

How to make using your computer an enjoyable experience

Please note, the following are my personal opinions from years of dealing with other peoples computer problems.

The internet:

Things NOT to download:

Anything that claims to have detected errors / Virus infections on your computer

Anything that claims it will optimise or defrag your Windows Registry

Anything that claims it will boost your computers performance

Anything that claims it will "clean up" your system

Anything that says it will update all your Windows drivers

Anything with the word "Mechanic" in its name. e.g. "Driver Mechanic" Etc.

Anything with the word "My" in its name e.g. "My Free backup" Etc.

Any type of Toolbar for your web browser

Any free stock-market software

Any online gambling software

Any "Free cool emoticons" for messenger/Skype/chat program

Any Search tool add-ons, especially "My Web search" or "Conduit Engine"

The "Bear-share" P2P file-sharing program

Any add-ons for your browser that claim to give you "FREE access to..." ANYTHING.

Never click on any link that says "Congratulations! You have won..." ANYTHING.

Never click on any link that says "Click here for a FREE scan"

Never respond to any Email that claims to be "account security" related from your bank.

Never respond to any Email from Nigeria, Russia, Bulgaria or the Ukraine.

Never open Emails that are in a foreign language.

Never open Emails that have the word "Urgent" in the Subject header

Never purchase:

A laptop instead of a desktop, unless you ABSOLUTELY need the system to be portable.

Western Digital pocket USB Hard-drives

Bargain-priced high-capacity USB thumb-drives from eBay

Acer laptops (Their "Netbooks" are OK though), Compaq desktops, Dell desktops,

Medion (The ones they sell at Aldi) desktops or Laptops

A computer from Harvey Norman

Never spend more than about \$450 for a laptop unless it's for gaming or graphics work.

Other stuff:

If anyone calls you claiming to be from Microsoft or "PC technical support", just hang up.

Always have a logon password for your computer.

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If you're still using "Outlook" for your Emails, change to a Google Gmail account.

Never use USB Thumb-drives to store backups for your photos Etc.

Regularly check your Internet access costs compared to offers from other service providers.

If you have to use Wireless Broadband, go with Telstra to avoid network coverage problems.

Avoid using Telstra for ABSOLUTELY anything else.

Never use any "Norton's" Internet security or Anti-virus software

Never answer Skype calls where the caller's name has the word "System" in it

If you've got a problem with your computer, get a professional technician to look at it, not the Geek neighbour/Nephew/Niece/Grandson or any other family member.