Volume 11, Issue 5

May 2019

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Fred Holzsager,
IT Director
Holzsager Technology Services
and
Publisher of
The Tech Insighter

Inside This Issue

Snapple Real Fact # 413
T-Rex's closest living relative is the chicken.

The Tech Insighter

"Insightful Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and Be More Profitable"

How To Detect if Your PC is Infected

With the rise of online commerce and banking, cybercrime has evolved. Viruses sneak into PCs to steal passwords, financial and other personal information to be sold on the black market for profit. Here are some signs that may indicate your PC is infected.

Slow Computer
Are your operating systems and programs slow to start up? Is your data bandwidth suspiciously slow? If so, your computer may potentially have a virus. First though, you should rule out other causes including running out of RAM, lack of space on your hard drive, or even damaged hardware. If none of those are the reason, then malware may have infected your device.

Blue Screen of Death (BSOD)
If your PC crashes regularly, it's usually either a technical problem with your system or a malware infection. You might not have installed the latest drivers for your device or the programs you're running could possibly be incompatible with your hardware. If none of these problems are apparent in your PC, then a virus could be causing your crashes.

To check what caused your last BSOD, go to Control Panel > System and Security > Administrative Tools > Event Viewer and select Windows Logs. Those marked with "error" are your recorded crashes. For troubleshooting solutions, consult forums or your IT department to figure out what to do next.

Lack of Storage Space
There are several types of malware that can corrupt the files saved on your computer. Most tend to fill up your hard drive with suspicious files. Ransomware, for example, is a notorious type of malware that denies you access to your data until you pay a so-called ransom. If you find any unknown programs that you have never installed before, notify IT personnel in person immediately (do not email them) and have them handle the situation for you. Your device might not be the only one in your network that is infected with suspicious programs.

Suspicious Modem and Hard Drive Activity
Combined with the other warning signs, if your hard disk is working while no programs are

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Quotations

Read Fred's Book!
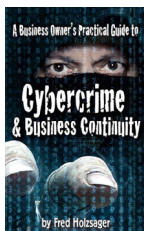
If you would like to have us speak to your organization and give away some free copies to attendees, give us a call. For more details on the contents and how to get your own copy, please visit our special web page at **www.tech4now.com/cybercrime**

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How To Detect if Your PC is Infected

currently running or if you notice that your external modem is always lit, then you should scan your computer for viruses.

Pop-ups, Websites, Toolbars, and Other Unwanted Programs

Pop-ups come from clicking on suspicious pages, such as those where users are asked to answer survey questions to access a website's service or install free applications. Refrain from clicking and just close them instead. Run malware scans and update your browsers.

Downloading free applications can inject malware into your device. It's easy to just skim over the terms and conditions page and repeatedly press next. This is where they get you. In the process, you might have agreed to accepting a new default browser and opening unwanted websites and or programs filled with viruses. Be cautious when downloading something for free.

You're Sending Out Spam

If your friends are telling you that you've been sending them suspicious messages and links over social media or email, you might be a victim of spyware. Warn your friends not to open anything that appears to be spam and make sure to reset your passwords across all your devices and enable multifactor authentication.

Knowing how malicious software affects your computer can help you take the necessary precautions and steps to rectify the situation as soon as possible. Regardless of whether or not your system has experienced these symptoms, it's always smart to perform regular malware scans to ensure your business is safe. To find out more about malware and IT security, contact us today at (201) 797—5050 or www.tech4now.com.

Prolong Laptop Battery Life With These Tricks

More people use laptops to do work on the go, making long battery life a major priority. These useful tips will make sure that your laptop's battery will last longer.

Some Truths About Your Laptop Battery

Batteries in many modern devices are lithium-based — either lithium-ion or lithium-polymer — and users must take note of the following guidelines for proper battery maintenance:

- Leaving your battery completely drained will damage it.

- Batteries have limited lifespans. No matter what you do, yours will age from the very first time you charge it. As time passes, the ions will no longer be able to flow efficiently from the anode to the cathode, thereby reducing the battery's capacity.

What Else Can Degrade Your Battery

Besides being naturally prone to deterioration, your battery can degrade due to higher-than-normal voltages, which happens when you keep your battery fully charged at all times. Even though a modern laptop battery cannot be overcharged, doing so will stress and harm your battery.

Both extremely high temperatures (above 70°F) and low temperatures (32–41°F) can also reduce battery capacity and damage its compo-

nents. Another factor is physical damage. Remember that batteries are made up of sensitive materials, and sustaining a shock from a fall, etc. can damage them.

How to Prolong Your Battery Life

Now that you know some facts about your laptop battery, it's time to learn how to delay its demise:

- Never leave your battery completely drained.

- Don't expose your battery to extremely high or low temperatures.

- If possible, charge your battery at a lower voltage.

- If you need to use your laptop for a long period of time while plugged into a power source, it's better to remove the battery. This is because a plugged-in laptop generates more heat that will damage your battery.

- When you need to store your battery for a few weeks, you should recharge your battery to 40% and remove it from your laptop for storage.

These are just a few tips on extending the life of your hardware. There are many more ways you can maximize your hardware efficiency and extend its longevity. Contact us today at (201) 797–5050 or www.tech4now.com to find out more!

