

# Drive Genius 2.1.1 £67

Save yourself a trip to the Genius Bar and optimise your Mac from home

## Key features

- Speeds up your Mac
- Used at the Genius Bar
- Advanced features that are easy to use

## Learn more...

- [www.prosofteng.com](http://www.prosofteng.com)

## Available from...

- [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

Chances are your once sprightly Mac is beginning to show its age. Safari might be stalling when more than a handful of tabs are open, or perhaps Mail is taking too long to open. It's something we all experience when we use our Mac's on a day-to-day basis without giving them a spring clean once in a while. That's where Drive Genius 2.1.1 comes in.

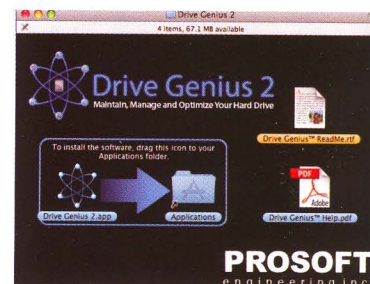
The program boasts a wealth of features. Top of the list are defragment tools, a hard drive repair tool, a clever repartition on-the-fly tool, and a brand new DriveSlim feature that frees up space on your drive. At £67 it's not exactly cheap, but let's investigate why this could be just the program to give your Mac a new lease of life.

There are two ways of installing the program, the first being to simply drag-and-drop the app icon onto your Applications folder. This will enable you to access a few of the basic features of Drive Genius, such as its new DriveSlim tool. If you need to access the more advanced features, such as defragging, then you'll need to boot up using the supplied DVD – this is because Drive Genius cannot make substantial alterations to the drive it's installed upon.

Once you have Drive Genius up and running you will be greeted with a 3D interface with the main features of the program presented in a circle. As you hover the mouse cursor over a feature the screen slowly zooms in. It's a

## In Detail...

Defrag your Mac's hard drive in four easy steps



## Restart your Mac

Insert the Drive Genius DVD into your Mac, then restart and hold down the 'c' key when you hear the chime.



The Options panel looks slick and makes finding what you want really simple

rather nifty feature with a professional feel, and it could practically be one of Apple's own apps.

After we'd finished admiring the graphical effects we chose to investigate one of the most popular features of Drive Genius - its defragging tool. Here's an interesting fact: this program is actually used by Apple at the Genius Bar as part of the ProCare program. Take your Mac in for a spring clean and they'll use Drive Genius to defrag your hard drive. If you're wondering what on earth defragging is, we'll briefly explain. Over time the files on your Mac's hard drive are relocated when the system cannot find enough space to store a new file. Particularly large files will be broken up into pieces and slotted into available spaces. Over time your computer will take longer to read the whole file, and as a result your computer will slow right down.

We'll admit it, defragging our hard drives is something we automatically associated with PCs - after all, Macs are supposed to defrag themselves right? It turns out Mac OS X automatically optimises any files under 20MB in size, but any files over that are left to gradually fragment and spread across

your hard drive. Discovering this small fact piqued our interest, and so we scoured the iCreate office for a suitable test candidate. We found an iMac that hadn't been cleared or optimised in over a year, the web history alone would fill an iPhone 3G. After booting up using the Drive Genius DVD we clicked on the defrag tool, and were presented with a display of the volumes available to defrag and scan. The defragging process took 88 minutes, and after booting back into the Mac OS we were pleased to find a noticeable speed increase while using the OS.

For anyone more interested in the latest feature of Drive Genius, its brand-new DriveSlim tool, these are five clever techniques for scanning your hard drive for old or unused files. You can search for large files greater than 10MB and not accessed in over a month, duplicate files, unused localisations such as languages, remove unused binaries from universal applications and cache files not accessed in over two weeks. After clicking Search we were presented with 8GB of files that could be deleted from the hard drive. It turns out this new feature is a handy way of clearing old programs and files.

If you like this...

You might also like...

**CleanMyMac \$29.95**

This is a similar program to Drive Genius; it can optimise universal binaries, remove any unwanted languages and caches, and much more.



The partition tools found within Drive Genius could possibly be a saving grace for anyone who regularly uses Boot Camp. We accidentally corrupted a partition when installing Windows, but Drive Genius came to the rescue and allowed us to repair the partition and start from scratch. However, there's one limitation with using Drive Genius and Boot Camp: you cannot repartition a partition already created by Disk Utility, only repair, defragment, duplicate, use DriveSlim and benchtest.

This is quite possibly the most thorough program for maintaining your Mac, and the fact that Apple uses it at its Genius Bars is testament to the professional features found within. Those combined features and ease of use mean you can keep your computer in top shape with only a few clicks. Is it worth the asking price? That all depends how organised you are on a day-to-day basis. If you've only installed a few applications and keep your files in a small number of locations, you're unlikely to see much improvement. But if you're the creative sort with large files all over the hard drive - as admittedly most of the iCreate team are - then this program comes highly recommended.

# Questions answered

Because we get to play with stuff before you do...

"How exactly will I know if my Mac is in need of a spring clean?"

*Your programs and games will take a long time to load up, the hard drive will whirr and click and, if your Mac is seriously out of shape, programs may crash and you could lose data. Put simply, if your Mac is more than six months old, defragging is a good idea.*

"How much space will I save by running DriveSlim?"

*That all depends on how many files you have on your hard drive. We saved 15GB by running DriveSlim on our year-old iMac. That's a lot of disc space clogged up unnecessarily.*



## Killer feature

Apple approval

The fact that Apple trusts this program enough to use it on its customers' computers is a huge selling point for the program. Best of all, its professional features are easy to use, even for Mac novices.

## Buy now?

**Pros** Professional tools used by Apple's own Genius Bar, affordable and very effective

**Cons** Surely there's a more elegant way to optimise a hard drive than booting from a DVD?



### Boot it up

Wait for the program to boot, then click on the Defrag icon. The interface will fade into the defrag page.



### Click the icon

Select the Macintosh HD icon on the left-hand side of the interface (or any other drive you may have).



### Patiently waiting

Click Start and the defrag will begin. Depending on your hard drive size, this could take more than an hour.