

## 2011 New Year's Resolution

### Keep your computer in good "shape"!



Important computer tasks—like securing, cleaning, and backing up—are like any other resolution: we all say we're going to do them but rarely keep up with them all year. Here's our simple guide to staying on track in 2011. Keeping your computer in good shape gets to be tedious and annoying when you have to try to fit it in to your busy schedule. Rather than letting things slip through the cracks and watch your computer slow to a crawl, fall victim to a nasty virus, or crash and burn with no backups, we've put together some simple steps to help you stay on top of your computer maintenance tasks.

1. **Regularly run "Windows Update"** - Some would wager that over 90% of virus infections *don't have to happen*. Software vulnerabilities that the viruses exploit usually already have patches available by the time the virus reaches a computer. The problem? The user simply failed to install the latest patches and updates that would have prevented the infection in the first place. The solution is simple: enable automatic updates and run Windows Update periodically.
2. **Clear your Internet cache periodically** - This is everything from your temporary Internet files, cookies, history, etc...Every time you visit a website, there are little "crumbs" that are left behind on your computer, which will over-time slow down your web browsing experience.
3. **Run Disk Cleanup** - This tool helps you free up space on your hard disk by searching your disk for files that you can safely delete. You can choose to delete some or all of the files. Use Disk Cleanup to: Remove temporary Internet files, Remove downloaded program files, empty recycle bin, remove windows temporary files, remove optional windows components that you are not using, and/or remove installed programs that you no longer use.
4. **Install Anti-virus software** - It is very important that you computer has an antivirus software running on your machine. By having antivirus program running, files and emails will be scanned as you use them, download them, or open them. If a virus is found in one of the items are about to use, the antivirus program will you from being able to run that program therefore infect yourself.
5. **Update your Anti-virus Software** - There is no point in running an anti-virus program if you don't make sure it has all the latest updates available to it. If you do not update the software, it will not know about any new viruses, Trojan, worms, etc that have been released into the wild since you installed the program.
6. **Remove unused programs** - Just because you aren't using a program doesn't mean it isn't consuming resources and affecting your PC's performance.
7. **Get Educated** - To be blunt, all the protection in the world won't save you from yourself. Don't open attachments that you aren't positive are ok. Don't fall for phishing scams. Don't click on links in email that you aren't positive are safe. Don't install "free" software without checking it out first - many "free" packages are free because they come loaded with spyware, adware and worse. When visiting a web site, did you get a pop-up asking if it's ok to install some software you're not sure of because you've never heard of it? Don't say "OK". Not sure about some security warning you've been given? Don't ignore it. Choose strong passwords, and don't share them with others.

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### Special points of interest

Drop Off Locations  
True Value, St. Henry  
Ace Hardware, Coldwater  
Wangler Ace, Ft Recovery

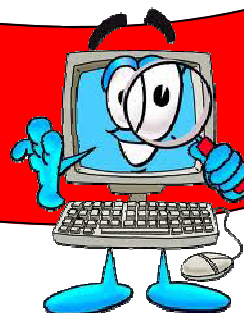
To add an email address to  
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address to  
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## January Special at TTechT

**PC Tune-Up  
Only: \$50.00**

We'll boost the speed and performance of your PC by removing dust and dirt buildup, performing windows updates, check and update anti-virus software, and disk cleanup.

\*Any service approved in addition to this will be at an additional charge.\*



# Top 10 Most Influential Tech Advances of the Decade



## Just 15 Years ago ...

A **program** was... a television show

An **application** was... for employment

**Windows** were... something you hated to clean

A **keyboard** was... a piano

**Memory** was... something you lost with age

A **CD** was... a bank account

If you **unzipped** in public you went to jail

**Compress** was something you did to garbage

A **hard drive** was a long trip on the road

**Log on** was adding wood to a fire

A **mouse pad** was where a mouse lived

**Cut** you did with scissors

**Paste** you did with glue

A **web** was a spider's home

And a **virus** was the flu!!!

**TIMES SURE HAVE CHANGED!**

**We've come a long way in just 10 years.** The 1990s saw computers, the Internet, and various consumer electronics steadily evolve from the sole use of nerds into things everyone can use. Our pockets are emptier, but the few items inside them can do more than ever. Our televisions are thinner, but their screens display several times more detail. Our storage devices are smaller, but they hold massive amounts of data. These 10 technological advancements represent the biggest, most influential changes we've seen in consumer electronics in the last decade.

