

Larry's newsLETTER



PICNIC

If you use your laptop on your lap or leave it plugged in all the time, you may well be cruising for what some experts call Picnic (Problem in Chair Not in Computer) or ID-10t (idiot) errors — computer problems caused by clueless users. Technical support professionals say these errors are responsible for at least half of all computer repairs. “You’d be surprised how many people unknowingly damage their computers”. A classic mistake is using a laptop on your lap. Despite the name, a laptop should be operated on a flat and firm surface so that it rests on the four little nubs usually found on the base. A lap desk or even a large enough book will suffice. The point is to allow air to circulate around the machine.

Letting a laptop rest on your thighs — or worse, sink into a cushy comforter — prevents internal heat from radiating outward and can block air intake vents. This causes overheating, a major cause of component failure in computers. Using a laptop on a less-than-flat surface can also put the hard drive at an awkward angle which can also cause damage.

Speaking of the hard drive, don’t walk around with your laptop while the hard drive is active, because its actuator arm, which skitters over the surface reading or saving data, could bump into the drive’s fragile and finicky magnetic memory material. Many modern laptops have gyroscopes that shut down the hard drive when they sense movement but that sometimes doesn’t happen fast enough to prevent harm.

A lot of people close the lid on their laptop and throw it in their case without making sure the hard drive has shut down completely; we recommend manually putting a laptop in “sleep” or “hibernate” mode before closing the lid instead of assuming that the hard drive will shut down automatically. Then, wait a bit because computers need a second or two to do the internal housekeeping necessary to obey the command.

Even then, it’s a good idea to listen for the hard drive to stop spinning before moving a laptop. Also, look at the computer’s lights to look for an indication that the laptop is dormant. Depending on the brand of computer, the lights may be a green, amber, or red, or there could be no light. In Apple computers, it’s a white light pulsating in a rhythm reminiscent of the slow, steady breath of peaceful sleep.

Techi Term:

Battery Backup

Hardware device used to supply power to computers and peripherals for a short time if the power happens to be low or removed. The battery backup allows the computer to shutdown safely or continue to run if the power is off shortly.

Businesses often use large battery backups to safely shutdown servers if power goes out or keep the servers powered if the power is out for a few seconds. These backups are essential if your server is running critical software such as a customer database.



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This Months Quote:

I'm sorry, our software is perfect. The problem must be you

Owners of a computer with a solid-state drive, which is standard in the MacBook Air, don't have to worry about damage from jostling, but they too, want to make sure their laptops are in sleep mode before zipping them up in carrying cases. Otherwise, the drive could remain engaged and eventually overheat the machine.

Another common user error is leaving a laptop plugged in all the time. A lot of people use their laptops as a desktop. Leaving it plugged in all the time diminishes the battery life and degrades its performance. Batteries, like muscles, atrophy if not exercised. Unplugging your laptop once in a while, say two to three times per week, is enough to keep the battery fit.

It's also not a good idea to drain your battery completely and not recharge it for extended periods. Leaving a battery uncharged for a long time can cause a degradation of its chemicals. If you treat batteries nicely by using them and not exposing them to extreme temperatures, they can last forever. When transitioning from the grid to battery power, computer manufacturers and repair professionals suggest pulling out the power cord by the end piece, not by the line. Tugging the line can stress both the cord's wiring and the pin like contact points within the computer. And, of course, make sure the laptop is unplugged before dashing off with it to the next room or to a meeting. Users jerk them out, tripp over them, stress them by trying to get them to reach a power plug a little too far away, or bend them at a hard angle trying to fit computers into tight spaces. Sometimes, misuse can cause the power cord to no longer fit snugly in the housing. When the connection is compromised, laptops may take a longer time to charge, if they charge at all.

Dust can also cause problems; this, however, that is a bigger concern for stationary desktops, particularly if they are kept in areas with pets, smokers, and carpeting. I took the case off a Mac Pro recently that my co-worker complained was slowing down and freezing up and found about a half inch of dust inside.

We recommend cleaning out desktop and laptop computers at least once a year (every six months if the machine is in a really dusty environment) by taking them into repair centers for a thorough cleaning or by removing the outer case and using a gentle vacuum, compressed air, tweezers, or cotton swabs to remove dust bunnies. It should be like cleaning your ears, you don't want to jam anything in there.

Never use standard household cleaners on or even near computers. The chemicals — and even the fumes — can seep into crevices and cause corrosion.

Picnic error can happen with software as well. While most people know not to download anything from a suspect source, repair technicians say that people fre-



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quently install an antivirus program on new computers when one has been already loaded, usually by the manufacturer.

So you've got two programs trying to do the same task running in the background, the computer slows down and gets jerky and can even freeze up.

