

Four Season's Newsletter
TECH CORNER
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How to Speedup Windows 10

If your Windows 10 PC is acting sluggish, or funky in any way, always Reboot. A full reboot – starting over – is always a great way to remove the cobwebs. Click Start and click Restart. Still running slow? Take the following steps.

Windows assumes that you want an energy-efficient computer. But you can trade electricity for speed. Use this tip only if you're willing to increase your electric bill and decrease your battery performance. Go to Control Panel and click Power Options. You can then go to Additional Plans and select High Performance. Some low-end PCs don't have those options.

If your PC is underpowered, you may want to sacrifice aesthetics and gain some speed. Again, go to Control Panel and click System. In Control Panel's left pane, select Advanced system settings. This brings up the System Properties dialog box. Under the Advanced tab, click the Settings button in the Performance box. This brings up another dialog box. You can uncheck some of the options, or simply select Adjust for best performance.

Many programs load automatically every time you boot. Each one slows down the boot process, and some continue to slow down Windows afterwards. These are not all bad. Your antivirus program should load when you boot and keep running as long as your PC is on. Some programs should also load automatically on startup. But other programs—even good ones that you use frequently—don't really need to run all the time. You don't want to uninstall those, but you may want to stop them from autoloading. The Task Manager can show you all the programs that load automatically at boot, and help you choose which ones to keep. Right click the start button and select Task manager. Go to the Startup tab. The Startup tab will show you all the autoloading programs. As you examine the list, think about what programs you don't really need to keep running at all times. To stop one from loading automatically, right-click its entry on the Startup tab and select Disable. If you don't recognize the name of an autoloader, right-click it and select Search online to help you find more information.

Your computer may be running a poorly written process that's hogging a lot of resources. To find out, right-click the taskbar and select Task Manager. (Once again, if you don't see any tabs at the top of the window, click More Details.) On the Processes tab, click the CPU column header to sort by processor usage. The top items will be the ones hogging the CPU. (If the top processes are all using 0%, the processes are sorted in the wrong direction. Click the column header again.) Don't assume that the top process is necessarily a hog. Some big applications are worth the CPU cycles. One way to manage these programs is to close them when you're done with them. Another is to switch to a smaller program. You can close a process from inside Task

Manager. Select the process and click the End task button and confirm your decision. But this should be avoided. When you're done, click the Memory column header and repeat.

When you search for a word across all the files in your Documents library, the results come up almost immediately. That's wonderful, but it comes at a price because when you're not searching, the indexing needed to create those fast searches slows you down. To turn off all indexing:

Open Windows Explorer, right-click your C: drive, and select Properties. On the General tab, uncheck Allow files on this drive to have contents indexed in addition to file properties. In the resulting warning box, select Apply changes to drive C:\, subfolders and files. Windows may take some time turning off the indexing. There's another option that will let you turn off some indexing but not all of it: Type "indexing" in the Cortana field. Select Indexing Options. Click the Modify button near the lower-left side of the resulting dialog box. This brings up another dialog box, with two sections. And yes, it's confusing. Start in the bottom section of the dialog box, Summary of selected locations. Click any of these options, and it changes the contents of the top section, Change selected locations. Unchecking items in that top section will stop indexing in those specific locations.

Windows 10 occasionally gives you tips about how you can better use the operating system. The problem is that, in order to see what tips you need, it keeps an eye on how you're using your PC. This slows down your PC. To turn it off, click Start > Settings. Select System, then select Notifications & actions in the left pane. At the bottom of the Notifications section, turn off Get tips, tricks, and suggestions as you use Windows.

If you have plenty of free room on your hard drive - you can skip this section. But if your internal storage is almost full—whether it's a hard drive or an SSD—that could be slowing you down. Start with Windows' own Disk Cleanup tool. In the Cortana field, type disk and select Disk Cleanup. Wait while Disk Cleanup examines your drive. Click the Clean-up system files button (this time you'll need an administrator password). Then wait again for another examination. Examine the options. If you find one called Previous Windows installation(s), you're in luck. By checking it and clicking OK, you'll free up a lot of space. You can check other items to get rid of them, as well. Something else you might want to consider: Uninstall programs you no longer use. Go to Control Panel > Programs and Features > Uninstall or Change a Program list appears.

Now you're cookin!

Please come to our Computer, Photography & Technology Club meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the multi-purpose room in the Club House.

If you have any questions or if there are any topics you would like me to cover in the future, PLEASE send me a note by email to: brianmarder@comcast.net