



Tech Talk



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6 Easy Ways To Speed Up Your Computer

As a busy business owner, nothing is more frustrating than being made to wait, especially when that waiting seems unnecessary. And when it comes to waiting for your computer to start up, most business owners are all too familiar with the frustration of impatiently watching as their computer goes through the slow and agonizing process of getting ready for you to actually use it. Most Microsoft Windows computers take between 3-4 minutes to completely rev up, not including opening any programs outside of the start-up menu. Multiply that time over a year, and you've got yourself 17 hours of staring at the screen, drumming your fingers on the desk and trying to figure out how to be productive while your computer boots up.

Want To Cut Down On Time-Wasting?

Here are some tips on how you can speed up your computer's start-up process so you can get right to business:

- 1) **Remove auto-loading software.** If you've got any programs that start up when you power your computer on, you are significantly adding to the time it takes for your computer to be ready for use. Take these programs off the start menu or, if you don't use them, simply delete them off the machine.
- 2) **Let the computer hibernate.** When possible, leave your computer on and simply put it in hibernate mode. This tells the computer to start up

again in the state where you left it last. Plus it has the added benefit of using very little electricity—about the same amount a computer uses when plugged in but shut off.

- 3) **Consider switching to a thin client.** Thin clients are "dumb" computers that connect to a server which houses all the software, programs, and even processing power. Because nothing is loaded up onto these thin client machines, they can be ready to go in as little as 5 seconds after pressing the power button. Thin clients do require your network to be set up a certain way though, so be sure to check that before you install one.

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"Who Wants To Win a \$20 Starbucks Gift Card?"

What was the name of the dog that belonged to the Grinch in Dr. Seuss' book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?

- A. Rudolph
- B. Toto
- C. Max
- D. Cerberus

E-mail your answer to info@itrtechnologies.com. All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a \$20.00 Starbucks Gift Card. Good Luck!!!

Congratulations to Silvia @ Logik Precision, Ink & Water Jet Division. She won our November trivia contest. Lincoln was the first president to make Thanksgiving a national holiday.

6 Easy Ways To Speed Up Your Computer ... cont...

4) **Take off any "trial-ware".** Some computers come with software already loaded on them, like photo software or other utility programs. These programs, most of which don't even show up in the list of available software you can remove, are called "trial ware" because they came with the machine. Typically, they run processes in the background while you boot up your computer, delaying the start-up process of your computer.

5) **Make sure your anti-virus and fire-**

wall protection are up to date. Malware and other malicious software can also slow down start times. These programs can embed themselves into the start-up menu and keep you waiting longer than necessary as your computer boots up. They also wreak havoc on your general use of the computer. So, it is important to protect your system from these kinds of attacks.

6) **Upgrade your computer.** Older versions of Windows will look for a CD or floppy to boot from before the com-

puter actually begins the process of starting up. Lower amounts of memory installed on a computer can also impact its ability to start quickly. And, of course, simply having a fresh, clean and fast computer eliminates any miscellaneous software programs you may have installed that can bog down a machine.

Call ITR Technologies, mention this ad and receive a FREE Computer Optimization Tune-UP.

Call Mark Taylor at 713-344-1618.

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I TR is embracing social media in an effort to reach out and talk to customers. We want our page to be a place to ask us questions, give and receive hot tips, and share new service information with our customers. To do that, we're making it worth your while to be a fan, and to encourage your friends and family to become fans of I TR too.

Become our 100th Fan and win a \$100 American Express gift card.

For more information on how to become a fan and get entered in the running for the gift card visit the I TR Blog at <http://itrtech.worldpress.com>



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New Client Corner

It is with great pleasure that I TR welcomes Medcalf Fabrication Inc.

Medcalf Fabrication Inc. was started in 1981 as a DBA and was incorporated in 1994. At that time they purchased the 27,000 SF facility they are in today . Medcalf is a Certified Fabricator in the City Of Houston, Their main business is Water and Waste Water Treatment Plant Equipment & Miscellaneous Metal Fabrication . Medcalf only operates in the state of Texas, and is a minority owned business certified by the City of Houston and the State of Texas.

