Bits and Bytes

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Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

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THREE WINDOWS-KEY SHORTCUTS YOU SHOULD MEMORIZE

Windows all versions

There are literally hundreds of Windows Key shortcuts and some of them work in one version or the other of Windows but not all. But there are three that work in all versions of Windows that you should memorize, because if you do, you'll use them all the time. Here they are:

(Windows Key + D) This shortcut takes you directly to the desktop in any version of Windows, (including Windows 8).

(Windows Key + E) This shortcut works in any version of Windows (Including Windows 8). It's one you'll use all the time. It opens Windows Explorer - and lets you browse the files and folders on your computer instantly.

(Windows Key + R) This shortcut works in any version of Windows (including Windows 8) and opens the Windows Run dialog so you can enter Run commands like MSCONFIG, SERVICES.MSC, RECENT, and more. *(continue next column)*

These are three Windows Key shortcuts you should memorize and use. They'll make your Windows life easier no matter which version of Windows you happen to be using

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WANT TO TRY INTERNET EXPLORER 10?

(Windows 7)

Windows 8 comes with Internet Explorer 10. Microsoft originally was not going to make IE10 available to those using other versions of Windows...but that seems to have changed, at least for Windows 7 users. If you're using Windows 7 and you're wanting to see what's new in IE10 -- visit http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/internet-explorer/ie-10-release-preview and download it. This is a beta or preview of Internet Explorer 10 and may be changed before it's final release. Those that have looked at it have indicated it is quite stable and not too much difference with Internet Explorer 9.

> **REMEMBER:**   To check for classes offered by the Bella Vista Computer Club go to our web site posted in the title block (shown above) and check the calendars for January and February. Call Marie Herr (273-2558) for more information and to pre-register.

HOW TO CLEAR YOUR BROWER'S CACHE : Edited by Jonathon, Will, Travis
(WikiHow to do anything)

Your internet browser's cache stores certain information about webpages you visit, so that they'll load more quickly in the future. You should clear your browser cache, delete your browsing history, and cookies every day or two.

When you do this, your web sites will load more quickly ion the future. But most don't do this because it's always a hassle digging through the tools/options dialog to get to the place where you can do a little clean-up. And if you use multiple browsers, you already know that each one has it's own steps to get to the clean up dialog. A easy wat to get to the dialog with a keyboard shortcut that works in Internet Explorer, Firefox and Chrome. Just press Ctrl+Shift+Del when you have your browser open.

Internet Explorer 9: (1) Once your browser is open, click the gear at the top right to open the **settings** menu. Then, select **Safety** and **Delete Browsing History** (2) Select Temporary Internet Files. You will also need to uncheck all of the other boxes, especially **Preserve Favorites website data**. This option makes the window also delete objects from websites in your Favorites folder, which is necessary to completely clear your cache. (3) Click the **Delete** button near the bottom.
Internet Explorer 8: (1) Once your browser is open, click the **Tools menu.** Or optionally you may simply press Ctrl+Shift+Delete to open the Delete Browsing History window. (2) Select **Temporary Internet Files.** (3) Click the **Delete** button near the bottom to delete your temporary files (i.e. clear your cache). (4) If you want the browser to automatically clear the cache, close the '**Delete Browsing History** window, select '**Internet Options** from the Tools menu, and check the **Delete Browsing History on Exit** checkbox.

THESE SITES VIOLATE YOUR PRIVACY by Jesus Diaz, WSJ

The "*Wall Street Journal* " has analyzed the top 50 sites in the United States plus 20 other top sites in sensitive categories like dating or health. They found that 25 of these sites— including OKCupid, Pinterest, YouTube, Yahoo—send personal data to other sites in the open, with no security encoding, using your own browser session. The Journal followed each site's suggested registration procedure, including email confirmation when necessary. In addition to registering, the Journal logged out of each account, logged back in, and browsed all known types of pages on the site – for instance, article pages, profile pages and setting pages. The Journal cleared its test computer of tracking files, known as cookies, between each browsing session. During each browsing session, the Journal used mitmproxy, an open-source software program, to inspect the data being transmitted to and from the sites. This method reveals all data being passed via the Web browser. This serves as a "lower bound" for data sharing; companies can also pass data behind the scenes. Transfers of information to the sites themselves – or to domains owned by these "first-party" sites – were not counted as data leakage unless the domain served a significantly different purpose from that of the original site.

Of course, you may have agreed for other companies to contact you while registering to those sites. But did you agree for the site to transmit your personal information in the open to other sites? I don't recall seeing that checkbox.

WINDOWS BLUE IS MICROSOFT'S LOW COST NEXT OPERATING SYSTEM WITH YEARLY UPDATES

"Microsoft is busy preparing its next-generation Windows client, shortly after shipping Windows 8 in October 2012. *The Verge* has learned from several sources familiar with Microsoft's plans that the company is planning to standardize on an approach, code named Blue, across Windows and Windows Phone in an effort to provide more regular updates to consumers.

