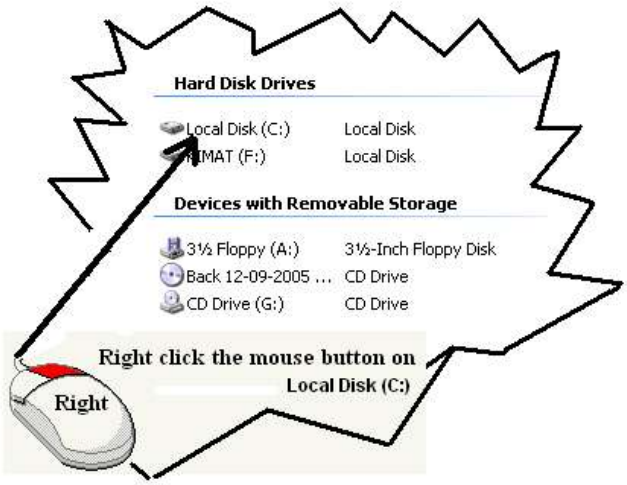
# Coffee Break

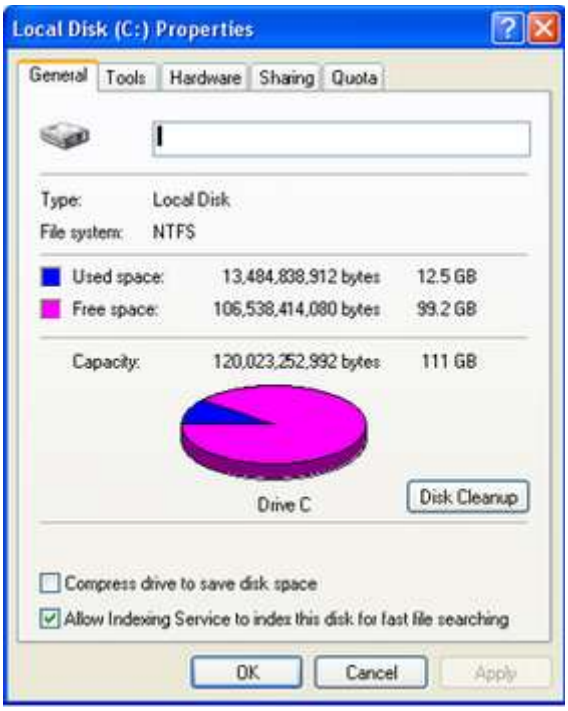
Question on Software or Operating system.

## What is the size of my hard drive?

To visualize the size of you hard drive can be a little hard so Microsoft displayed the amount of space used and available with a pie chart. You can find this information by Left Clicking on **My Computer**. An Explorer type window opens. Place the arrow cursor on the **Local Disk (C:)** and right click**.**



Left click on Properties.




A Pie Chart shows the amount of space used and available. Note the check box * 'Compress drive'. It is best to leave this unchecked. With the size of drives available to-day there is no need to compress the drive.

Visually or comparing disk space with something we know, could go like this.

1 3½ floppy = 1.47 megabyte

100 3 ½ floppies = 10.5 megabytes

1,024 3½ floppies = 1 gigabyte

81,920 3 ½ floppies = 80 gigabytes

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An 80 gigabyte drive has ....

**85,899,345,920 bytes available.**

**Photo is a stack of 100 3 ½" 1.47 meg floppies.**

**mega-**

prefix, often meaning "large, great," but in precise scientific language "one million" (megaton, megawatt, etc.), from Gk. megas "great, large, mighty" (fem. megale), from PIE *meg- "great" (cf. L. magnus, Goth. mikils, O.E. micel). Mega began to be used alone as an adj. 1982.

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A **gigabyte** (pronounced GIG-a-bite with hard G's) is a measure of computer data storage capacity and is "roughly" a billion bytes. A gigabyte is two to the 30th power, or 1,073,741,824 in decimal notation.

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**The major problem introduced by disk compression is SPEED, or rather, lack of it. Disk compression slows down your hard drives by a noticeable margin, because every time you open a file, it has to be decompressed into memory. And everytime you save a file, more memory is taken up by the compression process.*

Microsoft continued to provide this disk drive compression in XP professional but not in XP home addition. Mainly because hard drive space is not the problem it was in the early 1990,s.