

The Gigabyte Gazette

**The Monthly Newsletter
of the
*Sun City Summerlin
Computer Club***

**March
2017**

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President's Message

by Howard Verne

Dear Computer Club and friends

Please take the time to subscribe to our club's SCSCC_News Yahoo group so you get all the reminders and important club news. If you are like me you will find all the reminders and club news very helpful and maybe even necessary. First thing to do is go to the club website (www.scscc.club) and click on the button titled "Subscribe to SCSCC News". All you have to do is send a message, following the instructions. Please note, the message must come from YOU. No one else can send it for you.

Remember to read your on-line Gigabyte Gazette newsletter for information of all computer club activities.

Every Tuesday from 1 to 4 PM your club offers a FREE hardware / software repair session. All too often your fellow members come in with computers that will not boot up and they stand a chance of losing all their hard drive pictures and music. We urge all of you to please purchase an external hard drive and back up the drive inside your computer to it. In the event of disaster, it is easy to transfer your backup hard drive on to your internal hard drive and you will be back in business. Come in on Tuesday afternoon and your hardware SIG techs will show you how to do this

Where else can you get all of the above for a mere \$10 per year?

***Howard Verne, President
(702) 527-4056 pres.scscc@gmail.com***

Issue Contributors

Tom Burt	Kathy Kirby
David Kretchmar	Pat Lemay
Howard Verne	

Submissions Welcome

We are always looking for new information to share with our club members. If you have computer or technical information you would like to share with members of the club, send your articles to Tom Burt at tomburt89134@cox.net. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

SCSCC Board of Directors Actions

The Computer Club Board of Directors took the following actions on

February 8, 2017

Jeff Wilkinson made a motion that the minutes of the January 11, 2017 Board Meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by George Lobue and unanimously approved by the Board.

George Lobue made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 10:10 AM. The motion was seconded by Jeff Wilkinson and unanimously approved by the Board.

General Membership Meetings

The March meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 2nd, 7PM at Desert Vista**. Guest speaker Bronson Mack from the Southern Nevada Water Authority will speak on the operations of our water delivery system. Come join us for holiday refreshments and fellowship.

For Club information go to www.scscclub.com, contact Howard Verne, President at 702-527-4056 or email him at pres.scscclub@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members

The following new members joined the Computer Club between January 28th and February 25th.

**Gail Banthin
Marina Cherry
Salvatore Conti
Carolyn Earnest
Albert Engstrom
Jeanette Engstrom
Mervyn Fleisher
Charlene Grime
Susan Halloran
Susan Heifetz
Fred Kennedy**

**Jack Leger
Beverly Pasco
Walter Petrie
Donald Powell
Carol Severy
Clara Sheets
Stephen Sheets
Karen Thompson
Paul Thompson
Darlene Vaughn**

March 2017 Calendars

To view this month's classroom and lab calendars, click the following hyperlink:

http://www.scscclub.com/Calendars/scscclub_calendar_2017-03Mar.pdf

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a forum for general discussion on a specific computer related subject. Admission to all SIGs is on a first-come, first-seated basis and is subject to the maximum allowed by fire code regulations. All of the following meetings are held in the Classroom. <W> or <M> or <H> indicate whether a SIG would be of interest to a Windows, Macintosh or Hand-held Device (i-thing or Android) user.

Genealogy <W>

2nd Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Sep., 2016 to May 2017
Karen Ristic (702-749-6489)

Genealogy is one of America's most popular and rewarding hobbies. With billions of records now available online, researching your family tree has never been easier—if you know where to look and which key words you'll need to use to create an accurate family tree from start to finish. Check out Karen's new series of workshops in the lab on the *second Tuesday of the month*.

GMail <W/M>

1st Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Pat Lemay (702-254-1499)
This SIG covers Gmail as well as other Google applications. All members are welcome. This is your place to learn about all things Google.

Hardware / Software Repair Lab <W >

Every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Chuck Wolff (702-233-6634) and
Chuck Hagen (702-418-2614)
The Repair Lab provides **CLUB MEMBERS ONLY** with no cost assistance for those having upgrades and / or hardware and software problems with their computers. Bring in only your PC tower and your problems. Our TECH team will give you our best effort. ***Be sure to mark your cables so you can re-connect when you get home.***

Internet Investing <W/M>

3rd Thursday, 9:00 a.m. in even months
Next meeting: February 16.

