Windows Fall Creators Update (AKA 1709) has been recently deployed to some million PCs around the world; one of the default settings about *disk space and storage management* may be hurting the way you think about your files: let's take a look.

The problem and what is affected

By *default*, files in the **recycle bin** will be **deleted after 30 days**.

As a consultant, I see too many users using the **Trashcan** just like any other folder: it is commonly perceived as a *"see later"* folder.
Bad idea: both Windows and work logic are against it.

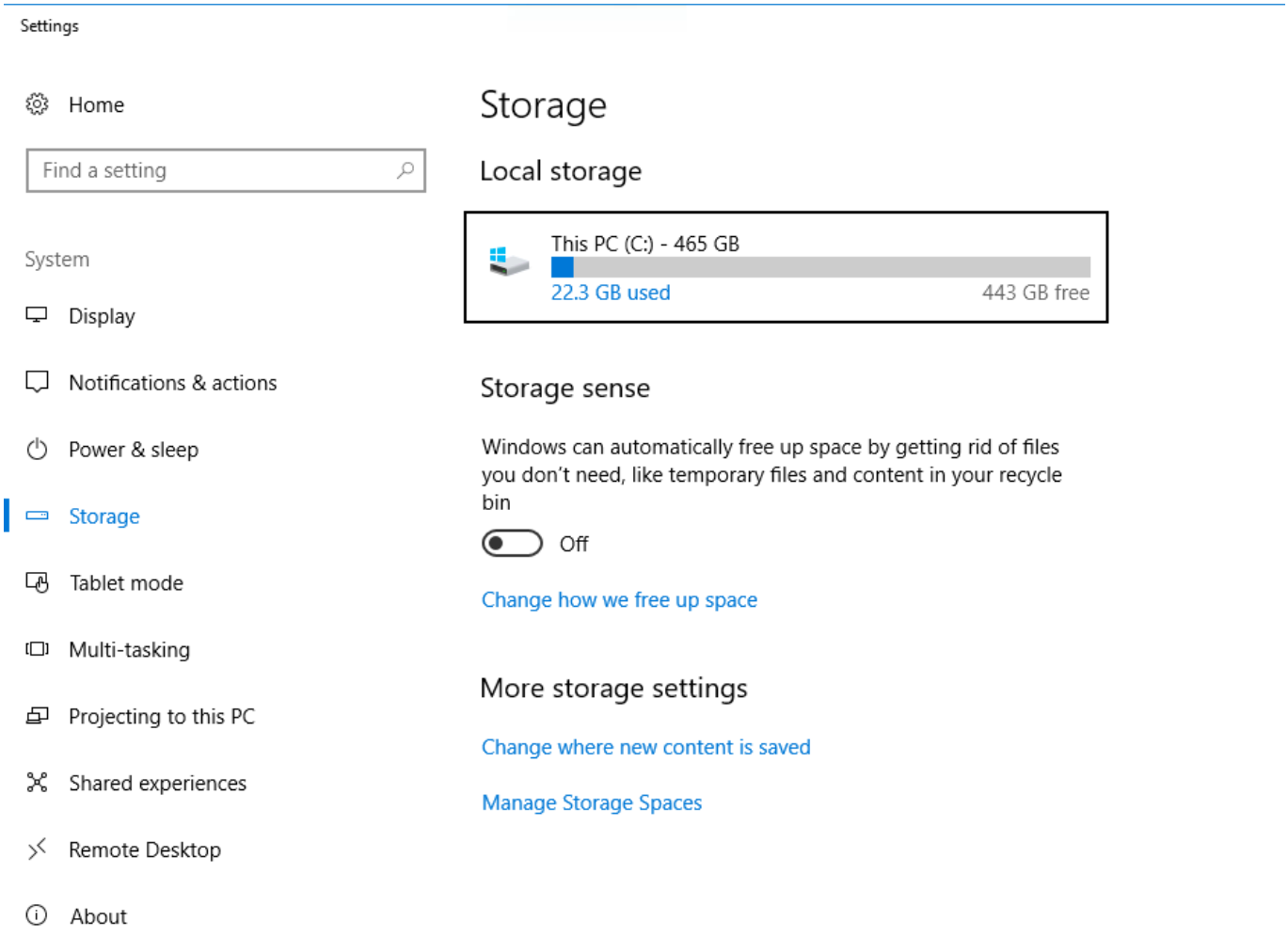
Moreover, the **Download** folder is affected by this update (and the same policy as well): files that have been downloaded and never changed in the last 30 days will be deleted. Again, this is going to turn into a nightmare for plenty of users.

