

Computer Corner

By Jim Jeup
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Q: *Should I leave my computer on or turn it off?*

A: Turn it off unless there is a personal need to leave it on.

Turn Your Computer Off When:

- You leave for more than one hour
- You are done using it for the day
- Electrical storms are in the area
- Unplug it from the wall if you are going on vacation

Leave Your Computer On When:

- It is on a company LAN and is updated at night
- It is a server for the Internet
- You like to check your email at 2:00 AM on your way back to bed, and you do not want to wait for it to boot up.

Dispelling Myths

Booting up is bad for a computer...

- There was a time when hard drives were susceptible to heat/cool/heat cycles, but today's hard drives are far better than they were fifteen years ago.
- Today's hard drives spin at rates of 5,400-7,400+ revolutions per minute. Do you want them spinning at this rate without doing any work?

It uses more power to boot up, than it does to leave it on...

- Today's computers use the same amount of power to startup as they do at rest, with the exception of the floppy drive and CD ROM drive lights that flash on and off once during boot up.

Sleep and Hibernation mode save wear on your computer...

- Manufacturers invented "Sleep" features to save power. In most cases, they invented sleep features to ensure an "Energy Star" rating.
- All computers continue to use power when they are in "Sleep" mode. Power costs will add to your electric bill.
- Have you ever attempted a "defrag" with active power management? Your system goes into an endless loop as Windows continually checks your computer for user activity

Treat your computer as you would treat your television. Modern TVs use a system board similar to your computer's motherboard.

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Q: *A friend sent me a WordPerfect document through Email. I have Windows 2000 and cannot get the material printed. What can I do to overcome this predicament?*

A: Windows 2000 is your operating system. Do you have Microsoft Word (or MS Office)? If you have Word, open the file in Word and print it from there (it should convert the document for you). A better solution is for your friend to save the document in "**Rich Text Format**" (.rtf). Anyone with the Windows Operating System can read .rtf files in WordPad (native to all Windows systems).

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Q: *My laptop makes a strange clicking noise when it starts up and it is very slow. Is it about to die?*

A: The laptop hard drive **is** about to cease functioning. The more you use it, the faster it will cease usefulness. Back up important data/documents **NOW!** Once it fails, an expensive Data Recovery Lab will be the only recovery method available. Professional Technicians have the tools to backup your important data before the drive fails. A professional can also make an exact copy of your drive so you won't know the difference the next time you boot your laptop (other than the absent grinding noise and faster operation).

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