

**Drive Genius 1.1.5**  
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Drive Genius is a disk utility and it works on the Mac.  
What can you do with it?

Repair a disk, Defragment, Duplicate, Sector Edit,  
Shred, Integrity Check, Benchtest, Scan, Initialize,  
Repartition on the fly.

**System requirements:**

You need a G3 Mac or higher with 10.2 or higher to run this program. That said, this program does things to a disk that will make it unable to boot in OS 9. If you still use OS 9 by booting from it, than I would not recommend you using this program on those disks.

It is note worthy to tell you that some features require you to boot from another disk or CD in order to use those functions on a disk Drive. You cannot Defrag or Initialize a disk you are booted from.

*It is also very wise to back up your data before using any utility like this. This is a powerful utility and you should not initialize, defragment, repair or repartition a drive that does not have a back up or it's data is important to you and there is no back up available. I was able to use this program without any failures in my tests. I had back ups too. Don't challenge "Murphy's Law". (What can go wrong will go wrong!)*

**Initialize:**

Initialize a drive. This makes a new drive readable to a Mac. It also lets you partition a drive (Make it into smaller drives, each one showing up on the desk top with separate names, even though it is one larger drive). To use this feature you will need to be booted from another hard drive or CD drive.

*When you initialize a drive you will erase it and all the data will be destroyed. Make sure you understand that before you do that to a drive. You can not Initialize a drive that you are booted from. The one running your computer. If you use this feature, OS 9 may not be able to use this drive as a bootable drive. Be aware of that.*

**Repartition:**

The repartition feature is really cool. If you repartition a drive. The partitions that are changed are not OS 9 compatible. So don't repartition a drive that you use OS 9 on.

I was able to move a partition on a drive that had three partitions. The program defragged the drive before it changed the partition. I had a back up and it did just what I asked it too. It repartitioned and Defragged the drive rather quickly on my 1.25 gig hertz powerbook G4. I did this to a 160 gig drive connected via firewire. No problems and I was cautioned that the partition would not be able to boot from OS 9 if I did this. OS 9 would work fine in classic mode and would not be effected. Classic Mode is OS 9 running inside OS X, not by itself.

To repartition or Initialize you need to have the Device selected at the bottom of the left widow to see these options. If Volume is selected, these features are not available.

**Duplicate:**

This feature will duplicate a drive, make it bootable, and do it quickly. This duplicate feature even names the drive the same as the original. This is not the same as Cloning with SuperDuper or Carbon Copy Cloner. This software does this differently and very quick too.

**Sector Edit:**

This is an advanced feature. This allows you to fine tune or tweak your drive and system as well as the data on your drive. I would not recommend doing this unless you really are sure you know what you are doing. That said, this feature is available for your use. I chose not to sector edit at this time. I 'm not sure I will in the close future either.

**Shred:**

Ever want to shred all data from a computer or drive before giving it to others to have or use. Selling a computer to a stranger. This part of this program is great. It will Shred all readable files on the drive and prep your drive for a new install OS X so you can give this computer away knowing none of your data is on it.

**Integrity Check:**

To do this feature you need to start up from a different drive. This feature checks the system and hardware against a serious of tests from 1 minute to all day if you want. You have to be able to unmount the drive, so that is why you need to run this test from a different drive or partition than you are testing.

**Benchmark:**

This will let you benchmark a drive against older systems. Like the Cube G4, iMac or others. It will even let you test it against systems you own. You need to be able to unmount the drive again. When you do this, you get to see a bar graph with the two computers in different colors. You can also look at just the numbers or a line graph. It lets you see how this drive compares to others you might have.

**Scan:**

This feature lets you scan a disk for problems. Your disk might have bad sectors and this feature will let you see if there is any. I ran this test and didn't have any problems. Parts of this program will let you map out bad sectors. I have done this with older programs and it saves a drive that only has a few bad sectors. This feature will let you see that if they are there.

**Repair:**

This feature is very similar to Apple's Disk First Aid program. It works and there are others that work a little better in my opinion. I had a drive that it would not fix no matter what I did. I used a different repair utility and it fixed the drive so I could do other tests with this feature. I don't know if it is possible, but I would like to see this feature improved to handle tougher jobs, like rebuilding the directory.

**Defragment:**

The defragment feature in this program is a great feature. I would like to see more of a visual of the moving of fragmented data, but that's me. This program worked great and I am very pleased with it's function. I just like large colorful data transfers and seeing it move the data.

This program would not move data that needed to be repaired either. On one drive it told me to repair the drive or Rebuild it before it would do this. I did and then it defragmented the drive just fine.

**Tech Support:**

I would rate tech support very high. I contacted this company the night before a meeting. They got back to me the very next day with what I was asking for and I can not tell you how much I appreciate quick response times like this. I was really amazed.

**Recommendations:**

Would I recommend this product. You bet I would. How high do I rate it. High. I would give this program 4 out of 5. If it had a better repair utility, I would give it a higher mark.

This software's best features in my opinion are, Shred, Defragment, Partition on the fly and Duplicate. If you are a serious utility user than this program

should be in your software library. These four features are worth the price of this software alone.

**Who am I:**

I am the President of RMMUG. I handle tech support for our mug at the user group meetings. I use utilities often. I know OS9, OS X and I have 21 years of experience on the Mac. I often Partition drives, repair them, and I have several programs I use to do this. I believe in backing up your computer every since I had a hard drive fail years ago. I was backing up to the wrong drive.

I have a Powerbook G4 15 inch AL, iMac G4 700, and a Quicksilver G4 733 superdrive.

All test were done Using OS X.4 or Tiger with a portable drive in a laptop case and a 7200 RPM 160 gig drive in and external firewire case. I used my Powebook 1.25 Gighz 15 inch AL for testing and I tested the results on my G4 733.

Reviewed by:

Don Swayze

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I use a Mac