

OS X DISK UTILITY

# Prosoft Drive Genius 1.01



£69 At last, a reliable repair and defragmenting utility for your Mac

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SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

G3, G4 or G5, Mac OS X 10.2

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Bootable CD
- ⊕ Includes Defrag routines
- ⊕ Non-destructive repartitioning
- ⊕ Handles all non-RAID drives
- ⊕ Fixes disk permissions
- ⊖ Needs booting from CD

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Prosoft has released a utility that leads the way in hard drive repair and maintenance. Drive Genius is a must for your Mac's toolkit."



Try out the special version of Drive Genius Lite on this issue's cover CD

Back in the days of OS 9, you could whip out a copy of *Norton Utilities* and repair a hard drive in no time. In fact, *Norton Disk Doctor* was so good that people would often run the program "just in case", in much the same way that post-war children were fed syrup of figs to keep their systems healthy.

Unfortunately, *Norton Utilities* never really made a successful transition to OS X. There was a version – but it was a pale imitation of its predecessor – and Symantec eventually withdrew the product. Since then, our choice of disk repair software has been limited to MicroMat's *TechTool Pro 4* and Alsoft's *DiskWarrior*. Both are good packages, but both are limited or hobbled in some way or another. Now Prosoft has stepped into the breach with a new suite called *Drive Genius*.

Pure genius

Any product with Genius in its title is always going to be a hostage to fortune, and you must be sure your product works... and works well to justify that Genius tag. If there's any hint that hard drive software is even the tiniest bit flaky, you're going to be in trouble. Bad drive



Make sure your hard drive and external drives are in good working order with this easy-to-use defragmenting tool from Prosoft.

software is about as a welcome as fleas in a sleeping bag.

Fortunately, *Drive Genius* lives up to its name. The product is an all-encompassing utility that provides comprehensive disk repair and defrag routines to keep your Mac's drive in tip-top

condition. It can even create and split hard drive partitions without the need to reformat the drive or lose any data. *Drive Genius's* interface is in brushed metal and features three panes. Along the bottom are eight tools ranging from the straightforward **Repair** and **Defragment** options, to the less useful but more dangerous **Sector Edit**, which can perform surgery by directly editing disk data. If you're squeamish, stay away from that digital scalpel as it can cause a lot of damage.

**"As far as speed and efficiency are concerned, Drive Genius is one of the fastest repair and defrag solutions..."**

Other tools include a useful duplicate feature that can make

a bootable clone of your hard drive. And because the duplicate function does a bit-for-bit copy, it's a lot faster than using *Finder* operations to complete that particular task. For those who like their privacy or who need to cover their tracks, there's a **Shred** function that mangles all the data on your hard drive and overwrites everything with gibberish to a standard that's even more rigorous than even the Pentagon demands. Wiping a disk with **Shred** is a great way of cleaning a Mac's hard drive before you sell it on.

**SMART technology** **Integrity**, **Benchtest** and **Scan** tools provide ancillary services by testing the health of your hard drive using the SMART technology built into virtually every drive sold these days. **Benchtest** tells you how fast and

efficient your drive is while **Scan** marks out faulty physical sectors on the drive's surface.

*Drive Genius* can be run from your Mac if you're working on a supplementary drive, but for repair work and any operations on your main drive you'll need to boot up from the *Drive Genius* CD, which works with Macs ranging from first-generation iMacs to the latest G5 models. The types of hard drive that *Drive Genius* can recognise and repair cover IDE ATA, SATA, FireWire and USB models. That's just about everything you're likely to use. Alas, there's no RAID support yet, but that may well come in the next version.

As far as speed and efficiency are concerned, *Drive Genius* is one of the fastest repair and defrag solutions on the market. Our 80GB drive took three hours to defrag – that's a lot faster than *Drive 10* or *TechTool Pro*. The repartitioning feature will also be welcome by anyone who wants to resize drive partitions without losing any data.

**Mark Sparrow**

Is your Mac going bump in the night? If so, you might be in need of Drive Genius