Finally, most experts advise shutting down computers every few days to clear out the cache and short-term memory, set off routine system maintenance chores, and install and update software that might have been downloaded while the computer was in use.

Moreover, restarting a computer often fixes mysterious glitches.

Parts gleaned from the New York Times - By Kate Murphy 9-28-11

Top 10 computer mouse tips everyone should know

Most computer users don't take full advantage of the computer mouse. Below are computer mouse tips and secrets that help you get the full potential of your computer mouse and increase your overall productivity while on the computer.

Shift key and mouse click

Many text editors and programs allow you to highlight all or portions of text using the Shift key and the mouse. For example, place the cursor at the beginning of a paragraph, hold down the Shift key and click at the end of the paragraph to highlight the full paragraph.

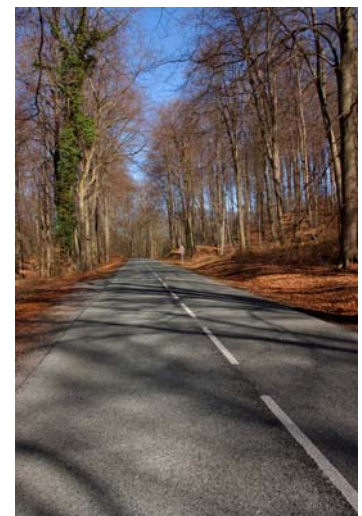
Take full advantage of the scroll wheel

Today, everyone is fully aware of a mouse wheels ability to scroll up and down on a page. However, this wheel can also do so much more, as shown below.

The mouse wheel is not just a wheel, it can also be used as a button. Pressing down on the wheel will act like a third mouse button. This can be used to open a web page in a tab by clicking the wheel on any link and can also be used to close a tab by clicking the wheel on any open tab.

Quickly Zoom in and Out on a web page, word document, excel spreadsheet, etc. by holding down the Ctrl key and scrolling up to zoom in and down to zoom out.

Move forward and backwards while browsing the Internet by holding down the Shift key



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and scrolling up and down. Scrolling down goes back and scrolling up goes forward.

Select with double and triple click

Any word can be easily selected by double-clicking the word. If you want to highlight the whole paragraph, click the mouse button three times on any text in the paragraph.

Use the right-click

Take full advantage of the right-click any time you highlight text or wish to view the properties of an object. For example, if you highlight a file or text, you can right-click that highlighted item copy it and then right-click anywhere else to paste it.

If you right-click on any file or text and drag it while continuing to hold the right button, when you let go you will be given the option to move or copy that file or text. This saves you the extra step of having to right-click where you want to paste the item.

While in a browser pressing and holding Ctrl while clicking on any link will open that link in a new tab.

Ctrl key and mouse click or highlight

While holding down the Ctrl key you can left-click to select multiple objects or highlight multiple sections of text. For example, in Microsoft Windows you could hold down the Ctrl key and click to select multiple files at once. If you wanted to highlight different parts of a paragraph or web page, you could also hold down the Ctrl key and select each section you wanted to copy.

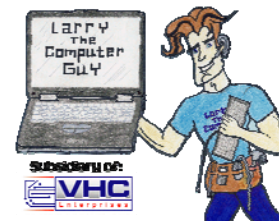
Mozilla Firefox users can also hold down the Ctrl key and individually click on each cell in a table they wish to copy or drag their mouse down a row to select just that row or text without selecting any of the other text in that table.

Use the mouse side buttons

Many new computer mice have buttons on the side of the mouse. These buttons can be programmed to do anything, however, by default the left-thumb button can be used to go back on a web page. This makes browsing the Internet more enjoyable since you do not



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need to move the mouse cursor to the browser back arrow button in order to go back a page.

Use the Windows Snap To feature

Take full advantage of the Windows mouse Snap To feature which will automatically move your mouse to buttons that appear in a dialog box. For example, if you delete a file or close a window, you may get a prompt asking you if you are sure you want to perform the task. With the Snap To feature enabled, the mouse cursor automatically moves to the Ok button, so all you will have to do is click the mouse button if you agree. This saves you the time of having to move the mouse cursor over to the Ok button and then click Ok. To enable this feature open the Mouse properties under the Windows Control Panel and check the Snap To check box under the Pointer Options tab.

While changing this feature we also suggest looking at other available options in the mouse settings. For example, increasing the Motion speed can also help increase your productivity while using the mouse.

