

## No. 281: Privazer

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If you want to really deep clean your computer (safely), here is a new program find of mine that will certainly do the job. The first version came out in December 2011, so it has been around awhile and has had a chance to mature. It will scan your Windows machine thoroughly, including both conventional hard disk drives, SSD drives (and even other devices). You can have it scan specific traces and even delete stuff without a trace, such as data in the recycle bin. There are lots of options and advanced options, including automatic cleanups. It will also restore and repair data. You can set it to work with a low, normal, high or maximum priority, depending on whether you wish to do the job quickly by concentrating on it, or have it done in the background while you continue working on other projects.

To describe the program simply, Privazer is a PC cleaner that erases unwanted traces forever. Be aware that it is a cleaner that you probably don't want to use every day. Rather, you might elect to use it just occasionally -- perhaps monthly, or even every three or four months. It does, however, seem to be an unparalleled scrubber that really does a thorough job of getting rid of unneeded data. It will also protect your privacy by removing sensitive material that you want thoroughly erased.

You can take a close look at it with a couple of majorgeeks videos. One will explain clearly what the program does and another will compare Privazer vs CCleaner vs Wise Disk Cleaner. Go here to take a look at the two videos, and decide what is best for you: <https://www.majorgeeks.com/files/details/privazer.html>. I think Privazer is terrific for periodic cleaning to a depth not available with CCleaner or Wise Disk Cleaner. And it will expose and offer to remove, in an unparalleled way, files that expose your privacy. This site is also where you can safely download the program.

Is it free? Well, yes and no. It is effectively free because the program, as it is offered, will do all that most people will ever want or need, with no fee. On the other hand, there are a few, relatively unimportant features that you can get for a minimum donation of \$10. I would suggest you download and use the program just as it is for awhile, and only send a donation later, if you feel guilty or want those extra features that are only available with the "Donors Version". On the other hand, what you get for free is a really well done program that deserves being used.

Some additional suggestions. Do any backups that it invites you to do (such as a Registry backup) before you run the program. While not really necessary, making backups will make you feel more confident that you will loose no non-recoverable data when the program is run. Besides, you should run backups anyway from time to time, so here is an incentive to do one. The other suggestion: although the program may or may not suggest a reboot after running, always do a reboot when finished. Some of the files it will remove cannot be erased except on startup, so the reboot will let the program truly finish its job and erase these locked files. This is particularly important if you

routinely leave your machine on 24/7, as I do. No sense in waiting for a month or the next power outage to finish your cleanup job.

So have fun getting to know Privazer and really feeling confident that you have done a good cleanup job on your machine, perhaps for the first time. I think you will like it. Happy computing!