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Using the Stackometer

See more instructions on:

Minimizing the Stackometer

The Minimize button is located at the right end of the title bar. It points down.

To minimize the Stackometer to an icon, click the Minimize button. Clicking the Minimize button is the same as choosing Minimize from the application control menu. The application control menu is located at the far left of the title bar and is designated by the control bar.

The Stackometer shrinks to an icon. The Disk Space gauge still reports disk space graphically when the Stackometer is minimized. The icon dynamically updates as files are added or deleted.

Showing Stackometers for Different Disks

The Stackometer displays information for the current drive. You may also monitor a different drive using the same Stackometer, or multiple drives using multiple Stackometers.

To monitor a different disk than the current one, using the same Stackometer

1   Choose Drive from the Settings menu.

2   Select the drive you want.

3   Click OK.

To display Stackometers for multiple disks

1   Double-click the Stackometer icon in the Stacker Program Group.

2   Choose Drive from the Settings menu.

3   Click OK.

4   Repeat these steps for each Stackometer you want open.

To create a Stackometer icon to display a specific drive

1   Open the group window you want to add a Stackometer to.

2   From the Program Manager's File menu, choose New.

3   In the New Program Object dialog box, select Program Item and click OK.

4   For Description, type a name for the Stackometer icon.

5   For Command Line, type C:\STACKER\STACOMTR.EXE *drive:*
    where *drive* is the letter of the drive you want the Stackometer for.

6   Repeat these steps for each drive.

A Stackometer icon for the drive you specified appears in the program group.

Shortcut

You can quickly create another Stackometer icon by pressing ctrl while dragging to copy the icon. Select the new icon, choose Properties from the Program Manager's File menu, and follow the Description and Command Line steps above to modify the Stackometer for that drive.

Starting Up Windows With Stackometers Displayed

You can have Windows 3.1 automatically run Stackometers for all of your drives whenever you start Windows. To do this, place a Stackometer icon for each of your <u>Stacker drives</u> in the <u>StartUp Group</u> in Windows 3.1.

To display Stackometers at start up

1   Open the StartUp Group.

2   From the Program Manager's File menu, choose New.

3   In the New Program Object dialog box, select Program Item and click OK.

4   For Description, type a name for the Stackometer icon.

5   For Command Line, type C:\STACKER\STACOMTR.EXE *drive:*
    where *drive* is the letter of the drive you want the Stackometer for.

6   Repeat these steps for each drive.

Your StartUp Group controls which applications appear when Windows first starts. Stackometers for each designated drive will now appear at start up.

Reading the Stackometer

See more instructions on:

Reading Compression Ratio

Reading Disk Space

Reading Fragmentation

Reading Compression Ratio

The Compression Ratio gauge displays the actual compression ratio for all the files on your Stacker drive. The Compression Ratio compares the storage space necessary for files without Stacker to the storage space required for those same files with Stacker.

The number near the top left of the gauge represents the expected compression ratio. This number shows how Stacker assumed your data would compress when it originally compressed the data on the disk during Setup (typically 2:1). Stacker uses the expected compression ratio to determine the size of your Stacker drive. For example, if you're compressing the data on a 100 MB hard disk, Stacker assumes 2:1 compression so your disk size is 200 MB.

The number displayed in the box on the right side of the gauge represents your actual compression ratio. This is the rate at which Stacker is actually compressing your files. As you copy and delete files, you can watch this number change.

If your expected compression ratio and actual compression ratio differ significantly, you may want to consider changing your expected compression ratio to match your actual compression ratio. This makes your Disk Space gauge more accurate.

For more information, see Setting the Expected Compression Ratio.

Reading Disk Space

The Disk Space gauge displays the number of kilobytes used on your disk and the number still available. This gauge displays even when you minimize the Stackometer.

The "needle" on this gauge moves as you add and delete files on your disk so you can constantly monitor your disk space.

The red triangle on the Disk Space gauge marks the beginning of Stacker TerritoryTM. Stacker Territory is the disk space you gained by using Stacker on your system. The space to the left of the triangle is the storage capacity you had before Stacker. The space to the right is all the extra space you have with Stacker.

The position of the red triangle directly relates to the expected compression ratio reported by the Compression Ratio gauge. Normally, the triangle is in the middle of the gauge; corresponding to a 2:1 compression ratio. If you change the expected compression ratio up or down, the triangle moves to the left or right, reflecting more or less space in Stacker Territory.

