

# BUNDLED "compact.exe" UTILITY IN "WINDOWS 10": THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

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Association of Technology  
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# THE GOOD:

The bundled "compact.exe" utility in "Windows 10.." can help you free up squeeze 3 to 5 extra Gigabytes of free space out of a cramped C: drive.

Using this reversible feature, you might be able to rescue a Windows 8 or 10 C: drive that keeps locking up or blue screening.

# THE BAD:

If you use the bundled "compact.exe" utility in "Windows 10.." help you free up squeeze 3 to 5 extra Gigabytes of free space out of a cramped C: drive, it will slow down your computer.  
Been there--done that!

# THE UGLY:

However, during the mandatory April 2018 updates each year, your Windows 10.. operating system might be significantly slowed down by an unwanted/unneeded "compaction" by the compact.exe utility!!

This unfortunate "gotcha" has happened to several of our computers. (We will show you how to undo this problem.)

# TOPICS

- April 2018 upgrade woes
- Determine if the "Windows 10" is in the "Compact OS" state

# TOPICS (continued)

- Undo the "Compact OS" state of the "Windows 10.." operating system
- Use the "Compact" command to put the "Windows 10.." into the "Compact OS" state

# APRIL 2018 UPGRADE WOES

- After upgrading a "Windows 10 Home" computer to version 1803 on April 30, 2018, the computer ran much slower than prior to the upgrade
- We determined that the upgrade process had put the Windows 10 operating system into the "Compact OS" state



# APRIL 2018 UPGRADE WOES

(continued)

- After we ran **Compact.exe /CompactOS:never** inside an "Windows Powershell (admin)" window, the slowdown of the computer was fixed and it operated at speeds similar to those experienced before the "April 2018" upgrade was installed

# DETERMINE IF "WINDOWS 10.." IS IN THE "COMPACT OS" STATE

- To determine if "Windows 10" is in the compressed "Compact OS" state, run the following query:

# DETERMINE IF "WINDOWS 10.." IS IN THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 1:  
Use the right mouse button to click on the "Start" button  
(or press "Windows" key + x on the keyboard)