Manage the open window with the mouse

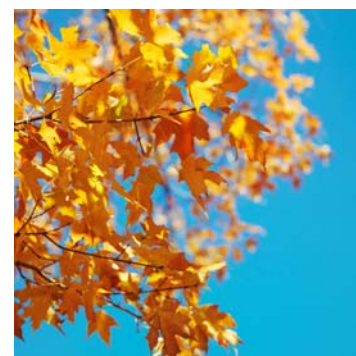
Double-click the top title bar of any window to maximize a window or if it is already maximized resize it to a window. You can also double-click the icon for the window in the top-left corner of the window to close that window.

Move the mouse with your keyboard

Instead of using the mouse that came with your computer, you can also enable Windows to use the number pad as a mouse.

Customize your mouse

Finally, if you have a mouse with more than two buttons, installing the included mouse software will allow you to customize the mouse even more. For example, if you don't use the side buttons to move back and forth in a web page change it to something you do more often, such as switching between open windows or opening the calculator.



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Computer Firsts

The first PC (IBM compatible) computer

On April 7, 1953, IBM publicly introduced the 701, its first electric computer and first mass produced computer. Later IBM, introduced its first personal computer called the IBM PC in 1981. The computer was code named and still sometimes referred to as the Acorn and had a 8088 processor, 16 KB of memory, which was expandable to 256 and utilizing MS-DOS.

The first personal computer

In 1975, Ed Roberts coined the term personal computer when he introduced the Altair 8800. Although the first personal computer is considered to be the Ken-back-1, which was first introduced for \$750 in 1971. The computer relied on a series of switches for inputting data and output data by turning on and off a series of lights.

The Micral is considered the be the first commercial non-assembly computer. The computer used the Intel 8008 processor and sold for \$1,750 in 1973.

The first laptop or portable computer

The IBM 5100 is the first portable computer which was released in September 1975. The computer weighed 55 pounds and had a five inch CRT display, tape drive, 1.9MHz PALM processor, and 64KB of RAM. In the picture to the right, is an ad of the IBM 5100 taken from a November 1975 issue of Scientific America.

The first truly portable computer or laptop is considered to be the Osborne I, which was released in April 1981. The Osborne I was developed by Adam Osborne and weighed 24 pounds, had a 5-inch display, 64 KB of memory, two 5 1/4" floppy drives, and a modem.

The IBM PC Division (PCD) later released the IBM portable in 1984, it's first portable computer that weighed in at 30 pounds. Later in 1986, IBM PCD announced it's first laptop computer, the PC Convertible, weighing 12 pounds. Finally, in 1994,



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IBM introduced the IBM ThinkPad 775CD, the first notebook with an integrated CD-ROM.

The first PC clone

The Compaq Portable is considered to be the first PC clone and was released in March 1983 by Compaq. The Compaq Portable was 100% compatible with IBM computers and was capable of running any software developed for IBM computers.

The first Apple computer

Steve Wozniak designed the first Apple known as the Apple I computer in 1976.

Quotes

“Pessimists, we’re told, look at a glass containing 50% air and 50% water and see it as half empty. Optimists, in contrast, see it as half full. Engineers, of course, understand the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.”– Bob Lewis

“If you think you are worth what you know, you are very wrong. Your knowledge today does not have much value beyond a couple of years. Your value is what you can learn and how easily you can adapt to the changes this profession brings so often.”– Jose M. Aguilar

“As a rule, software systems do not work well until they have been used, and have failed repeatedly, in real applications.”– Dave Parnas

“Companies spend millions of dollars on firewalls, encryption and secure access devices, and it’s money wasted, because none of these measures address the weakest link in the security chain.” PEOPLE – Kevin Mitnick



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We have Partnered with several Companies to offer our customers great products at reduced prices.

- We now sell a complete line of laptops and desktops including but not limited to the following brands. **Dell, Asus, IBM / Lenova, HP, Acer**
- We sell Ink and Toner for most printers at a 30% savings over the office supply stores delivered to your residence or business.
- SpamBully add in for email filtering of spam.
- Roboform for password management.
- Website Hosting and Design
- We sell Business Checks

Voucher	250	500	1000	2000	5000
Peachtree	\$81.95	\$106.95	\$147.95	\$239.95	\$599.87
Nebis	\$82.50	\$113.50	\$154.50	\$259.95	\$649.87
McBee	\$82.50	\$113.50	\$154.50	\$259.95	\$649.87
Deluxe	\$82.50	\$113.50	\$154.50	\$259.50	\$649.87
Intuit	\$79.99	\$109.99	\$149.99	\$239.99	\$599.87
Nelco	\$103.45	\$137.85	\$188.00	\$343.40	\$637.00
Greatland	\$103.45	\$137.85	\$188.00	\$343.40	\$637.00
LTCG	\$63.75	\$79.90	\$101.15	\$154.70	\$280.50

- Business and tax forms

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