Reading Fragmentation

The Fragmentation gauge indicates how fragmented your disk is becoming. As you save more and more files, DOS stores them in bits and pieces all over your disk. Over time, if your disk becomes too fragmented, it can slow down disk access.

Generally, the more blocks that fill with color on this gauge, the more fragmented your disk is. The Stackometer reports three <u>fragmentation</u> levels:

- Low (0-20%)

- Medium (20-40%)

- High (40-100%)

Each filled in block indicates 1.6 percent fragmentation. All the colors mean the same thing.

If you notice that your disk access is slowing down, use commands on the Tools menu to rearrange and reorganize your files on the disk to get better performance.

Using the Tools

The Stackometer provides you with tools to help customize and maximize Stacker's performance on your system. They are:

- **Stacker Optimizer** -- <u>optimizing</u> your disk storage.

- **Expected Compression Ratio** -- allowing you to change your <u>expected compression ratio</u> to agree with your <u>actual compression ratio</u>.

- <u>**Stacker Tuner**</u> **-- fine tuning for your system from fastest speed to maximum compression.**

See more instructions on:

<u>Using the Optimizer</u>

<u>Setting the Expected Compression Ratio</u>

<u>Using Stacker Tuner</u>

Using the Optimizer

The Stacker Optimizer locates all of the pieces of each file and rewrites them to the disk in contiguous areas. Because data is now stored in contiguous areas, disk performance and file searches speed up. The Stacker Optimizer gives you three types of optimization:

- <u>Quick Optimize</u>   only fragmented files are optimized

- <u>Full Optimize</u>   the entire Stacker drive (files and empty space) is optimized

- <u>Full Optimize and Restack</u>   all files are recompressed for optimum compression and the Stacker drive is fully optimized. (Use this option when upgrading from versions of Stacker prior to 3.x.

To use the Stacker Optimizer

1   Select the Tools menu from the Stackometer.

2   Choose the type of Optimize you want   Quick, Full, or Restack.

3   You must Exit Windows to run the Optimizer. Click OK to leave Windows.

4   If you have just upgraded from a previous version of <u>Stacker</u>, select Yes to upgrade to version 3.x format.

5   After the Optimizer checks the drive's <u>fragmentation</u>, select Continue to Optimize.

The Optimizer displays its progress on your screen. If you have a large disk with many fragmented files, this may take over an hour.

6   When the Optimizer finishes, press enter to Exit.

If you want to see the fragmentation of your newly optimized disk, open the Stackometer when you return to Windows.

Using Stacker Tuner

Stacker compresses and decompresses data as you work with your system. You control the balance between how fast it works and how tightly it compresses data. If Stacker works as fast as it can, the result is a bit less compression. If Stacker compacts data as tightly as possible, the process takes a bit longer. The Stacker Tuner allows you to "tune" your compression level to one of four designated settings:

- **Fastest speed standard compression**. This is Stacker's default.

- **More compression less speed**.

- **Best compression**.

- **Stacker Coprocessor Board**. If you have Stacker hardware available on your system, Stacker defaults to using the hardware.

Changing this setting affects all Stacker drives.

To tune Stacker from the Stackometer

1   From the Tools menu, choose Tune Stacker

2   Select the option you want and click OK.

3   If you are changing to or from hardware, your system must restart. Click OK.

Shortcut

1   Double-click the Stacker Tuner icon.

2   Select the option you want and click OK.

If you want to change tuning to a setting other than those available in Stacker Tuner, you may edit the STACKER.INI file to include a switch from /P=1 through /P=9.

Setting the Expected Compression Ratio

After checking the Compression Ratio gauge, you may decide to change the <u>Expected Compression Ratio</u> to agree with the <u>actual compression ratio</u>.

To change the Expected Compression Ratio

1   From the Tools Menu, choose Set Expected Compression.

2   This runs the Stacker Optimizer so you need to leave Windows. Click OK.

3   Press any key to continue. You can watch the Stacker Optimizer at work. If you have a large hard disk, <u>optimizing</u> may take over an hour.

4   <u>Stacker</u> Optimizer suggests an Expected Compression Ratio that matches your current actual compression ratio. Press enter to accept this ratio, or type a different value.

5   Stacker Optimizer displays your new drive size. Press enter to confirm. If you want to make more changes, select Modify Settings.

