Keeping your computer competitive: *Windows edition*

In college, our most valuable tool is our computer, whether it’s for researching a term paper or just browsing Netflix. But plenty of students forget that their PC, just like any other tool, needs attention and maintenance. Their case gets full of dust, data is allocated inefficiently, or they run some antivirus that was relevant 8 years ago. Your computer does so much for you, so you’ve got to give it some love back! Today I’m here to talk about some easy ways to keep your computer fast, safe, and clean. Most of these tips are designed for Windows 7, but I’m sure plenty apply for apple fans as well!

Speed is king: Ever notice how, weeks after you get your new PC, it runs dramatically worse than when you first bought it? That’s because, as you install new software and download new files, your PC has to juggle more and more content. An easy way to see what’s eating up your active memory is by using Windows Task Manager:

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Mission Statement

This monthly newsletter will inform, entertain, and connect the students of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Florida. This newsletter links students to our university and future workplace by presenting articles on our department, industry, and events hosted by the different campus organizations.

The IEEE Newsletter needs your help making this a better newsletter. Please email your comments, events, and ideas to IEEE.UF.Newsletter@gmail.com.
We can sort by memory to see just what is eating up our memory. On my task manager, everything seems to be in working order.

But let’s say you see some unfamiliar process; something not being run by windows or any active program. If we right click and go to ‘Open File Location’, we can get a general idea as to what it is.

Is it something you don’t want running? A temporary solution is to simply end the process. But the program will start running again after you reboot! A great way to keep your PC running fast, and improve your startup time, is by opening your System Configuration by searching via the start menu:

See anything suspicious, or unnecessary? Disable it! By just spending a few minutes editing what programs are activated on startup, it will help your PC quite a bit!

There are another few tips on keeping your PC running smooth. Clean and defrag your hard drive by using Disk Cleanup and Disk Defragmenter via the start menu.

You can even set a schedule for these to occur, so you don’t have to do it yourself. Also: be sure to turn off your PC when you’re not using it. It might seem like a pain in the butt now, but it can add months or even years to your PC’s life.

**Keepin’ it Safe:**

This section hardly requires as much technical advice as the prior section, but is just important! Consider some new antiviruses.

Every casual PC user I know just runs AVG, but PC Mag voted Panda Free Antivirus as the best free antivirus available for 2015. I’ve been in love with it ever since I installed the software. Just be sure to uninstall any prior antivirus you’re using before switching.

More does not mean better with antivirus software: they’ll often ‘trip’ over each other and cause false alarms. Be sure to set up a regular scanning schedule too.

**A Clean PC is a Happy One:**

For those who use a tower, monthly cleanings are pretty dang important to keep dust from collecting in your PC. The process actually isn’t that bad, and can even give you some insight into how your PC works.

I’m not going to give a ‘professional’ cleaning guide or anything, just some quick tips on how to easily clean your computer:

1. Disconnect everything. No power or accessories should be connected to your computer while you’re cleaning it.
2. Do NOT use a vacuum. A vacuum can create static, which can harm your computer.
3. Use a swab or simple cloth to clean the PC. If you really want to get in there, get a can of compressed air. It has the same affect a vacuum would, but without the damage to your computer.
4. Know your case. Don’t try to wrench it open or anything. If worst comes to worst, look up your case’s model online.
5. Do ALL of this on a nonstatic surface, like a wooden or plastic table.
6. You can choose to remove all of your components individually and clean them, but I usually just focus on removing dust from around the fan on the bottom of the case.

That’s pretty much it! Hopefully some of these tips have given you some help with keeping your PC healthy.

- *Tyler Gersbach*, Mathematics of Science Senior
Each year thousands of students scramble to prep for the UF career showcase thinking it is their one chance to score an internship, coop, or fulltime job. It’s not a lie to say the career showcase is one of their best opportunities to find work and experience, but what happens when you don’t get that callback interview or don’t get any offers at all?

There are other opportunities to be found, namely in info session that are hosted by student organizations such as IEEE, SWE, WiCSE, WECE, and ACM.

Representatives from local to large-scale companies visit UF each year to talk about their line of work, and what it’s like to work for them. They also reveal what skillsets they are looking for so those interested in the company in question don’t apply without knowing if they are fully qualified.

To freshmen and sophomores that attend, these talks are priceless. They are given an opportunity to develop and flesh out their resumes to be tailored towards their dream company.

