed the warranty given by the computer supplier. Contact a qualified service technician to check your hard drive's manufacturer warranty and to organize its replacement. Although the hard disk drive itself may be covered under warranty, the data recovery from the faulty one and the rebuilding of your system on the replacement hard drive is never covered under any warranty.

Also, if claiming the faulty hard disk drive mechanism directly with the manufacturer warranty, ( if it is out of your computer supplier's warranty ) you may have to be patient for its replacement to arrive. Most hard drive manufacturers are in Singapore and other Asian countries. Be prepared for a 4 to 8 week turn over time for them to receive your faulty drive and then to repair or replace it. Ensure you have the hard disk drive professionally erased after data recovery processes BEFORE you send it back to the manufacturer!