Tuesday, August 10, 2004

TOOLS: Disk Defragmenter - PerfectDisk from Raxco

As you perhaps know, even though NTFS is more resistant to fragmentation than FAT, it can and does still fragment... This situation is incredibly stressed if you are developping some softwares. So, as manager or developer, we are confronted with this annoying unresolved disk fragmentation problem.

The first discussion was to know if the Microsoft built-in defragmenter can solve this issue. The answer is clearly no. If you have already used it, you know what I mean. Then, we normally had to buy some Diskeeper licenses. We already tested this tool, without being convinced... Laurent, as a Microsoft .NET MVP (Most Valuable Professional), received a free-of-charge license of PerfectDisk from Raxco. We had a look at this product (see below) and ... decided to buy it (normal price for a download version for workstation) for different (we think ;-) good reasons. You can find some information in the Data Sheet.

The first feedbacks of our users are very good!

PerfectDisk features not present in the Microsoft built-in defragmenter

- Single Pass defragmentation of data files and free spaces: consolidation of free space to slow the rate of re-fragmentation
- File Placement Strategy: categorization data on the disk according to usage patterns, while consolidating free space in the largest contiguous areas possible
- Ability to defragment drives with minimal free space (as little as 5%, normally => 15-20%)
- Places MFT for improved performance
- Defragments Pagefile
- Defragments Hibernate File
- Disk Trending feature to track fragmentation
- Certified by Microsoft

PerfectDisk features not present in Diskeeper

- Single pass defragmentation of data files and free spaces
- File placement strategy
- Free space requirement
- MTF placement
- Defrag of NTFS Metadata, pagefile and hibernate file
- Certified by Microsoft

PS: so or so, a company which is working for Gibson (yes, Gibson is using PerfectDisk ;-), is a good company!