The third deletion policy is about **temporary files** – and you should be happy that Windows itself wipes out some clutter, every now and then…

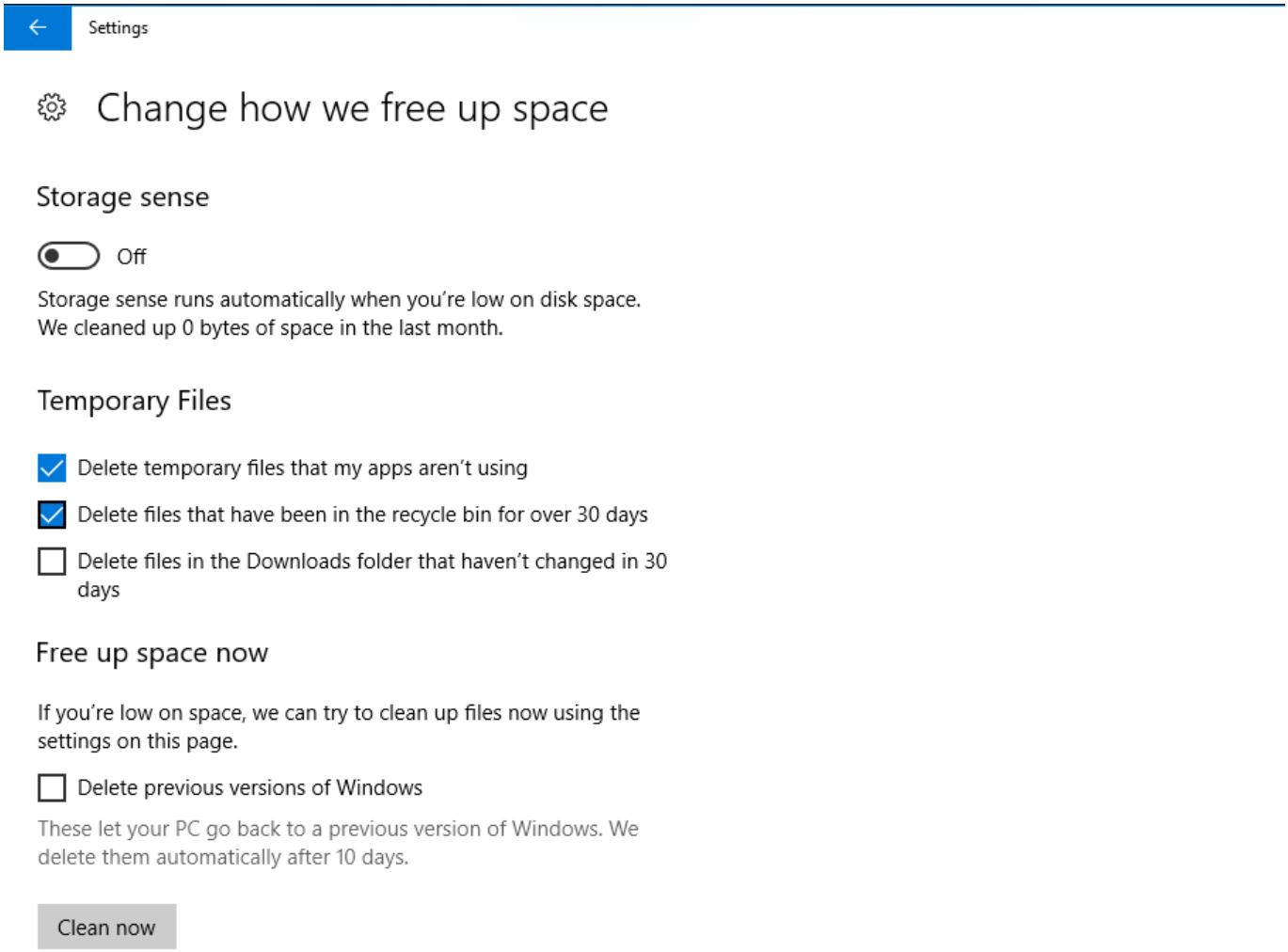
The logic besides these storage policies is that documents should go into **Documents** folder, pictures into **Images** and so on… leaving uncluttered Recycle Bin and Download.

What you can do?

You can check the settings (and decide on your own) by getting into `Settings/System/Storage`, as in picture, and click on **"Change how we free up space"** link.



As you can see in the following picture (showing a typical setting), there are three checkboxes under the "Temporary files" section:
– "**Delete temporary files that my apps aren't using**": my advice is to leave this one on, it will clear most temp files around;
– "**Delete files that have been in the recycle bin for over 30 days**": uncheck this if you want to control when to empty the trashcan…;
– "**Delete files in the Downloads folder that haven't changed in 30 days**": again, you may want to uncheck this one and manage the Downloads folder on your own!



As they say: *"better safe than sorry"*.