The process of dividing a computer file, such as a data file or an executable program file, into fragments that are stored in different parts of a computer’s storage medium, such as its hard disc or RAM, is known as fragmentation in computing. When a file is fragmented, it is stored on the storage medium in non-contiguous blocks, which means that the blocks are not stored next to each other.

Cause of Fragmentation

This can happen when a file is too large to fit into a single contiguous block of free space on the storage medium, or when the blocks of free space on the medium are insufficient to hold the file. Because the system must search for and retrieve individual fragments from different locations in order to open the file, fragmentation can cause problems when reading or accessing the file.