- All of the information you create should be stored in My Documents (XP) or your personal folder (Vista & 7)
- Windows XP My Documents
 - My Music
 - My Pictures
 - My Videos
- Windows Vista & 7 your personal folder
 - Documents
 My Documents
 - Music My Music
 - Pictures My Pictures
 - Videos
 My Videos

- Do you need to leave the information you've created on the hard drive forever
 - > If you say "no", then delete
 - > The information that's out of date
 - > The information that's no longer of any value
 - The information that you've transferred to a CD or DVD
 - > Click the file or folder to highlight
 - > Tap the Delete key on the keyboard
 - Click "Yes" and send the information to the Recycle Bin

- If you say "yes"
 - Have you copied the information to a CD or DVD
 - Do you need to frequently access that information
 - If you don't use the information on a regular basis, why not remove it from the hard drive

- What about all of the programs that are installed on the hard drive
- Do you recognize and use all the programs that are listed on the Add or Remove Programs (XP) or the Uninstall a program (Vista & 7) lists
- If there are programs on the list you never use, uninstall
- If there are programs on the list you don't recognize, Google the name

- Cleanup Internet Explorer (IE)
 - > Start Internet Explorer
 - On the menu bar, click Tools and select Internet Options
 - For IE 7, click the Delete... button in the Browsing history section
 - > Click the Delete all ... button
 - Place a check mark in the check box for, Also delete files and settings stored by add-ons.
 - Click the Yes button
 - Click the OK button after all the areas have been cleaned

- For IE 8, click the Delete... button in the Browsing history section
 - > Check mark the areas you want to clean
 - Click the Delete button
 - Click the OK button after all of the areas have been cleaned
- > Cleanup your e-mail program
 - The procedure is the same for Outlook Express (XP), Windows Mail (Vista), and Windows Live Mail (7)
 - Start the e-mail program and delete the old email messages that are located in the Inbox and Sent Items folders
 - Empty the Deleted Items folder

- > Run Disk Cleanup
 - Click the Start button, move to All Programs, click Accessories, click System Tools, and select Disk Cleanup
 - > Choose to clean your files or all user's files
 - Make sure you select the C: drive
 - For Windows XP, check the areas you want to clean except, Compress old files
 - Never compress old files
 - > For Windows Vista and 7, check the areas you want to clean
 - Click the OK button

CLEANUP BEFORE RECYCLE

- > If you are going to recycle the computer
 - Remove the hard drive and physically destroy it
 - > Format the hard drive
 - > Can not format the C: drive from the C: drive
 - Must boot from a CD/DVD and format
 - > Can not do a quick format
 - > Information might still be retrievable
 - Use a free file shredding utility to overwrite all of the information on the hard drive
 - Must be able to boot and run from an external source

CLEANUP BEFORE DONATION

- > Don't give someone a dead computer
 - Don't remove the hard drive
 - > Don't remove the operating system
 - Recipient won't know if it's worth spending the money to get it running
- Remove your personal information without destroying the operating system
 - > Delete all of the e-mail in your e-mail program
 - Delete all of the entries in your address book or contacts folder
 - > Delete all of the entries in your favorites folder
 - Delete any information that might be stored in the AutoComplete section of Internet Explorer

CLEANUP BEFORE DONATION

- Look outside the normal storage locations for folders you created or information you have saved
- If the information you are deleting is not sensitive, just send it to the recycle bin
- > If the information you want to delete is sensitive, use a file shredder
 - > There are free ones on the Internet
 - > There is a file shredder in Spybot
 - Start Spybot
 - On the menu bar, click Mode and select Advanced mode
 - > Click the Yes button

CLEANUP BEFORE DONATION

- In the left panel, click Tools and select Secure Shredder
- Find the file(s) you want to shred and add then to the list, then click the Chop it away! Button
- After you've deleted all of your personal information
 - > Run Disk Cleanup and Disk Defragmenter
- Caution there could be personal information located in the free space on the hard drive
 - To eliminate this possibility you need to wash the free space

CLEANUP SIMPLIFIED

- Download and install the free trial version of Webroot Window Washer (www.webroot.com)
 - > Fully functional for thirty days
- > If you're going to recycle the computer
 - Go to the System Eraser section of the program to create a bootable CD
 - Use the CD to start the computer and overwrite all the information on the hard drive
- If you're going to donate the computer
 - > Delete all of your personal information
 - > Run Disk Cleanup and Disk Defragmenter
 - Use Window Washer to wash the free space and slack space

CLEANUP A FLASH DRIVE

- > Plug the flash drive in to a USB port
- Cancel the AutoPlay box
- Double-click the Computer icon on the desktop
- > Double-click the icon for the flash drive
- Locate the folder or file you want to delete, then click it to highlight
- > Tap the Delete key on the keyboard
- Click the Yes button to permanently delete whatever you highlighted
- The deleted information does not go to the recycle bin

CLEANUP A CD OR DVD

- If you are using Windows XP and the burning program that come with the operating system
- You can not delete information from a CD-R or DVD±R disc
- If you want to dispose of a disc that contains personal information
 - > Take the disc outside
 - > Fold it in half
 - > Use a hammer to pound it flat
 - > Throw it in the garbage
- You can not delete individual folders or files from a rewritable disc (CD-RW or DVD±RW)

CLEANUP A CD OR DVD

- Windows Vista or 7 and the burning program that came with the operating system gives you the option of burning discs using
 - Live File System
 - Mastered
- > If you use the Live File System
 - You can copy information to any type disc the same way you copy information to the hard drive or a flash drive
 - If you use a rewritable disc you can delete individual folders or files and reclaim the disc space