

IF YOUR COMPUTER SLOWS DOWN

1. Restart your computer

If your computer is giving you trouble, turn it off and restart it. Why does it work? Shutting down your computer clears your RAM out and shuts down all the extra programs and processes running in the background.

2. Switch out of power saver mode

Windows 10 comes with a default setting to save you power so your computer doesn't die. The downside is it slows down the performance of your computer. So when you're plugged into a power source, you should switch out of power saver mode. By staying in low power mode, you are slowing down your computer's operating speed. It's easy enough to change:

- a. Type **Control Panel** into the Windows search box.
- b. Select **Power Options**.
- c. Choose **High performance**.

3. Disable startup applications

The problem with automatic start-up programs is that they slow your computer down from the minute you turn it on.

If you aren't using them at all, shut them down. Minimizing how many programs start running when you turn your computer on will make it run more efficiently:

- a. Right-click on the **Taskbar**.
- b. Click on **Task Manager**.
- c. Choose the **Startup** tab.
- d. You'll see the programs that automatically start when you turn your computer on. (They will be designated as "enabled")
- e. Right-click on the programs you don't need and choose **Disable**.

4. Disable shadows, animations and visual effects

Windows has some serious special effects on new computers, and they certainly put on a good show. Unfortunately, that good show costs your PC speed in the long run. This is especially true if you don't have a newer model. If you want your computer

to run as fast as possible, you'll want to disable all shadows, animations and visual effects.

- a. Type **sysdm.cpl** into the Windows search box and press enter.
- b. In the System Properties dialog box, choose the **Advanced** tab.
- c. Choose **Settings** in the Performance section.
- d. In the Performance Options dialog box, you'll see all the animations and special effects.
- e. Turn off the ones you feel are unnecessary or all of them.
- f. If you are unsure which to choose, select **Adjust for best performance** at the top of the screen.
- g. Place a checkmark at **show thumbnails instead of icons**.
- h. Tap OK.

5. Turn on automated updates and maintenance

Windows is always doing something behind the scenes. Whether that is updating applications or testing your system, many things are going on in the background of which you are not aware. A word of caution: If you choose to turn automatic updates and maintenance off, you'll need to update everything manually. If you forget, you leave your computer open to attacks from hackers. To turn automated updates and maintenance on:

- a. Type **Control Panel** in the search box.
- b. Find **Security and Maintenance**.
- c. Click on the **Maintenance** bar.
- d. Choose **Change maintenance settings** (found under Automatic Maintenance).
- e. Select the options that work best for you.
- f. Note that it is recommended that you set updates and maintenance to run at 2 AM and take your computer out of sleep mode at that time.