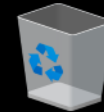
Belarc Advisor



Google Chrome



Macrium Reflect



Recycle Bin



Rescue.iso



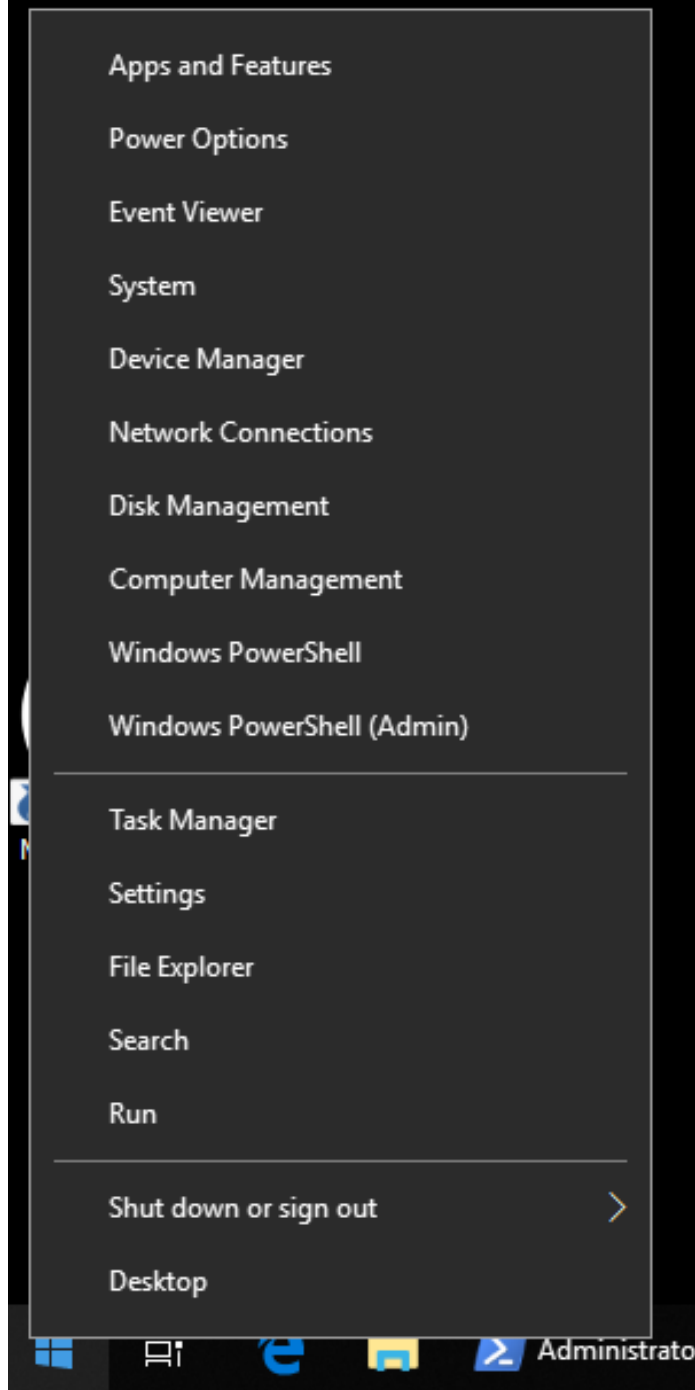
RevoUninstaller  
Freeware Portable



Belarc screenshot  
in html format

# DETERMINE IF "WINDOWS 10.." IS IN THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 2:  
A pop-up context menu will be displayed:



# DETERMINE IF "WINDOWS 10.." IS IN THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 3:  
Click on  
Windows PowerShell (Admin)  
or  
Command Prompt (Admin):

Windows PowerShell (Admin)

---



# DETERMINE IF "WINDOWS 10.." IS IN THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 4:  
A  
Windows PowerShell (Admin)  
window  
or a  
Command Prompt (Admin)  
window will be displayed:

Administrator: Windows PowerShell

```
Windows PowerShell  
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.  
  
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```

# DETERMINE IF "WINDOWS 10.." IS IN THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 5:  
Type or paste in  
`Compact.exe /CompactOS:query`  
and press the Enter key  
The query will tell you whether or not the Windows.. operating system is in the "Compact OS" state

 Administrator: Windows PowerShell

Windows PowerShell

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```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Compact.exe /CompactOS:query
```

```
The system is in the Compact state. It will remain in this state unless an administrator changes it.
```

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> █
```

# UNDO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE OF "WINDOWS 10"

- If "Windows 10.." is in the "Compact OS" state, you can undo the compressed "Compact OS" state (but use up about 3 Gigabytes of space on the C: drive) as follows:

# UNDO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE OF "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- Step 1:  
Use the right mouse button to click  
on the "Start" button  
(or press "Windows" key + x  
on the keyboard)



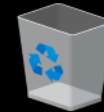
Belarc Advisor



Google Chrome



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Recycle Bin



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Freeware Portable



Belarc screenshot  
in html format

# UNDO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE OF "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- Step 2:  
A pop-up context menu will be displayed:



- Apps and Features
- Power Options
- Event Viewer
- System
- Device Manager
- Network Connections
- Disk Management
- Computer Management
- Windows PowerShell
- Windows PowerShell (Admin)

---

Task Manager

Settings

File Explorer

Search

Run

---

Shut down or sign out >

Desktop

# UNDO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE OF "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- Step 3:  
Click on  
Windows PowerShell (Admin)  
or  
Command Prompt (Admin):

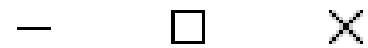
# Windows PowerShell (Admin)

---

# UNDO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE OF "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- Step 4:  
A  
Windows PowerShell (Admin)  
window  
or a  
Command Prompt (Admin)  
window will be displayed:

Administrator: Windows PowerShell



```
Windows PowerShell  
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.  
  
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```

# UNDO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE OF "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- Step 5:

Type or paste in

**Compact.exe /CompactOS:never**

and press the Enter key

The compression of all files in the "Windows 10.." operating system will stop and all of these files will remain uncompressed from this point onward.

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Compact.exe /CompactOS:never
Completed uncompressing OS binaries.

9490 files within 16519 directories were uncompressed.

PS C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```

## PUT "WINDOWS 10" INTO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE

- If you are desperate for 3 additional Gigabytes of free space on the C: drive of a "Windows 10.." computer, you can put "Windows 10.." into the compressed "Compact OS" state (but slow down the computer) as follows:



# PUT "WINDOWS 10" INTO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 1:  
Use the right mouse button to click  
on the "Start" button  
(or press "Windows" key + x  
on the keyboard)