Tom Burt (702-341-7095)
The Internet Investing SIG provides a forum for members interested in using Internet resources for researching and managing investments to meet, discuss, and learn more about the topic. The SIG's target audience is members with intermediate computer skills and investment experience, but all members are welcome.

iPad <iPod, iPhone, iPad>

4th Wednesday, 9 a.m.
Zane Clark (702-562-3684)
This SIG will be your forum for learning about and discussing the Apple iPhone, iPod and iPad tablet devices. It's for Apple hand-held device owners of all experience levels.

Macintosh Users' Group

2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Rose Mary D'Aloisio (702-255-2813)
This SIG is for Macintosh users of all experience levels. We will have Q&A, so bring your questions and/or problems.

Photoshop <W> Dark indefinitely**2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.**

Un-moderated discussion group

This SIG covers many of the basic elements found in both Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Photoshop Elements, two excellent tools to get professional-quality results. If you wish to enhance your photographs, this SIG will be most helpful and of great value. This SIG's target audience is intermediate to advanced digital imaging users, but all members are welcome.

Beginner's Digital Photography <W>**3rd Mondays, 1:00 p.m.**

Stu Gershon (702-255-3309)

Picasa is still a viable, reliable photo editor for beginners, but this year we will also take a look at Google Photos and other FREE editing programs. You're invited to bring your equipment (Laptops or Cameras) so that you can have that "hands on" experience!

This SIG's target audience is beginner to intermediate digital photography users, but all members are welcome.

Photoshop Elements<W>**4th Mondays, 1:00 p.m.**

Mary Miles

This SIG covers many of the basic and advanced elements found in Adobe Photoshop Elements, especially layers. If you wish to make the most of your photographs, this SIG will be very helpful. This SIG's target audience is intermediate digital imaging users, but all members are welcome.

Windows 10<W>**First and Third Saturdays at 10:30 am**

Bill Wilkinson (702-233-4977)

Each session will be devoted to assisting new Windows 10 owners in becoming familiar and comfortable with Microsoft's newest operating system for desktop and laptop computers. Assistance will be given individually or in small groups as circumstances warrant. Bill's notes are available by clicking [HERE](#).

Kaffee Klatches

Kaffee Klatches provide a forum for general discussion on all computer-related subjects. Admission to all Kaffee Klatches is on a first-come, first-seated basis and is subject to the maximum allowed by fire code regulations. All of the following meetings are held in the Classroom. <W> or <M> or <H> indicate whether a SIG would be of interest to a Windows, Macintosh or Hand-held Device (i-thing or Android) user.

Windows 10 Kaffee Klatch <W>

*First and Third Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.
Bill Wilkinson (702-233-4977)*

If you are a novice or near-beginner computer user, or if you just want some refresher information together with a refreshing cup of coffee, then jump-start or recharge your computing knowledge by attending these Win 10 KK sessions. At each session, attendees will explore from one to four topics of particular interest to beginners and near-beginners. The topics are always announced a couple of days in advance via e-mail to SCSCC members who have subscribed to the club's message board. Each topic is presented in a step-by-step manner and is supported by "how to" notes that can be easily and conveniently downloaded from the SCSCCBKK.org web page. Following each "up front" presentation of one or more topics (approximately 60 minutes in duration), an informal open-ended Question and Answer period takes place for those who wish to participate, listen, reflect, or inquire.

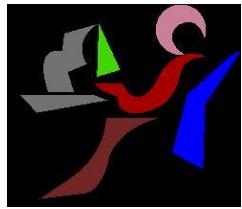
Kaffee Klatch <W/M/H>

*Every Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.
Sandy Mintz (702-838-2525)*

This KK is for all users, from beginning to advanced. The KK discussions are not restricted to any one subject, computer platform or computer-knowledge level but should be computer or technology related. We will try to answer your questions, help you keep your systems updated and provide some useful "tips and tricks." If you have a tip or information you would like to share, we encourage you to bring it in and share since the SCSCC is built on "neighbor helping neighbor." The fellowship is great, the coffee is good, and the education received from the KK attendees is priceless. Stop by on Tuesday morning and have a cup of coffee with us.