6   Press enter to restart your system and have the changes take effect.

After your system restarts, you can go back to Windows. To see the new drive size, open the Stackometer again.

Menu Commands

In addition to the gauges displayed by Stackometer, you can change the Stackometer's settings or access a set of Stacker Tools through the menus.

Stackometer's menus:

- <u>Settings</u>   changes the settings for the Stackometer.

- <u>Tools</u>   contains a set of tools to enhance Stacker's performance.

Settings Menu Commands

The Settings menu controls which drive the Stackometer displays statistics for, how often those statistics are updated, and which gauges display. You may also exit the Stackometer from the Settings menu.

The Settings menu commands:

- <u>Select Drive</u>   selects the drive to view Stackometer statistics for.

- <u>Refresh</u>   gathers information from the disk and re-displays all gauges.

- <u>Refresh Interval</u>   sets the interval at which Stacker automatically gathers and re-displays information for the Compression Ratio and Disk Space gauges.

- <u>Compression Ratio</u>   displays or hides the Compression Ratio gauge; a checkmark means the gauge displays.

- <u>Disk Space</u>   displays or hides the Disk Space gauge; a checkmark means the gauge displays.

- <u>Fragmentation</u>   displays or hides the Fragmentation gauge; a checkmark means the gauge displays.

- <u>Exit</u>   exits Stackometer.

Exit Menu Command

This command Exits the Stackometer.

To Exit the Stackometer

- From the Settings menu, choose Exit.

Shortcut

Double-click on the control menu bar (at the upper left corner of the title bar).

Refresh Menu Command

The <u>Compression Ratio</u> and <u>Disk Space</u> gauges refresh automatically at the interval specified by the Refresh Interval. The <u>Fragmentation</u> gauge refreshes each time you restart the Stackometer or change drives. Use Refresh if you want to refresh the Fragmentation gauge as you are working.

The Refresh Interval is disabled for floppy disks. To update the Stackometer for a floppy disk, choose Refresh from the Settings menu.

To update all gauges

- From the Settings menu, choose Refresh.

All gauges recalculate and refresh the screen, accurately reflecting the current values for compression ratio, disk space, and fragmentation.

Compression Ratio Menu Command

Displays the Compression Ratio gauge as part of the Stackometer. Click the command to either display it on the Stackometer (indicated by a check mark) or hide it.

Disk Space Menu Command

Displays the Disk Space gauge as part of the Stackometer. Click the command to either display it on the Stackometer (indicated by a check mark) or hide it.

Fragmentation Menu Command

Displays the Fragmentation gauge as part of the Stackometer. Click the command to either display it on the Stackometer (indicated by a check mark) or hide it. The Fragmentation gauge displays only for Stacker drives.

Tools Menu Commands

Stackometer's Tools menu allows you to <u>optimize</u> your <u>Stacker drive</u>, fine-tune <u>compression</u> for more speed or greater disk space, and set the <u>expected compression ratio</u>.

The Tools menu commands:

- <u>Quick Optimize</u>   quickly optimizes fragmented files on your Stacker drive.

- <u>Full Optimize</u>   fully optimizes files and empty space on your Stacker drive.

- <u>Full Optimize and Restack</u>   fully optimizes your Stacker drive and recompresses data for maximum compression.

- <u>Stacker Tuner</u>   fine tunes the compression setting from maximum speed to maximum compression.

- <u>Set Expected Compression Ratio</u>   allows you to set the expected compression ratio.

Select Drive

Changes the drive the Stackometer reads. All gauges change to reflect the new drive. If you choose an uncompressed drive, the Fragmentation gauge does not display and the Disk Space gauge is in black and white.

To change to a different drive

1   From the Settings menu, choose Drive.

2   Select the drive you want.

3   Click OK.

Information for the new drive displays in the Stackometer.

To set up multiple Stackometers for different drives, see <u>Showing Stackometers for Different Drives.</u>

Set Refresh Interval

Changes the interval at which the <u>Compression Ratio</u> and Disk Space gauges calculate and refresh their display. The Fragmentation gauge refreshes each time you start the Stackometer or change to a different drive. You may manually recalculate by choosing Refresh.

To change the Refresh Interval

1   From the Settings menu, choose Refresh Interval.

2   Type the time in seconds for the refresh and click OK.

On most computers, you won't notice when the Stackometer goes to get its information. If you use a slower system (for example, a 286), set your Refresh Interval to a number greater than 60 seconds.