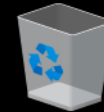
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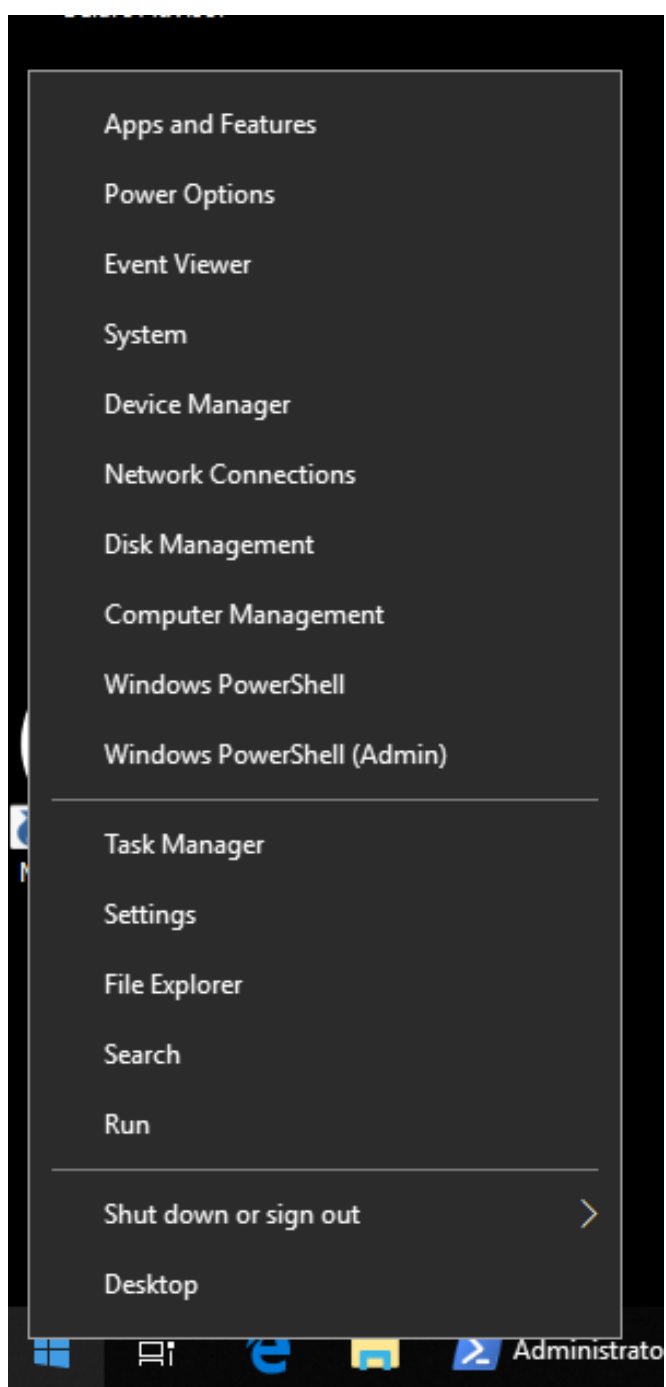
RevoUninstaller  
Freeware Portable



Belarc screenshot  
in html format

# PUT "WINDOWS 10" INTO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 2:  
A pop-up context menu will be displayed:



# PUT "WINDOWS 10" INTO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 3:  
Click on  
Windows PowerShell (Admin)  
or  
Command Prompt (Admin):

