

Windows7 Setup and Internet Issues

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1. Windows 7 Setup

- Win7 was released Oct 2009. SP1 came out Feb 2011. Windows8 is estimated for release 4th qtr 2011. Total life span will be approx 2-years (windows8news.com).
- Win7 is the best MS Operating System in years (remember Win3.1 and ME?)
- BUT, one more time, DO NOT use all the BLOAT (junk software) that comes included as default from MS in Win7. (See next page.)

1. Windows 7 Setup

- DO NOT set up a dual-boot installation with Win7 and an old Windows version, you will probably have performance and other problems (Google to see examples.) Upgrade or discard your OLD JUNK (hardware & software) FIRST!
- Windows 8 will probably pull together operation of all PCs and handheld phones, tablets, pads, etc (sorry Apple and Droid-lovers.)

1. Windows 7 Setup

- The big SETUP ISSUE now is: Do you Upgrade (Vista only) or Reformat and CLEAN INSTALL. Before you load Win7, check it's compatibility with your old equipment and your old software. Download & run:
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/compatibility/windows-7/en-us/default.aspx>
<http://tinyurl.com/yhs5gab>
 - Upgrade or discard your OLD JUNK hardware and software NOW!

2. Win7 still has ISSUES such as:

- Still has too much BLOAT! Download and run the program Vista4experts (from PC World: <http://tinyurl.com/6jwu4f2>) after you install your AntiVirus program. This will turn off most of the Microsoft Win7 BLOAT, like Aero, User Account Control, Gadgets and Windows Sidebar.
- Choose the version of Win7 that looks the best for you, remembering the KISS Principle. (Keep It Simple Stupid!)
 - Windows Home Premium is the default standard with the least BLOAT.
 - Compare Windows 7 editions at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/default.aspx>

2. Win7 still has ISSUES such as:

- Memory, Memory, Memory!
 - Note: 2GB is minimum for reasonable performance.
 - BE SURE TO USE THE SAME RAM STICKS IN BOTH SLOTS ON MOST NOTEBOOKS! This also applies to SOME desktops.

More Windows 7 Notes:

- | <u>Windows 7 Edition</u> | <u>Version</u> | <u>MAXIMUM USEABLE RAM</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| -Home Premium | 32-bit | 4.0GB (3.2GB) |
| -Home Premium | 64-bit | 6.0GB |
| -Professional or Ultimate | 64-bit | 192.0GB |
- Windows7 costs \$25 (student) to about \$220 for each PC. Check Google.com, <http://outletdeal.com> or <http://frys.com> (\$80 Home Premium download on-line.)
- Note: Using ANY “compatibility mode” will SLOW DOWN YOUR PC and create lots of problems. DON’T DO IT! Check Microsoft compatibility report above.

3. Antivirus and Anti-Spyware issues

- You need:
 - an anti-virus
 - anti-spyware
 - Windows Firewall
- FREE vs. FEE software:
 - Best FREE software: Microsoft Security Essentials
 - Best FEE software: Norton Internet Security 2011 \$19-69.99 (3-PCs; rated #1 anti-virus by PCWorld in Mar. 2011; comes pre-installed on many new PCs.)

3. Antivirus and Anti-Spyware issues

- Others to AVOID:
 - AVG Internet Security 2011 (heavy overhead)
 - Kaspersky Internet Security 2011 (Russians want control of your PC)
- Special Uses: (free) downloads:
 - ADVANCED SYSTEMCARE and...
 - MALWAREBYTES

4. How to setup and *TUNE-UP* your PC on a weekly basis

- How many of you tune up your PC at least one a month?
- How many would like to DOUBLE your operating speed and extend your PC's life?
- Run free on-line PC CHECKUP at:
WWW.OFFICEDEPOT.COM/feature/PCCHECKUP or
<http://tinyurl.com/4z7u377>

4. How to setup and *TUNE-UP* your PC on a weekly basis

- Set up Computer/Properties/Control Panel/Advanced system settings/Advanced/Performance /Settings to :
ADJUST FOR BEST PERFORMANCE.
- Set up Microsoft Security Essentials (FREE) and schedule a regular weekly scans when both your PC and Internet are ON! This is both an AntiVirus and AntiSpyware. Set up SCAN for time when your PC is ON!
- Set up Windows Update to AUTOMATICALLY download & install updates.