The Refresh Interval is disabled for floppy disks. To update the Stackometer, choose Refresh from the Settings menu.

See more instructions on:

<u>Refresh</u>

Optimize

If you notice that your disk access is slowing down or that your <u>fragmentation</u> is higher than you want, use the Stacker Optimizer to rearrange and reorganize your files on the disk to get better performance.

The Stacker Optimizer locates all of the pieces of each file and rewrites them to the disk in contiguous areas. Because data is now stored in contiguous areas, disk performance and file searches speed up. The Stacker Optimizer gives you three types of optimization:

1   <u>Quick Optimize</u>   only fragmented files are optimized

2   <u>Full Optimize</u>   the entire <u>Stacker</u> drive (files and empty space) is optimized

3   <u>Full Optimize and Restack</u>   all files are recompressed for optimum performance as the disk is fully optimized (Use this option when upgrading from previous versions of Stacker to Stacker for Windows and DOS.)

Quick Optimize

The Quick Optimize command optimizes only files that are currently fragmented. Empty blocks of storage remain in place.

To quickly optimize your disk

1   From the Tools menu, choose Quick Optimize.

2   You must Exit Windows to run the Optimizer. Click OK to leave Windows.

3   If you have just upgraded from a previous version of <u>Stacker</u>, select Yes to upgrade to the current format.

4   After Stacker checks the drive's <u>fragmentation</u>, select Continue to Optimize.

The Optimizer displays its progress on your screen. If you have a large disk with many fragmented files, this may take over an hour.

5   When the Optimizer finishes, press enter to Exit.

If you want to see the fragmentation of your newly optimized disk, open the Stackometer when you return to Windows.

Full Optimize

The Full Optimize command defragments the entire Stacker drive. It <u>optimizes</u> the files and then reorganizes the disk storage so all files are in one contiguous area on your disk. Depending on the size of your drive, this procedure may take from 10 minutes to over an hour.

To fully optimize your disk

1   From the Tools menu, choose Full Optimize.

2   You must Exit Windows to run the Optimizer. Click OK to leave Windows.

3   If you have just upgraded from a previous version of Stacker, select Yes to upgrade to the current format.

4   After Stacker checks the drive's <u>fragmentation</u>, select Continue to Optimize.

   The Optimizer displays its progress on your screen. If you have a large disk with many fragmented files, this may take over an hour.

5   When the Optimizer finishes, press enter to Exit.

If you want to see the fragmentation level of your newly optimized disk, open the Stackometer when you return to Windows.

Full Optimize and Restack

Recompressing your data lets you take advantage of Stacker's improved compression. If you've been using your Stacker drive for a while, you might gain more disk space by recompressing since <u>restack</u> always uses the best compression.

When you choose Full Optimize and Restack, the Stacker Optimizer performs a Full Optimize as it recompresses all of your data. Depending on the size of your drive, this procedure may take from 10 minutes to over an hour.

To recompress the data on your disk

1   From the Tools menu, choose Full Optimize and Restack.

2   You must Exit Windows to run the Optimizer. Click OK to leave Windows.

3   If you have just upgraded from a previous version of Stacker, select Yes to upgrade to the current format.

4   After Stacker checks the drive's <u>fragmentation</u>, select Continue to Optimize.

   The Optimizer displays its progress on your screen. If you have a large disk with many fragmented files, this may take over an hour.

5   When the Optimizer finishes, press enter to Exit.

If you want to see the fragmentation of your newly optimized disk, open the Stackometer when you return to Windows.

About Stackometer

Displays information about the current version, date, and copyright of the Stackometer.

Close Running Applications

You have one or more applications running while attempting to access the Stacker Optimizer or Expected Compression Ratio.

Close the applications, then choose OK on this dialog to continue.

To close applications

- Quit each application that is currently running.

To close MS-DOS windows

1. If you have an open MS-DOS window, maximize the window.

2. Type EXIT and press enter to return to Windows.

Exit Windows

The Stacker Optimizer and Set Expected Compression Ratio tools must work directly with your disk, without Windows running. You must Exit Windows for either of these tools to run.

To exit Windows

- Click OK to exit Windows.

See also...

