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REVIEWS

# DaisyDisk 4 review: An elegant and fun way to free up storage space

Scan internal hard drives and SSDs, external drives, and cloud storage.



By [Chris Barylick](#)

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Software Ambience

## At a glance

Expert's Rating

★★★★★



#### Pros

- Quickly scans storage and find large files
- Graphical representation of storage
- File name previews
- Can check cloud storage

#### Cons

- Some user-interface quirks

#### Our Verdict

DaisyDisk succeeds in making it pretty simple (and actually somewhat fun) to track down and eliminate space-hogging files on your Mac.

## Price When Reviewed

\$9.99

## Best Prices Today

| RETAILER                                           | PRICE  | DELIVERY                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Mac App Store                                      | \$9.99 | <div>V<br/>IE<br/>W</div> |
| Software Ambience<br>(developer)                   | \$9.99 | <div>V<br/>IE<br/>W</div> |
| Price comparison from over 24,000 stores worldwide |        |                           |

Some file optimization and application removal programs on the Mac reach for the stars, trying to perform every possible task of optimization, file cleanup, operating system customization, and malware removal the developers can think of as part of an overarching package. Other apps have been more streamlined, seeking to perform fewer functions and executing them well.

[DaisyDisk](#), the brainchild of developers Taras Brizitsky (who programmed the original idea, interaction, and graphic design) and Oleg Krupnov (who now handles the code and technical support) as well as a large group of translators and contributors, belongs to the latter group. The application (version 4.20.3 reviewed here) focuses on locating file clusters, groups them by size, and offers a quick and easy means of dragging them to a delete icon and getting rid of them forever, bypassing the Finder's Trash. The result is an

application that quickly scans your Mac's volumes after you've entered an administrator password, then shows you which files and folders are taking up the most space, helping you to quickly prune things down to size.

DaisyDisk also keeps a running count of how much space you've cleaned up recently, providing an even more entertaining incentive to dig in and clean up those forgotten project folders that once gobbled up dozens of gigabytes of hard drive space.



DaisyDisk's map of a file system on an external drive. The image breaks down how much space is available, how much is being used, and which files and folders are consuming the most space.

IDG

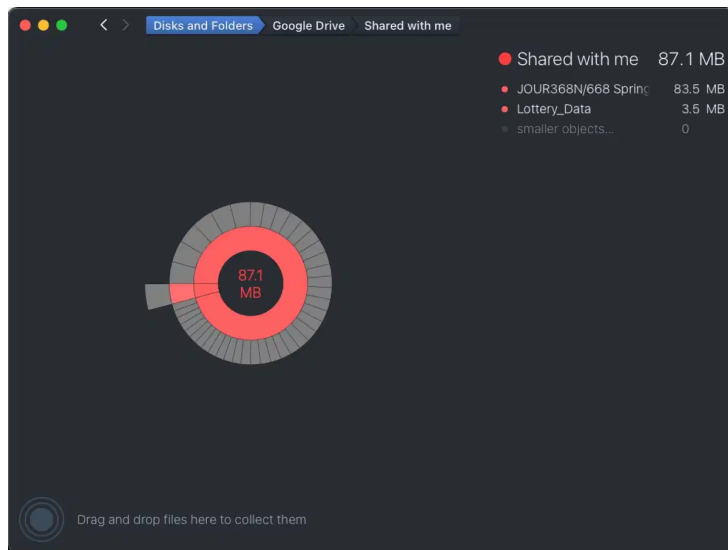
## How it works

DaisyDisk's premise is simple enough, and a bevy of new features keeps it fresh, interesting, and handy. After scanning a partition, move the mouse over the image map that DaisyDisk creates to get an idea as to what's taking up the most space and how this relates to the overall drive. Previews of files can also be brought up by clicking the file name to better remind you as to what something is and if it's worth keeping.



Quick access to the macOS Disk Utility program proves handy for quick repairs, and it's simple to access cloud-based accounts such as Dropbox and Google Drive to see what's gobbling up space and quickly remove old files and projects on the fly. Upon telling DaisyDisk to delete files, you're given a five-second countdown to abort, lest it is gone forever and requires data recovery software to retrieve.

If nothing else, DaisyDisk wins in its elegance and simplicity. This isn't a program that's trying to be a catch-all and do everything at once but is focused on file management, presenting what's taking up invaluable disk space, and allowing you to work with it.



A quick view of a Google drive account via DaisyDisk.  
IDG

## A different way to look at your storage

If there are caveats with this program, it's that its ultramodern user interface may be a little ahead of what users might expect to see. It presents your file groups as something between a scatterplot and a pie chart, which doesn't immediately make sense and takes a little getting used to. This is currently the only view available, and albeit impressive, it'd be nice to have a selection of views. A quick visit to the DaisyDisk website and its 59-second [tutorial video](#) can answer a lot of questions and offers you a clear idea of what you're in for.

Debatable user interface foibles aside, there's a lot going for DaisyDisk. In a week of reviewing the application, there were two version updates, and the developers keep a good eye as

to bug fixes and changes. The program also hits a perfect \$9.99 price point, which realizes its value as a useful third-party application from a good developer without asking for an arm and a leg in return.

## Bottom line

No one ever said tracking down and eliminating all the stuff that was devouring space on your Mac would be pleasant, but DaisyDisk succeeds in making it pretty simple and actually somewhat fun.

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