# Windows PowerShell (Admin)

---

# PUT "WINDOWS 10" INTO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

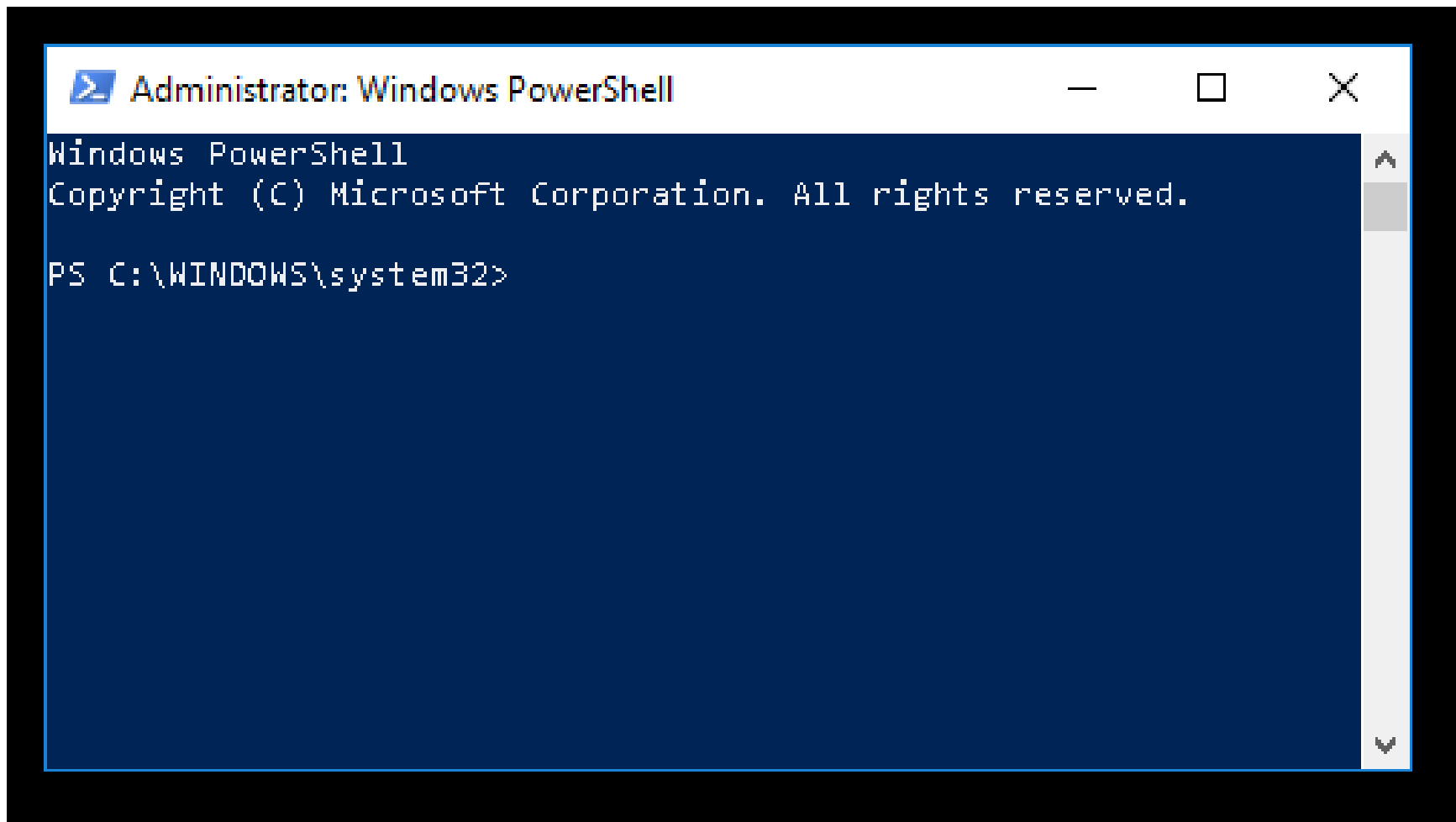
- Step 4:

A

Windows PowerShell (Admin)  
window

or a

Command Prompt (Admin)  
window will be displayed:





# PUT "WINDOWS 10" INTO THE "COMPACT OS" STATE (continued)

- Step 5:

Type or paste in

`Compact.exe /CompactOS:always`

and press the Enter key

The compression process for all files in the Windows 10 operating system will start and all of the files will stay compressed from this point onward.

> Administrator: Windows PowerShell

Windows PowerShell

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PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Compact.exe /CompactOS:always

Completed Compressing OS binaries.

35461 files within 16519 directories were compressed.

8,703,106,359 total bytes of data are stored in 4,635,476,696 bytes.

The compression ratio is 1.9 to 1.

PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> █

# REFERENCES

- <https://www.windowscentral.com/how-reduce-windows-10-footprint-your-pc>
- <https://www.anandtech.com/show/9676/windows-10-feature-focus-compactos>

# TYPES OF SOFTWARE UTILITY PROGRAMS INSIDE A "WINDOWS.." COMPUTER

- "Bundled applets" are part of the "Windows.." operating system: Microsoft does not like to call them "programs"
- "Third party programs" are Microsoft's derisive term for utility programs that they did not develop

# TYPES OF SOFTWARE UTILITY PROGRAMS.. (continued)

- From your end-user perspective, three kinds of utility programs in a Windows 10.. or 8.. computer:
  - Desktop apps
  - Universal Windows Platform (UWP) apps
  - Portable apps

# TYPES OF SOFTWARE UTILITY PROGRAMS.. (continued)

- From your end-user perspective, there are three kinds of utility programs in a Windows 7.. computer:
  - Desktop apps
  - Portable apps

# TYPES OF SOFTWARE UTILITY PROGRAMS.. (continued)

- Some third-party utility programs have both a portable app versions and a desktop app version with a free time-limited trial:

Use the portable app version to avoid putting junk into the Windows.. registry

# TYPES OF SOFTWARE UTILITY PROGRAMS.. (continued)

- (continued from previous slide..)  
Use the portable app to avoid installing associated background processes to have lower RAM and hard drive footprint for a utility program



# TYPES OF SOFTWARE UTILITY PROGRAMS.. (continued)

- (continued from previous slide..)  
Many utility programs do not have a portable app version so you are stuck with installing the desktop app if you want to run them.