March 2017 Classes

Because there are a limited number of computer stations available for hands-on participation, pre-registration is necessary for all classes. See individual class descriptions for details on how to register.



Windows 10 Conquering the Basics and Beyond Making the Easy Transition From Earlier Editions of Windows A Nine-Hour Hands-On Course Limited to 12 Participants

*March 6, 7 & 9 - 9 AM to noon
Next Class Dates: April 3, 4 & 6 - 9 AM to noon*

Lead Instructor: Bill Wilkinson

Prerequisites: Club Membership for 2017 (\$10); Comfortable with using a mouse; some basic knowledge of an earlier edition of MS Windows (XP, Vista, 7 or 8/8.1).

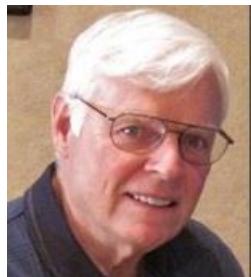
Place Your Name on the Pre-Registration List for an upcoming three-Session Class

If you are interested in placing your name on a high-priority reservation list for the next available class, simply send an email message to: WILKINLV5@COX.NET and include the following information:

- Include “**Windows 10 Class**” in the Subject Title
- Your first and last name
- Your 8-digit Sun City Summerlin Association number
- Your telephone number
- Your email address

Your message will be promptly acknowledged by return email. No telephone inquiries please.

Please note: All hands-on classes are limited to 12 participants. This class fills very quickly.



BOOT CAMP CLASS for Windows Vista, Win7, Win8.1 and Win10 Users

No classes in March

Each Session Meets from 9 am - noon.

Lead instructor: Bill Wilkinson

**Place Your Name on the Registration List
for the Next Three-Session Class
(Dates to be Determined as Interest Dictates)**

Course Description:

Boot Camp is an introductory course designed for residents who are novice users of the Microsoft Windows operating system. **It also serves as an excellent review for intermediate users who want to fill some gaps in their computer knowledge.**

This hands-on class has a **limited enrollment of 12** with each participant working at an individual computer station in the Computer Lab. A team of lead instructor and four coaches will provide step-by-step instruction that will include demonstrations, guided practice and individual coaching assistance.

These strategies will be covered:

- Secrets for using the mouse and the keyboard effectively
- Basic vocabulary needed for an understanding of Windows (Vista, Win 7, and Win 8.1)
- Managing and organizing your personal data files (documents, pictures, videos, and music)
- Protecting your computer from viruses and other malware
- Safely downloading and installing applications from the Internet
- Efficient and safe use of an Internet browser and search engine.

Course Fee: \$10 for current club members; \$20 for non-members

Materials include: a step-by-step user's manual and a flash drive

Registration Details:

To reserve one of the remaining slots in this final Boot Camp class of 2015, telephone Bill Wilkinson at **702-233-4977**.



The Genealogy Computer Lab Workshop

Presenter: Karen Ristic

Location: SCSCC Lab

Next Session: Tuesday, March 14th

In this workshop, using the lab student computers, we will explore some of the many genealogy web sites, such as *FamilySearch.org*, *One-step Webpages*, *Ellis Island*, and more.

March 2017 Seminars, Q&As and Workshops

For Computer Club seminars, there is no requirement for advanced registration unless explicitly stated. Seating is first-come, first-seated.



Android Cell Phone Q&A

Thursday, March 2nd at 1 PM

Presenter: Susan Heifetz

Location: SCSCC Classroom

Susan will answer your questions about how to use an Android smart phone.



Wonders of the Internet

Monday, March 6th at 10 AM (new time)

Presenter: Stu Gershon

Location: SCSCC Classroom

How to make “shortcuts” on your desktop, how to do more efficient searches, important websites you might be interested in, MAYBE some Facebook Questions if there is time.



Libre Office: A Free Alternative to MS Office

Wednesday, March 8th at 1 PM

Presenter: Edith Einhorn

Location: SCSCC Classroom

Libre Office is a suite of programs that mirrors Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point. It is compatible with Windows, Mac OS and Linux. This seminar will introduce the suite of programs, with an emphasis on the Writer (Word) and Calc (Excel).

You are welcome to bring your laptop if you want to follow along with the presentation.