**Flat-Panel TVs/HDTVs** - Here's a fun experiment: turn on your TV. Put on a Blu-ray Disc or watch some television in high-def. It looks great, right? Now pop in a DVD or turn on a non-HD station. Or, even better, dust off your old VCR and watch a VHS tape from the 90s. The difference isn't just night and day, it's cataracts and 20/20 vision. It's the difference between seeing a splotch of green and individual blades of grass on a football field, between being able to tell a character is reading a newspaper and actually seeing the words on the page, between seeing the explosion in an action movie and seeing the individual pieces of shrapnel. As detail has gone up, size has gone down; in just 10 years, televisions have transformed from huge cubes into sleek, flat surfaces. What was once a massive box filled with glass tubes has become an inch-thick panel you can hang on your wall.

**DVRs** - Your favorite TV show is on tonight, with a new episode where your favorite character is going to die or get married or maybe learn how to channel lightning through his fingertips. You have to work late. You're not bothered, though, because you set your DVR to record it! With a few button presses on your remote, you selected the show and told the magic box under your TV to record the new episode, and any other new episode, and any shows or movies it thinks you might also like to watch. Missing our favorite TV shows is now a thing of the past.

**High-speed Internet** - Anyone who went online in the 90's remembers the shrill squeals of the computer modem, dialing into the Internet over phone lines at blazing speeds of 56,600 bits per second. Now, the Internet is an always-on, blazing-fast place for us to upload, download, communicate, and simply function online at speeds several factors faster than our archaic dial-up services.

**Wi-Fi** - Are you reading this on a notebook computer? Do you see a cable running from your notebook to a modem or router? No? Welcome to the world of tomorrow! Households, cafes, bookstores—they all have Wi-Fi hotspots for hopping online instantly from any electronic device, without a single wire tethering us to the wall.

**Smartphones** - Our cell phones aren't just phones anymore. They're portable computers that double, triple, and quadruple as media players, web browsers, and instant messengers. With the arrival of the iPhone, Blackberries, and Android-powered devices, what were once humble handheld telephones are now all-in-one tools for work and play.

**Bluetooth** - Wireless technology isn't just for going online with large devices. Thanks to Bluetooth, we can pipe audio back and forth between a variety of handheld gadgets and accessories. We no longer have to hold a phone up to our ear; instead, we can just pop in a tiny Bluetooth ear-piece. We don't have to plug our iPhones into a dock to play music on our home theater systems; instead, we can just connect to it via Bluetooth and fill the room with the music in our hand.

**Online Media Services** - A few decades ago, watching your favorite movie at home, whenever you wanted, was a fantasy. Then came VHS tapes. Then DVDs. Then Blu-ray Discs. We still embrace the latter two formats for home entertainment, but even they have drawbacks like "taking up physical space." Over the last few years, services like Netflix, Hulu, and various television networks' web sites have given us a nearly endless library of videos we don't have to eject, insert, or make room for on the shelf. You just click and watch, accessing thousands and thousands of movies and TV shows with your mouse or remote control.

**Online Gaming Services** - Long ago, the only way to play video games with friends was to have them actually sit next to you on the same couch, tethered to the same game console and watching the same TV. Today, you can get into a 32-player ground war with gamers across the world without lifting a finger.

**Social Networking Sites** - The introduction of sites like Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace has completely changed how we communicate with each other online. Instead of directly messaging one another with email and instant messages, we follow, poke, ping, and gather in dozens of different ways and through several different services. While direct text communication is still very useful, most casual web users are far more likely to meet up with their friends through Facebook invitations than a mass email, all while playing Web-based games, sending messages, and looking up old acquaintances from the same window.

**Flash Storage** - First came the floppy disk. They held a few hundred kilobytes of storage and, after a few iterations, a whopping 1.4MB. Then came the CD-ROM and Zip Disks. They respectively held 700 and 100MB. CD-ROMs also required a fair bit of preparation, "burning" the data to the disc over several minutes. Then we had DVDs, capable of holding 4.7GB, but requiring the same preparation as CDs. Now we all have the wonder of USB flash drives: smaller than a stick of gum, faster than a DVD, and able to hold upwards of 32GB for less than \$100. That's over 6 DVDs, or 45 CDs, or 320 Zip Disks, or 22,222 floppy disks, all in a package smaller than any one of them.