

# You'd think that with the name TEMP, people wouldn't expect it to be around for a long time

[devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20151216-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20151216-00)

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A customer had a problem with the Disk Cleanup wizard. The customer liaison explained:

The customer would like to know what locations the Disk Cleanup wizard removes files from. The custom is running Application Q. They had a previous incident where they incurred significant downtime because the Disk Cleanup wizard deleted files from `C:\Windows\Installer` and `C:\Temp` that caused their application to stop working. When will the Disk Cleanup Wizard remove a Windows update?

Okay, we can talk about how the cleanup of outdated Windows updates works, but *holy crap* did you say that Application Q stores critical information in the `C:\Temp` directory?

You cannot assume that any files in the Temp directory will exist for any significant length of time. The name Temp stands for Temporary. Temporary means *not permanent*. If your application puts critical files in the Temp directory, then it is just asking for trouble.

If you need a permanent place to store your critical information, try a subdirectory of the Local Application Data directory.

Okay, going back to the questions about Windows updates: The Disk Cleanup Wizard removes up a Windows update if it has been superseded by another update. For example, there may be a roll-up update that includes the original update.

But I doubt that's what made Application Q stop working. I bet it's assuming that files in a temporary directory have permanent storage duration.

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