MS Word - Inserting Pictures and Shapes into Your Document

Saturday, March 11th 10 AM to noon

Presenter: Gail Weiss

Location: Classroom

Well it's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words and it's true. It can draw attention; it can visually describe your object better than you can in a hundred words or less. In this class, we will look at inserting pictures (clip art, pictures for the Internet, personal photos, etc.) and drawing shapes into WORD documents. Please bring your own laptops or mobile devices if you want to follow along.

I come to Sun City as a recent resident with over twenty years of computer training experience in conducting classes from basic to advanced features in all MS Office applications (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access). Whether you are looking for a new job that requires knowledge of MS Office applications or just want to know more about using these applications for personal use, please email me your ideas for future classes at: gweiss5@cox.net.



Laptop Workshop

Monday, March 13 at 1 PM

Presenter: Stu Gershon

Location: SCSCC Classroom

Learn how to find out what is inside your computer. Learn how to organize your Hard Drive



Facebook Q&A Lab

Wednesday, January 18th at 1 PM

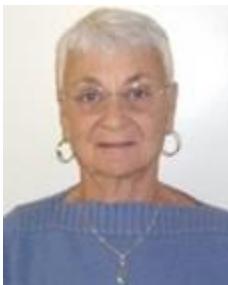
Presenter: Kaynella Williams

Location: SCSCC Classroom

Facebook has more than one billion members online. Chances are your family and friends are already using Facebook – which means it's time for you to join in, too!

This session is planned as a hands-on question and answer event. It will be held in the **classroom**.

A few experienced Facebook users and I will offer help on your specific Facebook questions such as setting up a new account, how to do something on Facebook, and privacy concerns. We encourage you to bring your own laptop or tablet.



Social E-mail Netiquette

Thursday, March 16th at 1 pm

Presenter: Pat Lemay

Location: SCSCC Classroom

Email has become a primary communication medium for many of us. It is meant to be informal when used socially. It is a quick and cheap form of communication in today's world. Keep your emails brief, to the point and socially acceptable. Learn how to properly clean up and forward an email and when you should use To, CC and BCC. Did you know that many emails contain email harvesting programs? Sending email properly not only ensures that recipients will read your email, but also protects your friends and relatives from spammers.



“Ask Chuck” Q & A

Thursday, March 23rd at 1 PM

Presenter: Chuck Strickland

Location: Classroom

Chuck will hold forth in the classroom, answering your technical questions.

If you wish, you can e-mail your questions ahead of the session to: chuckstr89134@gmail.com.



Home Network Basics - What's New for 2017?

Wednesday, March 29th at 9:30 AM

Presenter: Tom Burt

Location: SCSCC Classroom

Many households now have two (or more) PCs, plus other devices such as tablets, cell phones and networked printers. How do you take advantage of the power of networking to get the most out of your multiple systems?

This 2 hour seminar will focus on the basics of setting up a mixed wired and wireless home network. We will survey the latest in both wired and wireless networking equipment and software, including the new WiFi Direct standard. We'll demonstrate how to set up your wireless network equipment to create a mixed wired and wireless home LAN and how to secure it from undesired outside access.

We'll also spend time on how to share files, printers and your cable or DSL Internet connection between two or more PCs, Macs, laptops, tablets or cell phones. We'll also demonstrate connecting to a network printer. And we'll keep ample time open to answer your networking questions. This seminar will primarily focus on Windows 7, 8 and 10. However, much of the information will also apply to Macintosh networks.

This seminar's target audience is users who are comfortable with their computers and want to move up to taking better advantage of having multiple computers or devices. **However, all members are welcome.**

Presentation notes are available at:

http://www.scscclub.smnr/Home_Networking_Basics_2015.pdf.