Optimize

Quick Optimize

Full Optimize

Full Optimize and Restack

Set Expected Compression

How to Use Stackometer

The Stackometer is a set of gauges monitoring the performance of your Stacker drive. With the Stackometer, you see a <u>compression ratio</u> summary, how much <u>disk space</u> you're using, and the <u>fragmentation</u> of your Stacker drive. You can display a Stackometer for every disk on your system.

From the Stackometer, you have access to the Stacker Optimizer and the <u>Stacker Tuner</u> so not only can you monitor your system's performance, but you can also optimize and tune it.

To open a Stackometer

- Double-click the Stackometer icon.

Insufficient Memory

You do not have enough memory to run the current application. Close some of your other applications or restart Windows and try the operation again.

Error Calculating Fragmentation

This message can occur at start-up, when you change drives, or when you choose Refresh from the Settings menu.

Either an internal error occurred or the File Allocation Table (FAT), which contains pointers to the location of your files, was corrupted.

Restart Windows. If the same message occurs, use a surface scan utility to repair your disk.

Disk Space Error

The Stackometer was unable to obtain information about the selected drive. You could be attempting to read a floppy drive (with no disk in the drive), an invalid drive letter, or a network drive.

If it is a floppy drive, place the disk in the drive and retry. Otherwise, change the Stackometer to read a drive which is available.

Old Driver Error

You are attempting to run the Stackometer with a previous version of Stacker installed. The Stackometer requires a current Stacker for Windows & DOS driver in order to obtain the neccessary information needed for the Compression Ratio and Fragmentation gauges. The Stackometer runs without a current driver but only the Disk Space gauge updates.

Upgrade to the current version of Stacker for Windows & DOS.

Fragmentation

The scattering of "bits and pieces" of the same disk file over different areas of your disk. When you originally save your files, DOS organizes them and writes them to disk. While DOS attempts to write them in sequential order, sometimes it can't. As disks and files get used more often, contiguous space on the hard disk becomes scarce. Fragmentation can slow disk access and overall system performance, although usually not severely.

Optimizing

The process of producing more efficient storage of files on your disk. Optimizing defragments and reorganizes files so they are located in a contiguous area. That way, when you read a file from disk, DOS only has to go to one place to find the file, instead of gathering all the file's "bits and pieces" from many places.

Compression Ratio

The comparison between a file's uncompressed size (without Stacker) and its compressed size (with Stacker). Stacker compresses most files at a ratio of 2:1, indicating you'd need twice as much disk space to store the files without Stacker.

Actual Compression Ratio

The comparison between a file's uncompressed size (without Stacker) and its compressed size (with Stacker). Stacker compresses most files at a ratio of 2:1. Actual compression ratio is the rate at which your data is actually compressing. The actual compression ratio is indicated in the black-and-yellow box of Stackometer's Compression Ratio gauge. Expected compression ratio is the rate at which Stacker assumed your data would compress during Stacker Setup.

Expected Compression Ratio

The rate at which Stacker expected to compress your data during Stacker Setup. The default is 2:1. Stacker assumes a 2:1 expected compression ratio so it knows how large to make your Stacker drive (twice as big). On the Stackometer's Compression Ratio gauge, the expected compression ratio is the number in the upper left. If your actual compression ratio (in black and yellow) is significantly different from the expected compression ratio, you may want to change the expected compression ratio using Set Expected Compression from the Tools menu. Normally, you don't have to worry about any discrepancy between these two ratios unless the disk is getting full or if you are an advanced user.

Stacker

A software compression utility that doubles disk capacity by compressing files when you're not using them and quickly decompressing them when you need the files.

Stacker Territory

The start of Stacker Territory is indicated by a red triangle on the Disk Space gauge. The area to the right is "Stacker Territory." This is the extra disk space Stacker provides to your system. Without Stacker, you would have only the space on the left side of the red triangle. The position of the red triangle is determined by the expected compression ratio. Normally, with a 2:1 expected compression ratio, the red triangle is in the middle of the dial. If the expected compression ratio is larger, such as 2.5, the red triangle is to the left of center. If the expected compression ratio is smaller, such as 1.8, the red triangle is to the right of center.

Stackometer

A set of gauges that let you monitor the performance of your Stacker drive. The Stackometer displays a compression ratio summary, the amount of disk space available, and the fragmentation level of your Stacker drive. You can display a Stackometer for every disk on your system.

KB

Stands for kilobytes, a unit of computer storage. 1 KB = 1024 bytes.

