

Article: [COMPUTERS BEHAVING BADLY](#)

Topic: Performance Anxiety

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My PC is running slow. How can I boost the performance?.

I hear these sorts of questions a lot. And there are some very simple ways to keep your machine running as smooth as you humanly can.

When was the last time you gave the PC a good 'spring clean'. Yes, sadly, your PC needs regular servicing to keep it in prime condition. Exactly what programs and when to run them is going to be an individual thing, but generally you should have the following in your arsenal.

An anti-Adware program, an anti-spyware program and an anti-virus program. Keep them updated and ran regular scans. Sounds simple but you'd be amazed how many people don't know about adware or spyware. If you are one of those, I'd be happy to explain all about them but space here is limited, do a Google search and educate yourself. If you are after this sort of software, do yourself a favour and get Ad-aware, Spybot and AVG. All excellent, trustworthy programs and completely free to download.

I still get surprised by the number of people who don't have or have let slip their virus protection. Some virus software requires you to annually subscribe to keep getting the latest updates. There are estimated over 200 new viruses released daily, of these about 20 are classified as severe and manage to successfully spread globally. In short, if your protection is only 2 weeks out of date, you are wide open for a variety of attacks.

You MUST have virus protection software these days, the Internet is rampant with a swarm of nasties designed simply to destroy your day.

Windows comes with two nice, little programs called Disk Cleanup and Defrag. These are found in the Accessories group from the Start menu and will help keep the PC tuned-up.

Remove unwanted programs by going into Control Panel, Add/Remove Programs and deleting software you have no idea who put there or what it does, or you simply don't use anymore.

Although not essential, consider a Firewall. These beauties act as communication police, monitoring traffic to and from your PC, allowing you to decide what gets allowed and what gets denied. Although not a performance enhancer, they have the benefit of potentially stopping the bad stuff from installing in the first place.

After all that, if the PC is still slow, you may have to consider upgrading the hardware. Options here are to add more memory to speed things up. Maybe a faster and bigger hard drive. These now have faster transfer rates and spin cycles which equate to your data being accessed and retrieved faster. If gaming is your thing then consider a faster graphics card with more processing power and onboard memory.

Or do what a lot of caring/sharing parents do, give the clunker to the kids, who will be eternally grateful to have their very own PC and go and spend their inheritance on a swanky new dream machine. Life is too short to watch that damn hour glass sitting there on the screen, mocking you, teasing you...

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