

How full does a hard drive have to get before Explorer will start getting concerned?

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Raymond Chen

The answer depends on which “hard drive almost full” warning you’re talking about. Note that these boundaries are merely the current implementation (up until Windows 7). Future versions of Windows reserve the right to change the thresholds. The information provided is *for entertainment purposes only*. The thermometer under the drive icon in *My Computer* uses a very simple algorithm: A drive is drawn in the warning state when it is 90% full. The low disk space warning balloon is more complicated. The simplified version is that it warns of low disk space on drives bigger than about 3GB when free disk space drops below 200MB. The warnings become more urgent when free disk space drops below 80MB, 50MB, and finally 1MB. (For drives smaller than 3GB, the rules are different, but nobody—to within experimental error—has hard drives that small anyway, so it’s pretty much dead code now.)

These thresholds cannot be customized, but at least you can turn off the low disk space balloons.

Raymond Chen

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