These talks provide a direction to what the real world looks for so when the time comes to look for career advancing opportunities, one has relevant skills for the companies one would like to advance with. For those not needing guidance and are just wanting to find work, the companies hosting the info sessions, most often than not, are recruiting.

Most representatives are recruiters in their field and accept resumes from all who attend. They stay behind after they conclude their “talk” to meet with those who sat in with them and discuss employment opportunities.

Some companies do most of their hiring through info sessions, so don’t think that after career showcase, that opportunities are sparse.

One does not have to be associated with any of the student organizations to attend an info session. Anyone is free to show up, and, depending on who is hosting the talk, pizza and refreshments are provided. If you are not one to attend events on campus, make it a reason to come for the free food.

While chowing down on pizza, you may actually discover a sector of a company you did not know exists that sparks your interest.

Check out fliers and billboards around campus to see who will be attending the next info session and when they will be in attendance. To get updated lists of soon-to-occur info sessions, visit the websites and/or Facebook pages of the student organizations in your field of study.

- Emily Macon, CE Junior
The intern is a new comedy movie with Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway. Robert De Niro plays Ben, a retired, widower man who used to work in a factory that printed phonebooks.

Anne Hathaway acts as Jules, a successful, young entrepreneur who manages her own company that sells clothes online. Ben ends up being paired as Jules’s intern in a senior internship program.

At the beginning of the movie Jules does not find many tasks that she can assign to Ben since he is not very efficient with computers, nevertheless, Ben is a man who likes to help anyone in any way he can. Soon Jules notices the things Ben does, and starts to let him be more involved in her work.

As Ben and Jules become closer, Ben gets to know Jules’s personal life. It turns out that Jules’s family life is not perfect. As a young entrepreneur, Jules is dedicated to company, and does not have time to spend with her family, or to sleep. She thinks that her personal problems can be solved by appointing a CEO to her company. However, a CEO would mean that some of her creative power would be limited.

We all have dreams of creating the next big electronic, or the app that everyone has in their phone, or maybe working for a big company, however, we also have personal lives that suffer due to the sacrifices that sometimes we have to make due to those professional dreams.

I am sure that every engineering student has had to say no to a family activity because they had to study for a test, however, our lives as a whole are one dream, and we need to find balance between our time with our family and friend and our academic obligations.

One of the common themes throughout the mov-
The Breaking Bad fad has come and past, but if you still crave the vicarious life of an illegal drug producer and more, there's still hope. Newly released on Netflix is the Pablo Escobar biopic series Narcos. It's one season consisting of ten 45-50 minute episodes, perfect for a study break. Full of action, drama, titties and coke, Narcos chronicles Escobar's rise in the Medellin Cartel, attempt at congress, and emergence as a narco-terrorist.

In addition to some pretty great producing, directing, and writing, the authenticity of the series was a huge turn on. Narrated from the perspective of a DEA agent hunting Escobar, Narcos employs some fiction to fill in loose holes and carry the story but is largely based on fact. Additionally, it's largely in spanish with English subtitles; nothing pisses me off more than movies or shows set in Europe, South America, or Asia and everyone is speaking English. And American English, nonetheless.

Gritty, sexy, intense, and electrifying, Narcos is well worth the watch. Plus, it's educational historically and linguistically. If we'd watched it back when I took Spanish 3 I'd remember a lot more than I do now. Besides, like you need an excuse to watch Netflix anyway.

- Allyson Jones, EE Junior

Upcoming events

10/14 Get Involved with IEEE—5:00PM NEB 213
10/14 WECE Tech Workshop: Getting Started with Altium Designer—6:00PM TBA
10/13 Sophie Wilson Seminar: The Future of Microprocessors—4:00PM NEB100
10/19 Women in Electrical and Computer Engineering GBM— 6:00PM LAR234
10/19 Harris Corporation Indo Session—7:00PM Reitz Union CRC Library
SOPHIE WILSON

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Walter G. Fredrickson is a UF alum, earning his BS in Electrical Engineering with Honors in 1957. During his nearly 40 year career with Harris Corporation, Mr. Fredrickson worked on numerous projects including a new type of text editing and ad layout products for the newspaper industry that was the precursor of modern WYSIWYG word processing. He was a former member of the advisory boards for both ECE and CISE, and an education advisor to the Dean of Engineering. He received the College of Engineering’s Distinguished Service Award in early 1985.