

MOST COMMON PC MISTAKES PEOPLE STILL MAKE

Even today, with newer, faster, more efficient technology, many users continue to ignore certain basics required for their PCs to have long and healthy lives. One does not need to be a professional to keep the object of their well-spent money in good working order.

1. **Maintenance**: Just as we take our vehicles for routine inspections, change the oil, tires, wash, vacuum its interiors, your PC is not that different. Regardless of how long you have owned and used it, a yearly checkup is highly recommended. Particularly with Windows operating systems, usage and time develop errors leading to slower operation and worse. The common belief is that disk fragmentation will take care of it all but not true...systemic deep cleaning PLUS is required.
2. **Anti-virus protection**: We are well aware of cyber threats that can affect anyone, yet some PC owners believe they don't need any anti-virus protection, or if they have one, believe that "free" is best. AVAST –the most downloaded free antivirus software program clearly lists on their web site the different things that it does **not** protect you against (personal data and banking credit card transactions They also believe that just because their PC is never on the internet they cannot get infected. Both cases are untrue. "Free" anti-virus software may tell the user there is a problem but does not take care of it (likened to using a donut tire that works for a while). You get what you pay for; shortcutting PC protection can have costly long-term effects. Meanwhile, a user can carry an infection by simply using their USB stick on one PC and then using it on their own non-internet PC.
3. **Letting others use your PC**
Not being anti-social, but a PC owner should covet his/her PC. Only you know its idiosyncracies (they do have them),how they best operate, programs installed, protective software, etc. Like renting out your house, occupants rarely care as much about your PC as you would. Numerous problems have arisen just after someone else used it, so be a bit wary about who gets their hands on your machine....family or not!
4. **Ignoring updates**
Many people ignore those little popup screens that appear periodically at the bottom right corner of their screen. These are usually requests to accept the update from software and systems such as Microsoft, Adobe, Java and your anti-virus. Ignoring these updates leads to your PC underperforming and eventually other worse problems creeping up. Simply "Accepting" these updates is all it takes to stay on top of things.
5. **Using liquids**

Beer, wine and coffee have often found their way onto PC keyboards, which can be replaced. However, a wet laptop is another story as in many cases the liquid enters the motherboard and you can say goodbye and start shopping for a new machine. It would be foolish to assume no liquids around a laptop so suffice to say just keep them at arms length.

6. **Dusty and dirty environment**

Most people keep their homes dust and dirt-free; your PC is no different. Particles invade and accumulate deep within its innards (prevent airflow, overheat its internal parts). We can't escape dust/dirt but routine vacuuming of your work area should be done to help mitigate its bad side effects.

Your PC can have a long, healthy life if you take responsibility for its upkeep and care. It is a valuable, often very expensive, tool so it behooves you to take simple steps to ensure its longevity.