Originally unveiled by *ZDNet*, the update on the Windows side, due in mid-2013, will include UI changes and alterations to the entire platform and pricing. We're told that Microsoft is aiming to make Windows Blue the next OS that everyone installs. The approach is simple, Microsoft will price its next Windows release at a low cost or even free to ensure users upgrade. Once Windows Blue is released, the Windows SDK will be updated to support the new release and Microsoft will stop accepting apps that are built specifically for Windows 8, pushing developers to create apps for Blue. Windows 8 apps will continue to run on Blue despite the planned SDK changes.

Yearly upgrades will be the norm for Windows soon

We understand that you will need a genuine copy of Windows to upgrade to Windows Blue. Built-in apps and the Windows Store will cease functioning if a copy is upgraded that is pirated. Sources tell us that Microsoft will likely keep the Windows 8 name for the foreseeable future, despite the Windows Blue update. A big part of Windows Blue is the push towards yearly updates for Microsoft's OS. Microsoft will kick off an annual upgrade cycle for Windows that is designed to make it more competitive against rival platforms from Apple and Google.

We reached out to Microsoft for comment, however a company spokesperson refused to discuss Windows Blue".

Written by Tom Warren, "The Verge" November 2012

WHAT STARTS WITH WINDOWS RUNS IN WINDOWS
(All Window Users)

Most of you know that having a plethora of programs starting with Windows isn't a good idea. Most of you know that those programs have to load with Windows thus slowing your boot up times. But did you know that what starts with windows runs with Windows - and each of those applications continually saps memory from your computer? And also the more programs you have starting with Windows the more programs have to shut down before Windows will shut down or restart. They can increase the time your computer takes to shutdown or reboot -- by a substantial amount. So what starts with windows not only runs with Windows, what starts with Windows shuts down with Windows. Through our Cloudeight Direct Computer Care service, we've been fortunate enough to have helped hundreds of people with their computers. And one of the most common things we both see is that most people have far too many programs starting with Windows. And we understand why. Most people are tentative about disabling a start up program for fear it will cause a problem. For example, they don't want to disable a printer application from starting with Windows because they're afraid they won't be able to print something when they need to. They're afraid to turn off Adobe Reader because they think they'll not be able to read PDF file when they need to. They're afraid to turn off Adobe

Reader because they think they'll not be able to read PDF file when they need to. And we understand their trepidation because it does seem logical.

But it's not true. Printers which are properly set up will print on demand. Adobe Reader will fire up when it's required whether it is running in the background or not.

A good rule of thumb to use is this: If it's a Microsoft product (some can be disabled but you'll need to use caution) or a security program (anti-virus, anti-malware, anti-spyware) leave it alone and allow it to start with Windows. If it's related to your graphics card or touchpad on your laptop or your mouse - leave it alone. Yes sometimes these can be disabled but only if you are sure of what you're doing; but if you're not sure it's best to leave those alone. Many graphics cards have their own Control Panels which start with Windows and therefore run with Windows - but when is the last time you remember using your graphics card's control panel? If you're sure that's what is starting and you never use your graphics card's control panel you can disable it. But be sure you've researched it before you do. The same holds true for anything you are not sure of.

Everything else - chat programs, greeting card makers, image viewers, image editors, camera card software, printer software, computer manufacturer's applications, etc. can be disabled without worry. And remember too, disabling start up programs does not remove the programs from your computer or change them in any way.

As a general rule, you should have no more than five or six items in your Windows startup programs list. There are several programs that you can use to help you determine what you can disable in your start up programs list. Here are three of them - in no particular order:

1. MSCONFIG - You already have it. It comes with Windows. You can access it on any Windows computer by pressing and holding down the Windows Key and pressing the R key. Then type MSCONFIG and then press Enter. Click on the Start Up Tab and remove the checkmarks from any program you don't want to start with Windows. Then press "Apply" and "OK". You'll get a "restart" dialog that will ask if you want to restart now or later to implement the changes you made.

2. WinPatrol - One of the best start up managers is included with WinPatrol. WinPatrol has many great features, but it's startup manager is probably it's best feature. The free version works great and allows you to disable start ups quickly and easily. The PLUS version of WinPatrol gives you even more features -- and the big PLUS is -- gives you much more information that can help you make the correct choices when disabling start ups. You can learn more (and download) WinPatrol at www.winpatrol.com .

3. CodeStuff Starter -- The venerable granddaddy of all start up managers got a huge facelift last year. The current version not only allows you to disable start up programs but also services. Additionally Starter enables you to get more information about any start up or service by right clicking the item and choosing "Search the Internet for (program or service name)". Starter has always been one of our favorite start up managers - and the new version is even better than previous versions. You can learn more about and download one of the best freeware programs ever created by visiting this page http://www.softpedia.com/get/Tweak/System-Tweak/Starter.shtmvl . Also click the link on that page to read an excellent review of Starter by SoftPedia