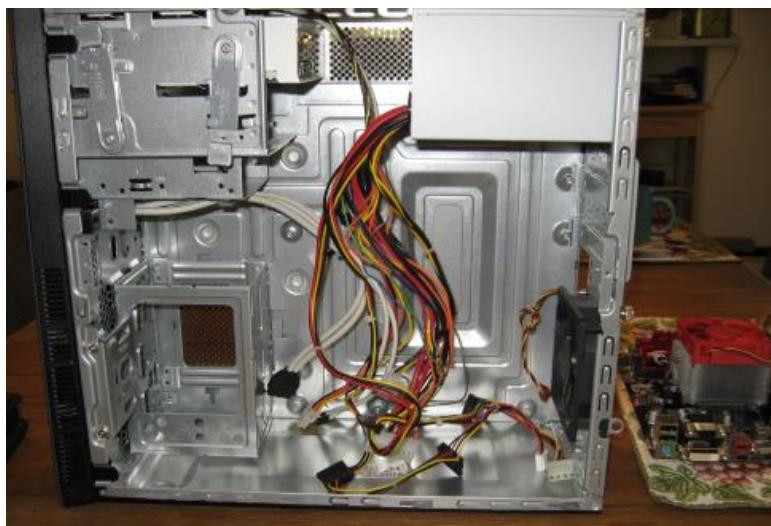
Tom's Tech-Notes

A New Box for a New Year (Part 3)

Tom Burt, SCSCC Vice-President

This is the finale of a series describing my project to build a new desktop workstation to replace my aging 2011-vintage desktop. (see the January and February Gigabyte Gazette issues for the first two parts). I'm writing this article on my new PC.

We'll pick up with mounting our assembled motherboard into the case and connecting up all the various case wires to sockets and pins on the motherboard. We also have to install our 512 GB solid state drive. Then we wrap up by powering up, adjusting the BIOS settings and installing Windows 10.



The case has quite a maze of wires for power, connectors, data, and fan control that connect to matching sockets and jacks on the motherboard.

Before installing the motherboard into the case, the thin back plate that came with the motherboard has to be snapped into the rectangular opening in the rear of the case.



This plate has cutouts for all the onboard jacks that will be exposed at the rear of the case.

Once that back plate is snapped in, it's time to carefully drop in

the motherboard and align the jacks with the holes in the backplate. The various screw-holes in the motherboard must also be aligned with the standoffs on the bottom of the case.



This photo shows the motherboard installed and screwed down. I pulled the various wires and cables out of the way.

The solid state drive is not yet mounted. It will go in the upper drive cage, underneath the DVD drive. The lower drive cage will eventually hold a hard drive transplanted from the old PC.



The 2.5 inch solid state drive has to be mounted in a 3.5 inch adapter tray that will then be mounted in the upper drive cage. The actual drive is held to the adapter by four small flat headed screws on the bottom side of the adapter.

The SSD / adapter assembly is mounted in the cage with two screws. The cage has spring latches on the other side to prevent the adapter from moving. Note - Your specific case may have a different cage configuration than my used HP case.

Connect SATA data and power cables to the back of the SSD.

Next, it's time to connect the cable from the power supply to the matching sockets on the motherboard. There are a 20-pin and 4-pin connector that combine to fit in a 24-pin power connector on the motherboard. Be careful that these are properly aligned to match pinouts of the motherboard socket.

Next,, connect a 4-pin (or 8-pin) CPU power cable to the CPU power socket on the motherboard. The wires are yellow (12-volt) and black (ground). I ran into a snag here. The power supply's cable wouldn't reach the motherboard socket. I had to order an 8-inch CPU power extension cable, which I was amazed to find was commonly available on Amazon.com. But, I had to wait about 4 days to get the cable.



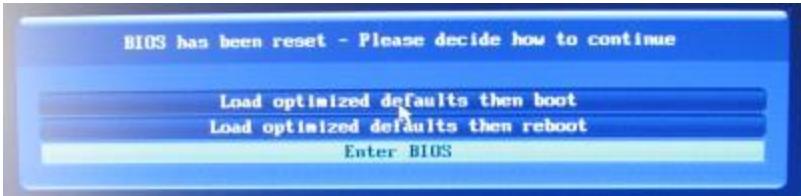
This photo shows all the various cables connected, except the CPU power cable. This includes the CPU fan cable and the case fan cable. The grey cables connect front panel USB ports, sound jacks and the card reader to the correct jacks on the motherboard.

The exact wiring will depend on your case's power supply outputs and on your motherboard's configuration of jacks and sockets.

The SSD's SATA data cable is plugged in to SATA port 0 and the DVD drive's SATA data cable is plugged in to SATA port 7.

