

COMPUTER SPEED and METRADER SPEED

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Computer References

COMPUTER TERMS

-CPU = Central Processing Unit = "Brain" A very complex electronic circuit chip that runs the computer. Note: Computers do not think. They just follow instructions. They are no better than the people that designed the machine or its parts, no smarter than the people that wrote the program you are using. 1-2" square.

-Hard Disk Drive = A box with metal discs inside that spin around and around, and hold the data, and "heads" to read them, and write data to them. They work on the same principles as magnetic tape. They are used like a file cabinet. They store all your Data, all your Programs, and your operating system. They store it all even with no power. (To access it requires power.)

-Memory or RAM (Random Access Memory) This is the active working space for programs that are open, and the data you are working on. Memory usually requires power. Data can be a document, a picture, a video, music, or a chart.

- Your operating system is a program that allows the program you are using to talk to or access the hardware inside your computer or attached to it. Microsoft packages a lot of other programs along with the operating system. Windows 7, Vista, XP, 98, 95, DOS. Also Apple. Also Linux. Also keeps things organized, remembers settings, updates, etc.

- Motherboard A big complicated printed circuit board in a computer, into which everything else plugs in.

-Byte or B = Smallest useful unit of computer data, for people. A byte can hold one letter, one number or one symbol. So 'cat' would use three bytes. (Made of 'bits', 8 in a Byte.)

Next is some number abbreviations. These are used all the time. Each one is 1,000 times the one before:

kilo-	k	1,000	1 Thousand	kilo-	-gram	-watt
mega-	M	1,000,000	1 Million			
giga-	G	1,000,000,000	1 Billion			
tera-	T	1,000,000,000,000	1 Trillion			

So if a Hard Disk holds 500 GB that means 500 Billion Bytes. Yes that is a lot. The text and some pictures of the entire Encyclopedia Britannica can fit on one CD which is around 700 MB = 700 Million Bytes. So a 500 GB HD could hold over 700 CDs. Or over 700 Encyclopedia Britannicas. FYI: Video files or movies tend to be very big.

The sizes of hard drives are approximate. RAM uses same terms but is much smaller.

CPU speed is measured in a unit called Hz or Hertz which just means cycles per second. It is named after Hertz, who was a scientist who studied radio waves.

So a 2.2 GHz CPU means the Central Processing Unit is running at 2.2 billion cycles per second.

COMPUTERS SLOWS AND CURES

In order of likelihood-

1. Too much stuff loads when it starts up.

From:

- Manufacturer,
- and /or almost every program you install.

2. Malware or viruses. mal- = bad, -ware = software

3. Too much trash in the way. Old temp files, old internet files, etc.

4. Two antivirus programs installed (they don't even have to be running). Uninstall one.
Or Two firewalls turned on or Two antispyware programs running.

5. Slow machine. Hardware DOES NOT slow down with age. Unless it is failing - which happens fast, not over 6 months. Slow down is a software issue.

- Obsolete, like over 5 years and was not top of line. Like CPU under say 1.8 GHz.

Note HDs can't be relied on for over three years.

6. - Too little RAM. XP needs 1 GB

Vista and 7: 2-3 GB. More is fine.

7. Needs defragmenting. XP can use the built in.

Vista, 7, I prefer Defraggler, for the details and visuals.

CURES

1. These take judgment.

- Autoruns (program) Note: some programs must be set in their properties (or settings or options or preferences) to not start with Windows or bootup. (Autoruns will not do this step.)

- Solutio (program) Speeds up boot time.

1.B. Find out what each program or piece listed by these does, then decide.

Use Google or:

<http://www.what-is-exe.com/> <http://www.superadblocker.com/applicationlist.html>

<http://www.exedb.com/> <http://www.answersthatwork.com/>

<http://www.processlibrary.com/> <http://www.file.net/process/index.html>

Programs that do it for you may not be up to date, and want to disable update checks for important items like Java, or take out Google Desktop. "PCDecrapifier" does that. You can try it but do a Restore Point! A removal might break a software that needs it. Best for its info only.

2. Anti-virus, Anti-malware: 1. ESET Smart Security Suite

- Effective in the real world.

- Light on computer resources.

2. Also have Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware OR SuperAntiSpyware installed on your machine.

3. Use CCleaner. (If you have Firefox, uncheck 'Session'.) Or the Disk Cleanup in Vista and Windows 7 is pretty good too. (Start \ Accessories \ System Tools \ Disk Cleanup)

RESOURCES

DONATIONWARE ("Freeware")

Pick a program or two you like, especially if it is less popular but is good, and send them like \$15 or 20 a year. This thanks and encourages the authors, and THIS KEEPS THE UPDATES COMING!

- Software:

Note: I have been using most of the software I recommend for years.

www.FileHippo.com For CCleaner, and many donationware.

Be careful where you click for Downloads!

Anytime you install software (esp. free), uncheck any extras you don't want. Read every install box!

- Purchase ESET: <http://drionsystems.com> Click 'Vendors' (This is my son's site.)
You have to set up periodic scans, otherwise the defaults seem to be good.

- OnLine Scanners

These MIGHT help after an infection:

<http://www.eset.com/us/online-scanner/run>

<http://home.mcafee.com/store/Product.aspx?productid=mss>

<http://housecall.trendmicro.com/>

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/scanner/en-us/default.aspx>

BUT having a good AV and a good anti-spyware as above ALREADY INSTALLED (and up to date) is usually better than online scans.

* WHY? - (answered in talk)

- Driver: A piece of software, often small, that lets the operating system control a piece of hardware. They sometimes must be updated to let something work or prevent a problem.

Best is go to each manufacturer's web site.

Second best try this: <http://www.deveddoctor.com/>

Third best let Microsoft Update handle it.

- Computer Terms and File Extensions: <http://www.sharpened.net/>

- Connection speed: <http://www.speedtest.net/>

My "Run Every Month" folder: This is shortcuts and vital info. I put this on every computer I work on - do it and it helps keep your machine running well and out of the shop.

ME: Brandon D'Rion Remote assistance or local help available.

E-mail: bd8space-box1@attat.yahoo.com [Figure it out!]

Phone: Ask me or Larry or Dick. Talk and leave message for at least 6 seconds. If I am in I will pick up.