Trivial Matters

With spring finally hear, the sound of chirping birds is everywhere. Ever wonder about this amazingly diverse creature? With over 10,000 species, our fine feathered friends inhabit almost every inch of the planet.

- Ravens are great at mimicking human speech and sounds.
- Ostriches have the largest eyes of any land animal. They are actually bigger than their brains.
- Ostriches are also the largest bird and the fastest animal on two legs.
- Owls devour their prey whole.
- Some ducks sleep with one eye open.
- Most hummingbirds weigh less than a nickel.
- Around 20% of bird species migrate long distances every year.
- Parrots can learn to say hundreds of words.

- Pigeons were used to deliver important messages, including the outcome of the early Olympic games and military information as recently as in World War II.
- The average canary has about 2,200 feathers.
- There are more chickens in the world than people.
- The average hen will lay 227 eggs a year.
- "Eat like a bird?" Many birds eat twice their weight a day.
- Hummingbirds are the only animals that can fly backwards.
- A flamingo can eat only when its head is upside down.
- The most dangerous bird in the world is the Cassowary. With one kick it can kill its enemy.
- The world's only wingless bird is the kiwi of New Zealand.

Quick Tech Productivity Pointers

Android Tip: Track Your Data Use
Do you have mobile data limitations? If you want to avoid paying overage fees or suffering from slow connection speeds, you need to monitor how much data you're using. Check out these tips for monitoring your mobile data usage so you can stretch it further.

Tip #1: Turn off or limit your mobile data consumption
Wi-Fi is one of the easiest ways to reduce data consumption and networks are everywhere nowadays. Even malls and shopping centers often offer free Wi-Fi. However, there is always the chance that you may lose your connection and switch to a data network without knowing.

Consider preempting this issue by disabling mobile data entirely. Just open your Android's Settings app and search for the menu that contains your mobile data configurations. From there you can turn off data entirely or set data limitations based on your service plan's allowance.

Tip #2: Limit Background Data
Even if you don't realize it, many of your apps use data while your Android device is locked. They keep running in the background and their data usage can take significant chunks out of your monthly allowance. To limit the use of background data:

- Open your Android's Settings app.
- Select the Apps menu (the name varies based on the device manufacturer; look for the menu that lists all your apps).
- Tap on an app that you don't want to use background data.
- Select Restrict app background data.

The apps menu provides lots of information about how much data various apps are using, both in the foreground and background. Even if you don't use this menu to configure background data allowances, it's a great place to learn about data hogs.

Tip #3: Use Chrome's Data Compression
All Android devices have the Google Chrome web browser installed right out of the box. Before you consider trying another browser, keep in mind that Chrome has some of the best data-saving features. For example, when data compression is enabled, the websites you visit are sent to Google's servers to ensure they are optimized for mobile devices and unnecessary information is removed.

To turn this feature on, open the Chrome app, tap the button with three horizontal dots in the upper right corner, then select Settings, followed by Data Saver, and toggle the On switch. Google claims this can save up to 60% of data usage in the browser and that it detects malicious websites and harmful content.

To learn more ways to save data and protect yourself, contact us today at (201) 797–5050 or www.tech4now.com.

Holzsager Technology Services, LLC
P.O. Box 535
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410-0535
(201) 797-5050
info@tech4now.com

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Feedback & Suggestions…

Is there a topic or feature you would like to include in a future issue? Opinions and feedback are welcome and encouraged. Please send us an e-mail or call our direct line.

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5 Reasons To Choose A Hosted VoIP Phone System

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May 2019

The Lighter Side…   *For Entertainment Purposes ONLY!*

Recruiting Your Employees

Put about 100 bricks in no particular order in a closed room with an open window. Then send 2 or 3 candidates in the room and close the door. Leave them alone and come back after 1 hour and then analyze the situation:

- If they are counting the bricks: Put them in the Accounting Department.
- If they are re-counting them: Put the in Auditing.
- If they have messed up the whole place with the bricks: Put them in Engineering.
- If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order: Put them in Planning.
- If they are throwing the bricks at each other: Put them in Operations.
- If they have broken the bricks into pieces: Put them in Information Technology.
- If they are sitting idle: Put them in Human Resources.
- If they say they have tried different combinations, yet not a single brick has been moved: Put them in Sales.
- If they have already left for the day: Put them in Marketing.
- If they are staring out of the window: Put them on Strategic Planning.
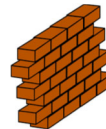
- If they are searching for defects: Put them in Quality Control.
- And then, last, but not least: If they are talking to each other and not a single brick has been moved: Congratulate them, and put them in Top Management!

Computer Industry Acronyms

PCMCIA - People Can't Memorize Computer Industry Acronyms
WWW - World Wide Wait
COBOL - Completely Obsolete Business Oriented Language
WINDOWS - Will Install Needless Data On Whole System
DOS - Defective Operating System
OS/2 - Obsolete Soon 2
IBM - I Blame Microsoft
Yahoo - You Always Have Other Options

One Liners

- As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools.
- A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.
- IRS: We've got what it takes to take what you've got.
- A bargain is something you don't need at a price you can't resist.