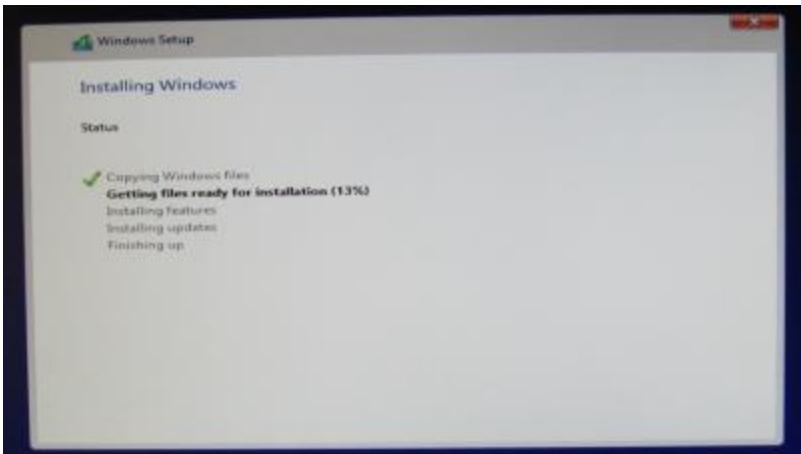
Take your time and double-check the pinout documentation in your motherboard's manual. On modern motherboards, all sockets are keyed.

It's time to plug in the case's power cord, connect a keyboard, mouse and monitor. Have your Windows 10 setup DVD or flash drive ready. Check your motherboard manual to find the key to press to enter the



BIOS setup. Power up the new PC and immediately press the "setup" key. For my PC it is the Del key. You should get a prompt similar to that shown. Enter the BIOS. Once there browse around the setup screens

to find the boot order settings. Make sure the PC's BIOS will boot first from either the DVD drive or from a bootable USB flash drive (depending on your hardware setup and what your Windows setup is written on). Insert to your Windows 10 setup DVD or flash drive, save the boot order settings, and reboot the PC.



If all has been done properly, the Windows 10 setup will launch and step through the installation sequence.

I recommend doing a custom install so that you have more control over the initial partitioning and formatting of the SSD.

On a solid state drive, the setup should require less than 45 minutes to complete.



When the setup is completing, the PC will reboot and Windows 10 will finalize various settings, set up your desktop and get various Apps from the Windows store.

When all of that is done, Windows 10 will display your baseline initial desktop.

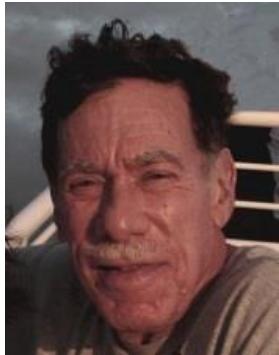


Now begins the process of configuring many settings, installing all your productivity applications, setting up mail accounts and so forth.

I configured the new machine to be part of my in-house Windows workgroup and I set up the C: drive of my old PC as a network share. That made it very easy to copy data files from the old PC to the new.

In particular, I copied the contents of the Documents folder from my user account on the old PC to the Documents folder of my user account on the new PC. When I started up MS Outlook on the new PC (after installing MS Office) and set up my various mail accounts, I told Outlook to use existing PST files in the Documents\Outlook folder. Doing this preserved all my mail history, contacts and calendar information that had been on the old PC.

Building a new PC is not for the faint-hearted and can be challenging. For me, the rewards were worth the time and effort. Good planning and research will increase your chances of success. The payoff is that I now have a PC that is exactly what I want and I was able to do it for quite a modest cost. If you decide to try it, I wish you luck and success.



Kretchmar's Korner

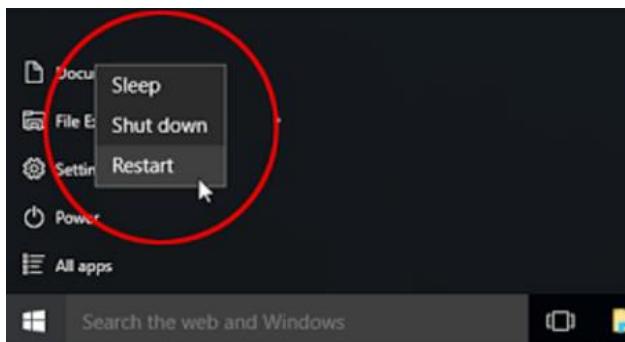
By David Kretchmar, Computer Hardware Technician

Leave a Computer on or Shut it down?

