

Computer Tune-up Summary Document
As of June 23, 2011
(Proceed at your own risk.)

Before you start to uninstall programs from your computer.

Perform the following.

Step 1: Update your definitions for Norton or McAfee. (Verify your subscription to the antivirus service/definitions is current.)

Step 2: If not updated, you can download Avast Antivirus for free. (www.avast.com) (Be sure to uninstall previous antivirus such as Norton, McAfee, and/or Zones.)

Step 3: Perform antivirus scan.

Step 4: Perform anti-spam scan using CCleaner. (Note: This cleaner cleans internet history, usernames, and passwords. This means if you do online banking where your computer is registered or pay bills online, be sure that you have your username, passwords, and if necessary answers to your security questions available so you can log into your account.)

Step 5: Use a tab browser such as Maxthon instead of Internet Explorer. (www.maxthon.com)

Step 6: Set Maxthon as your default browser. (Maxthon cool features: It is a tab browser, ease of surfing the internet, popup blockers, and ad filters e.g. it minimizes the amount of spyware that gets on your computer.

(Be sure to clean out your internet temporary folder in addition to sometimes your history as well as cookies. This is easily done with using CCleaner.)

Step 7: Be sure to empty the Prefetch folder. I'll tell you why another time, just do it. Visit my computer → C drive → Windows → Prefetch. Select all the items in the folder and press delete and then click on yes.

Step 8: Be sure to review all of the software that is installed on your computer by going to Control Panel and double clicking on Add or Remove Programs. This can be easily done if you have CCleaner installed. Just open CCleaner. Click on Tools and you will see all of the programs installed on your computer. It is common that the reason for recurring pop-ups is that there is adware that is installed on your computer. Uninstall that program and the adware should go away.

Serene Professional Solutions, LLC
Mark Nash

c) 713-858-9131

mnash3@hotmail.com

Step 9: You should use CCleaner for this step as well. If your computer is slow to startup, then open CCleaner, click on Tools, and then click on Startup. The only item that is important to startup is Avast. Everything else, you can launch once your computer boots up to the desktop.

The alternative method for those that have not installed CCleaner is to go to start then run. Type in msconfig.exe and press enter. Click on the Startup tab. Essentially, you are just looking for spyware and things that don't belong. Not only that, this is the place where you would unselect programs to auto load during the startup/computer boot-up process. This is a big deal if you feel like your computer takes forever to startup. Remember, we are just looking for spyware so if your computer is working fine, don't touch a thing.

Step 10: While you have CCleaner open, your next step is to clean your registry. Click on Registry on the left hand side just under cleaner. Click on scan for issues at the bottom of the page. Once completed, click on Fix Selected Issues. **If you do not remember anything else that I ever tell you, be sure to click to save the backup of the registry. If your registry gets errors, you can seriously damage your computer. You will need this backup if you ever had to return to a previous state.** Then just click on fix selected issues. Then click close, and you are done.

Step 11: Next, since you have done all that hard work, you might as well do a defrag so your computer can run faster. You should go to www.piriform.com and download Defraggler. This is a very user-friendly software. The key for this item is to listen to your hard drive. If it is making excessive noise and/or your computer is slow to open programs beyond your computer just being old, then you may need to defragment your hard drive.

If you do not have Defraggler installed, then perform the alternate step below.

Go to My Computer. Right click on the C Drive. Go to Properties and then click on tools and then Defragment now and when the box opens just click on defragment. As a reminder if you are going to defrag, you need to leave your computer for awhile to let it do what it needs to do. If you are a savvy user, then close any programs running in the background e.g. all of those icons next to your clock on the right hand side, just right click on each one and exit. If you use the Defraggler program, it may take longer to defrag, but you can use your computer.

Step 12: I always run my anti-virus and anti-spyware programs twice. So at this point, you should run an anti-virus bootscan e.g. follow the instructions for your software. Call me if you are using Avast and I can walk you through it over the phone otherwise for Norton, Trend Micro, McAfee, Zone, or whatever you are using, just go to the help menu. After you do the bootscan, then run the various anti-spyware and registry cleaner programs. Then reboot and run the anti-virus program again. By the way this is only

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mnash3@hotmail.com

necessary if you are troubleshooting something. Once is okay if you are just dealing with pop-ups.

Step 13: The most important 50 bucks you can ever spend is to spend that 50 bucks on a portable backup hard drive. You can pick one up at your local retailer. I typically just go to Best Buy. You can order one online or just pick up the Seagate – FreeAgent Go 320GB External USB 2.0 hard drive. Even if you take it home and have no idea how to use it. The only thing that is really important is to backup your most important files. You can just copy and paste your most important files to your portable hard drive and you are done.

The big things to remember: The above information is provided in order for you to keep your computer running smoothly. Troubleshooting is a different beast altogether; so you can surf the net or just call me if you need help troubleshooting.

Also, I know what it means to need support on troubleshooting your computer, but all the people on the internet or at the retailer want to either charge you an arm and a leg or they are just simply too lazy or just not knowledgeable enough to troubleshoot your computer; so they just erase your hard drive. From everyday normal use, there are very few situations that require restoring to original factory settings or erasing your hard drive. Just call me if those crazy people are telling you to reformat your hard drive.

I always believe in the importance of the value add. If you feel that the information provided has either made you money or saved you money, please be sure to show your support by valuing those services.

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Soooooo.....

Hope you found the information informative and value added.

That's it.

Mark

c) 713-858-9131 or mnash3@hotmail.com

Serene Professional Solutions, LLC
Mark Nash

c) 713-858-9131

mnash3@hotmail.com

P.S. To see the video version of these topics, be sure to visit www.youtube.com/mnash3.
The videos will air as part of “The Money Code” video series as part of StreetcornerTV.

Also, please be sure to refer to the supporting document for other information on how to keep your computer tuned and if you are in need of a new computer.

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mnash3@hotmail.com

c) 713-858-9131