



Speeding Up Your Computer

Everyone knows that the most important resource in any company is time. Everything ever done in a business requires time and there is no way to purchase more of it. If you are working on your computer and your computer is moving slower than you are then time is being wasted. And time is money. So what can you do to save time and money?

1. Upgrade the computer you already have. This can be very inexpensive depending on what you are upgrading. A simple memory upgrade could increase the speed of your computer greatly while carrying a relatively small price tag.

2. Perform routine maintenance on your computer. If your computer was fast enough but isn't anymore then this might be what you need. Maintenance is a tune up for computers so they can run as fast as possible with their current configurations.

3. Remove spyware and ad-ware. If you go on the internet, chances are you have spyware and ad-ware running on your computer. While usually invisible to the everyday end user, it is using your internet bandwidth as well as your computer's memory. By removing these programs, your computer will have more resources available.



4. Defrag your hard drive. Whenever your computer saves a file it simply saves it in the first open space it finds. It will even split the file over various open spaces, causing fragmentation. Over time, this will create longer

wait times for files to be accessed and opened. By running a defragmentation on your hard drive, you can better organize the files and folders on your computer, thus decreasing the amount of time it takes to read them.

5. Clean the registry. Most computers use what is called a registry. This registry acts as an inventory of what is loaded on the computer and where it resides. Often times, when you uninstall something from your computer, part of that program is still in your registry. Old or unused registry entries can cause decreased efficiency on your computer. Clean your registry to make it easier for windows to use it.

6. The last solution would be to replace your computer with a newer one. This can be a little costly but if your computer is more than 3 or 4 years old then this is probably the solution you need.

Web Filtering Benefits

Many small businesses never think of filtering the web pages available to their employees. However, with the growing prevalence of spyware and malicious mobile code (MMC) being unknowingly installed on your computer just by visiting certain web pages, the benefits of filtering can be quite numerous.

The first and most immediate benefit would be an increase in employee productivity. By filtering web sites based on their content, an employer can prevent employees from visiting most online commercial web sites. This would take away the ability for employees to shop or browse for a new car while on company time, and allow them to get back to what you are paying them for: work.

Another very important benefit of implementing some form of web filtering is avoiding the sites that have the highest chance to either install spyware without the user knowing or infecting the computer with an internet-based virus. Spyware has been around for years now, but has lately become much more widespread than in years

past. A lot of the internet gaming sites, as well as some not so well known sites are notorious for installing spyware, as well as file sharing programs and internet music applications. By avoiding these web sites, we can help lower the possibility of spyware.

Web driven viruses are a relatively new species of virus, but they pose just as much of a threat nonetheless. Just by visiting an infected web site the computer will become infected as well. While most anti-virus software packages will catch these, it is a much better policy to sim-

ply avoid the problem instead of having to rely on software.

One last benefit is better network utilization. If your network is not clogged up by people visiting chat sites, downloading music or unauthorized files, or streaming audio and/or video over your network, the access speed is greatly enhanced. Downloading critical files from a server or sending an important email with a large file attachment can potentially be done much faster.