There is a long running debate over whether it is better just to leave a computer running constantly, or shut it down when the user has finished with a session. Opinions have been fairly evenly divided for many years, with very knowledgeable people having opposite opinions.

I'm going to try to summarize the main arguments of both sides of the issue.

Shut it down!



Most new desktops draw about 60 Watts of electricity or less when they're on, but sitting idle. Turned off - but plugged in - a desktop draws 2 or 3 Watts. This difference might result in a savings of a couple of dollars a year with our high rates here in Southern Nevada.

An argument in favor of shutting down is safety. I have never heard of a powered down computer starting a fire, but this is a theoretical possibility with a running computer. Also a powered off computer is far less likely to be damaged by a power surge.

There is certainly less wear on the components of a computer that is turned off but saving component wear is a poor way to try to save a buck. Computers are engineered to become obsolete long before they wear out.

Reboots (or turning a computer off and on) improve performance?

In the early days of computing, regular reboots were a necessary part of using a computer user, just to keep the machine working.

This is no longer the case. Modern operating systems are very adept at managing resources, and if you choose to never turn the PC off, you won't notice too much degradation of performance.

Occasionally a system needs to be restarted to complete the installation of updates, but your system will tell you when this is necessary.

Lastly, it is *theoretically* possible a running computer connected to the Internet could have some malware such as a virus downloaded on to it, or to have some data stored on that machine compromised, as a result of malware previously acquired. It is of course impossible to download anything on to or copy data off of a turned off computer that is turned off.

Keep it on!

It is nice to have your computer ready and waiting for your every command the moment you want to sit down and use it.

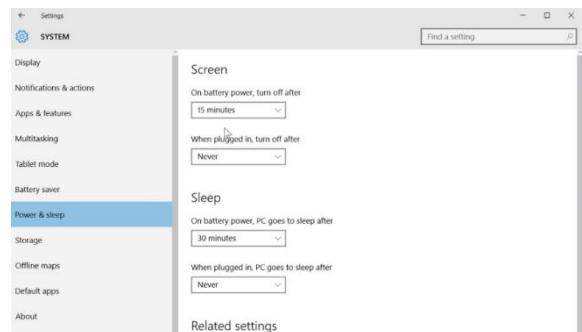
If you have a very old system (more than 6 years) or you suspect your system might be failing, it is a good idea to minimize your on-off cycles to postpone total system failure. This will give you more of an opportunity to back up all of your data before the system crashes.

Any complex man-made system is more likely to fail during a “change of state” than when it is operating in a “steady state”. For example we lost space shuttles on launch and reentry, when they were experiencing a “change of state”. Your computer being turned on and off is experiencing far less stress than a space shuttle, but it is still most likely to fail on those occasions, if it is getting flakey.

A new computer is well enough designed to withstand many thousands of on-off cycles, and is engineered well enough to become obsolete long before it wears out, but a failing system should be left on, if possible.

Which is best?

I think the best solution for most users is probably to keep your system running if you are going to be working off and on during a day, and powering down if it will not be used for a few days



Windows systems have a **Sleep** mode (Control Panel/Power Options) which by default is set to put your monitor and computer to sleep after a few minutes of neglect, or you can manually put your system to sleep through the Windows Start button. Sleep Mode utilizes about the same amount of power as if the system was turned off.

That way you can have your computer up and running in a few seconds with the touch of a mouse, keyboard, or power button, but are not wasting much power.

March Lab Monitor Schedule

Open Lab sessions are held twice per week: 9 am to noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Jeff Southwell Blanche York	WEDNESDAY March 1, 2017
Marcy Ishum Donna Bailey	SATURDAY March 4, 2017
Tom Brennan Jan Edwards	WEDNESDAY March 8, 2017
Fred Cohen	SATURDAY March 11, 2017
Susie Scott Linda McMullin	WEDNESDAY March 15, 2017
Mary Hedin John Zuzich	SATURDAY March 18, 2017
Joyce Davidson Tammy Collins	WEDNESDAY March 22, 2017
Mary Hedin Ann Warhaftig	SATURDAY March 25, 2017
Susie Scott	WEDNESDAY March 29, 2017