Thank you Medcalf!

Client of the Month – Carpet Giant

ITR would like to recognize Carpet Giant as our December Client of the Month. Carpet Giant is Houston's oldest and largest carpet outlet. Carpet Giant has been a long standing client of ITR's, utilizing both managed services and consulting support.

When asked about the impact ITR's services have had on their business, Misty Luna, CFO, stated "We were nervous at first to switch IT companies and operating systems, but ITR and its staff made it possible for us to have the smoothest transition a company could ask for. And their promptness to fix any issues small or large we may have has really made a difference!"

Carpet Giant was founded in 1976, and for the last 33 years has been at the same location, 3407 Gulf Freeway, Houston, Texas 77003, selling quality floor covering to Houston and the surrounding communities. Visit Carpet Giant and see the GIANT showroom and warehouse stocked with the latest styles and colors. You can visit Carpet Giant on the web at www.CarpetGiantHouston.com or by calling 713-224-2213 or 1-800-749-4736.

Thank you Carpet Giant for your business and the confidence you have shown in us!



The One Thing Hackers Hope You Never Discover

Imagine not being able to send or receive e-mail for days, possibly weeks. Don't think this could happen because you have a reputable anti-virus software installed? If so, you're operating on a false sense of security and hackers are praying that you keep thinking that way. Here's why...

Most business owners think that because they have anti-virus software installed and a software firewall, that their network is "secure". Not so. One of the most common stunts hackers pull is breaking through a software firewall to hijack a server. Once they're in, they use YOUR server to relay spam and other viruses to millions of users in a matter of seconds.

This is double bad for two reasons:

1. In no time flat, our company's server and email gets "blacklisted", which means the big email delivery hubs (like Comcast, Google, Verizon, etc.) flag ALL e-mails coming from your server as "dangerous" and won't let them through; and on the net, you're guilty until proven innocent, which means it could all take days or weeks to get our name cleared. During that time, you are completely without e-mail.
2. Your clients, prospects and vendors start getting Viagra ads and invitations to XXX-rated web sites from your company. *Not good.*

The absolute best way to make sure this never happens is to invest in a top-grade managed firewall. This tiny investment is worth twenty times the cost in peace of mind and saved time. Software firewalls that come with most servers are better than nothing, but they're a weak lock that any hacker can pick.

Call ITR Technologies; mention this article and receive a FREE Hacker-Prevention Security Audit. 713-344-1618

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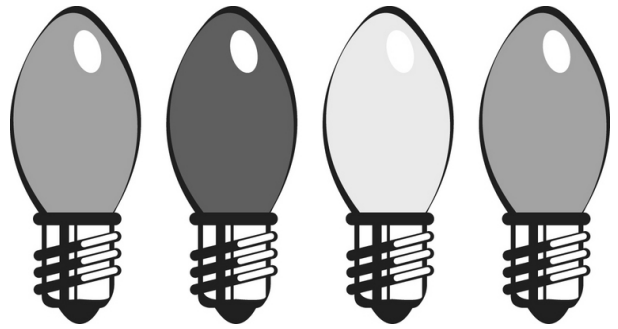
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ITR wishes you and yours a very
safe and happy holiday season and a
prosperous New Year.



Christmas Cookie Recipe

Oreo Balls

Serves: 25—35 walnut size candies Prep Time: 2 hours

Ingredients:

- 1 package regular size Oreo cookies, crushed
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 package white almond bark
- 1 package chocolate almond bark

Directions:

1. Using a blender or hand held mixer, mix Oreos and cream cheese together.
2. Roll into walnut size balls.
3. Chill for an hour.
4. Melt approximately 3/4 package of white almond bark.
5. Stick a toothpick in an Oreo ball and dip it in the melted white almond bark
6. Allow to harden on wax paper for about 15 minutes.
7. While waiting, melt about 1/4 package of chocolate almond bark.
8. When Oreo balls are no longer sticky to the touch, decorate with drizzles of chocolate and white almond bark.