Restack

Recompresses your data, maximizing the space available on your Stacker drive. Used when upgrading from previous versions of Stacker to obtain the improved compression available with Stacker for Windows and DOS.

Compress

The process of reducing the space required to store data. As the data is stored, recurring byte sequences are replaced by "tokens" that take less space to store. Data is compressed when it is written to a Stacker drive. The speed and tightness of compression are controlled by Stacker Tuner.

Decompress

The process of restoring data from its compressed form to its original uncompressed form. Stacker decompresses data when it is read from a Stacker drive.

Entire Drive

When Setup compresses the data on an entire drive, it compresses all the data currently on the disk into the Stacker drive. A few files may also remain on the uncompressed disk. After the data on an entire disk is compressed, it has the same drive letter as the original disk.

Free Space

When Setup compresses only the free space, it creates an empty Stacker drive using space from the original disk. Any files originally on the disk remain in the uncompressed portion. The new empty Stacker drive has a new drive letter.

Hot key

A hot key is a letter in the text label of each button and field that appears highlighted or in a different color. In most cases, pressing the hot key activates the button or field. If a text entry field is active, you have to hold down the ALT key while pressing the hot key.

STACVOL File

The hidden file on an uncompressed drive that actually contains all the compressed data. The STACVOL file is the Stacker drive.

Stacker Drive

The drive containing all the compressed data and compressed by Stacker 3.1 for Windows & DOS.

Removable Disk

A disk that can be removed from its drive and taken to another computer. Some removable disks are floppy disks, Bernoulli™ disks, and Syquest™ cartridges.

Cache

An area in memory where data can be stored for quick access. The Stacker driver has a built-in cache big enough for at least one cluster and 9 KB for work areas. The cache portion of the driver can be stored in expanded or upper memory.

Cluster

A storage unit on a disk that is a fixed size for the disk. A typical Stacker cluster is 8 KB. Stacker can also use 4 KB, 16 KB, and 32 KB clusters.

Disk Space

The amount of space on the disk currently filled with data.

Pathname

The location of a file. A full path include the drive letter, a colon, and each directory. For example, the Stacker files are stored in the path C:\STACKER. If you have Windows on drive D, some files are stored in D:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM.

Path

The list of directories that DOS searches automatically to find an application. A PATH statement in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file generally establishes the path.

Stacker Tuner

Gives you the controls to fine-tune your Stacker drives. You set Stacker for maximum speed, maximum compression, or something in between.

TSR

Terminate and Stay Resident. A memory resident program accessed while other programs are running.

AUTOEXEC.BAT

A special file automatically read at startup. Commands found within this file affect your system's configuration.

Expanded Memory

The portion of memory above the first 1 MB of conventional memory.

Boot Disk

The disk or drive your system starts up from.

DBLSPACE.BIN

The file which provides access to Stacker's data compression in MS-DOS 6.

STACKER.INI

The file which configures the Stacker device driver for your system.

Uncompressed drive

The portion of your drive containing the large STACVOL file which is your Stacker drive.

Preloading

In MS-DOS 6, the method which recognizes Stacker drives before reading CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT.

Hidden File

A file which is not visible by typing DIR. All files used for initially starting up the system are "hidden" so they can't accidentally be erased or edited.

Stacker Device Driver

The software enabling Stacker's data compression. It remains in memory while your system is working.

Windows' Permanent Swap File

A permanent area on your hard disk that Windows can use as a "scratch pad," temporarily housing data during a Windows session.

Automount

The process where Stacker automatically recognizes external or replaceable drives as Stacker drives.

Replaceable Drives

Disk drives where the media can easily be physically replaced. Examples include floppies, Bernoulli's™, or Syquest™ cartridges.

Conventional Memory

The first 640 KB of your system's memory.

Byte Total

The total amount of room it takes to store the highlighted files (measured in bytes).

Stacker Optimizer

The Stacker program which produces more efficient storage of files on your disk. The Optimizer defragments and reorganizes files so they are located in a contiguous area. That way, when you read a file from disk, DOS only has to go to one place to find the file, instead of gathering all the file's "bits and pieces" from many places

File Allocation Table (FAT)

The portion of your disk which contains all the information about the location of your files.

StartUp Group

A specific program group created by Windows. Whenever you start Windows, any applications found in the StartUp Group load immediately.