



COMPUTER BASICS

For the novice and professional alike here are some basics we suggest and remind our customers all the time.

1. Turn off your computer at least once per week. Give it a rest.
2. Don't sit for more than 45 minutes at your computer without at least getting up or standing and stretching.
3. Learn a few keyboard shortcuts at least once per week. By the time two months pass you should be able to operate your computer without using your mouse, for the most part. It will make your performance and efficiencies improve 1000% and impress your friends with laptops.
4. The free antivirus programs are just as good as the paid versions. We have learned that here at Mountain Computers over the years.
5. Backups are essential. Don't trust automatic backups. Verify your backups from time to time. Make 2 sets.

COMPUTER SECURITY – PART V of X - TROJANS

Computer viruses have been around the computing world a long time. Some viruses will annoy you, some viruses will suggest you buy products, and some viruses will destroy and corrupt your data and your computer. The latest two viruses are particularly difficult to fix.

The first will redirect your Internet searches from legitimate websites to fake replicas which in turn capture your searches, keystrokes, and passwords. For example, Google.com is redirected to a network address and website across the pond. That one is dangerous. The only solution we have found is to rip out and reset the network stack, reset the network drivers, reset the hosts files, and run antivirus and anti-malware programs in safe mode to isolate and remove the threat, and if that fails reload the operating system and backup and restore your data and programs.

The second is a malware / Java trojan that removes all your Start Menu shortcuts, leaving your data files hidden, sometimes set to system files. The only resolution is to reload your computer, backing up your data, and resetting the attributes and permissions on all your profiles and public files, restoring your data and programs after reload.

BUILD TO ORDER PC - PART X

How can this be part ten (X) ? Are we done yet? Not really. Today we should talk about BTO versus OEM, and the value within versus the warranty included.

Mountain Computers in the past few years realizes BTO PC's are more expensive than what customers prefer. OEM computers from HP, Dell, Toshiba and others are becoming almost disposable for a few hundred dollars to replace. This is true. Why fix a computer for a \$150 when you can buy a new one for \$350? The Mountain Computers BTO Value is expandability; the sweet spot in the computer quality, longevity, warranty, and overall performance.

At another retailer, there are hidden costs along the way. For a new computer, one is inclined to return the computer to the place of purchase for repairs. Those costs are usually steeper than one would expect. The computer warranty is usually less than expected too. A retailer might say, the warrant is good for 1 year though the parts within exceed that, but they won't tell you that. At Mountain Computers, we look into the warranty status of the system, the parts, and your overall plan with your computer from the past, present and future before a plan of repair, upgrade or replacement is suggested.

TECH TIPS OF THE WEEK

1. Defrag your hard drive once per year.
2. Check your computer connections once per year and tighten up loose connections.
3. Have your laptop display screw hinges checked for tightness once per year.



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Lunch 11x-12x

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GO GREEN
PC-TUNE UP!

