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Contig v1.6

By **Mark Russinovich**

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Introduction

There are a number of NT disk defraggers on the market, including Winternals *Defrag Manager*. These tools are useful for performing a general defragmentation of disks, but while most files are defragmented on drives processed by these utilities, some files may not be. In addition, it is difficult to ensure that particular files that are frequently used are defragmented - they may remain fragmented for reasons that are specific to the defragmentation algorithms used by the defragging product that has been applied. Finally, even if all files have been defragmented, subsequent changes to critical files could cause them to become fragmented. Only by running an entire defrag operation can one hope that they might be defragmented again.

Contig is a single-file defragmenter that attempts to make files contiguous on disk. Its perfect for quickly optimizing files that are continuously becoming fragmented, or that you want to ensure are in as few fragments as possible.

Using Contig

Contig can be used to defrag an existing file, or to create a new file of a specified size and name, optimizing its placement on disk. *Contig* uses standard Windows defragmentation APIs so it won't cause disk corruption, even if you terminate it while its running.

To make an existing file contiguous use *Contig* as follows:

Usage: contig [-v] [-a] [-q] [-s] [filename]

- v Use the -v switch to have *Contig* print out information about the file defrag operations that are performed.
- a If you want to simply see how fragmented a file or files have become, use the -a switch to have *Contig* analyze fragmentation.
- q The -q switch, which over-rides the -v switch, makes *Contig* run in "quiet" mode, where the only thing it prints during a defrag run is summary information.
- s Use the -s switch to perform a recursive processing of subdirectories when you specify a filename with wildcards.

For instance, to defragment all DLLs under c:\winnt you could enter "contig -s c:\winnt*.dll".

To make a new file that is defragmented upon creation, use *Contig* like this:

Usage: contig [-v] [-n filename length]

How it Works

Contig uses the native Windows NT defragmentation support that was introduced with NT 4.0 (see my documentation of the defrag APIs for more information). It first scans the disk collecting the locations and sizes of free areas. Then it determines where the file in question is located. Next, *Contig* decides whether the file can be optimized, based on free areas and the number of fragments the file currently consists of. If the file can be optimized, it is moved into the free spaces of the disk.



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Runs on:

Client: Windows XP and higher.

Server: Windows Server 2003 and higher.

More Information

Helen Custer's *Inside Windows NT* provides a good overview of the Object Manager name space, and Mark's October 1997 Windows NT Magazine column, "*Inside the Object Manager*", is (of course) an excellent overview.



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