5. PC Tune-up recommendations

TUNE-UP your PC by running the following programs WEEKLY (unless unavailable or you use PC less than twice weekly):

1. Run “Cleanup!” Download here:
<http://tinyurl.com/yp5qsy>
2. Run “CCleaner” Download here:
<http://tinyurl.com/bvtbj>

5. PC Tune-up recommendations

3. Run Advanced SystemCare (download from MajorGeeks.com)
<http://tinyurl.com/372z7vw>
4. If you get any Spyware Removal errors, run MalwareBytes
<http://tinyurl.com/bcfa2w>
5. Perform Disk Cleanup (from Start... All programs... Accessories... System Tools)
6. Run Disk Defragmenter (from Start... All programs... Accessories... System Tools)

6. Internet Issues

- You must balance SPEED against RELIABILITY and COST (NOTE: lots of deals.)
 - Dial-up - .054Mbps- about \$10/mo! (SLOWWWW – Forget it!)
 - DSL internet
 - .76Mbps – about \$20/mo.
 - 1.50Mbps - about \$20/mo.
 - 3.00Mbps - about \$20/mo.
 - 6.00Mbps – about \$25/mo.
 - Cable internet
 - 1.50Mbps- about \$27/mo. (NOTE: Reliability issues!)
 - 12.00Mbps – about \$47/mo.
 - 20.00Mbps – about \$57/mo.
 - 50.00Mbps – about \$100/mo.
 - Wireless internet – (see wirelessinternet.org & Google “wireless internet”)
 - 2G EDGE - .70-.14Mbps about \$25/mo and up.
 - 3G - 1.40-3.1Mbps about \$40-80/mo.
 - 4G -14.00-100Mbps about \$29-80/mo.

6. Internet Issues (continued)

- Browsers
 - Mozilla Firefox Browser – SAFER than MS.
www.mozilla.com
 - Google Chrome Browser – FASTER and safer than MS.
www.Google.com
 - Microsoft Internet Explorer Browser – (use this only if the others do not work.)

7. I'm on the Internet, now what?

If you are new to the Internet, here's what it's used for (mostly...)

1. Email - YahooMail, Gmail, Hotmail, & others.
2. Entertainment – Digital Media Streaming, & others. (Note that ATT DSL will have a monthly CAP (150GB about 3,000 still pictures) on data transfer starting in May 2, 2011. Comcast's Xfinity and AT&T U-verse will have 250GB caps. (Sorry Netflix, Hulu, Roku, GoogleTV and all of you BIG-TIME movie streamers.)
3. Research - Search engines, Google.com, Refdesk.com, Zabasearch.com, Zillow.com, & others.
4. Shopping – Ebay.com, Amazon.com, & others.
5. Travel – Travelocity.com, Expedia.com, Hotels.com, & others.
6. Financial – Your bank, Finance.yahoo.com, Morningstar.com, & others.

8. Shopping Sites, such as:

- EBAY.COM for purchases, sales and pricing (It is the largest used car marketplace in USA.)
- AMAZON.COM for books, movies, computer stuff and electronics. (It is the largest online retailer in the USA.)
- AUTOTRADER.COM for lowest cost used cars. Also available in left margin of Yahoo.com (It is part owned by Ebay.)
- ILLINOISGASPRICES.COM for best gas prices (Usually save 10-30 cents per gallon. Check Woodman's in 60542.)
- CRAIGSLIST.COM is world's largest classifieds website. Use for larger items (LOCAL=Chicago area. Watch out, lots of fraud with no recourse like EBAY.)
- HALF.COM for books, music and movies (Lowest fixed-price costs; not an auction but owned by Ebay.)
- FRYS.COM for great computers and electronics (Usually has lower prices than Frys' local store or CompUSA.)

9. Other on-line sites of interest

- WOOT.COM for the great “deal of the day.”
- SPOOFEE.COM also for great “deal of the day.”
- BENSBARGAINS.COM for great “deals of the week.”
- ZENNIOPTICAL.COM has great prescription eyeglasses, \$8.00 and up.
- VIRGINMOBILEUSA.COM has \$5/month cell phones.
- WORLDWIDETELESCOPE.ORG has great celestial views.
- PAPERBACKSWAP.COM for free paperbacks.
- SNOPE.COM to check scams on line.

10. Technical sites, such as:

- Use Google's Advanced Search for "Windows 7" and your problem message.
- GEEKS.COM
- PCWORLD.COM
- PCMAG.COM
- PCPITSTOP.COM
- Windows7forums.com
- KOMANDO.COM
- TechRepublic.com