

Windows Tips, Tricks, and Freeware

Presentation by Terry Kerby
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1. **Belarc Advisor**, <http://www.belarc.com/>
The **Belarc Advisor** builds a detailed profile of your installed software and hardware, missing Microsoft hotfixes, anti-virus status, CIS (Center for Internet Security) benchmarks, and displays the results in your Web browser. All of your PC profile information is kept private on your PC and is not sent to any web server.
2. **Enable / Disable Network Connection – Disconnects from your Broadband**
 - a. Place My Network Place icon on desktop – Right click Desktop / Properties / Desktop tab / Customize Desktop / General tab / place a check mark next to “My Network Places”
 - b. Right Click on My Network Place icon that is on your desktop / Properties / Right Click on you network connection icon and select Enable or Disable
3. **Google Desktop Search**, <http://desktop.google.com>
Hit the CTRL key twice to open or close the search box.
Quickly search your computer for files, emails, web history, news, photos, and more
4. **TweakUI**, <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.mspx>
TweakUI gives you access to system settings that are not exposed in the Windows XP default user interface, including mouse settings, Explorer settings, taskbar settings, and more.
 - a. Explorer – Slide Show time display, Thumbnails Image Quality, Shortcuts
 - b. Taskbar and Start Menu – Select Applications to appear on Start Menu
 - c. Taskbar and Start Menu – Disable Balloon tips
 - d. Logon – Set for Autologon
 - e. Repair Desktop ICONS
 - f. Policy setting for I.S. folks
5. **Backup your Registry, ERUNT**, <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/erunt.html>
ERUNT (Emergency Recovery Utility NT) allows you to keep a complete backup of your registry and restore it when needed. The standard registry backup options that come with Windows backs up most of the registry but not all of it. Use this in conjunction with System Restore.
6. **Check a Company for Complaints**
by Searching for its name and the word “complaints” or “problems” in your search engine.
7. **CD & DVD Life 5 years / (Blu-ray) Life 10-15 years**
Scratched CD's vs. Finger Prints on CD's
CD ROM Setting: DMA vs. PIO Mode (You always want DMA mode. Much faster.)
8. **Make IE Web Browser window Full Screen ---** The F11 key will toggle the window
9. **Install Vista Upgrade on Newly formatted HD** See handout provided at meeting
Run Vista Upgrade Advisor first to verify hardware compatibility.

10. How to change your ICONs

Right click on the Icon / Properties / Shortcut tab / Change Icon.. / select the new image

11. Get Answers Online at: Ask your question online at the following web sites:

<http://www.Ask.com> , <http://askmetafilter.com/> , <http://yedda.com/>

12. Keep Thumbnail file from being creating: Thumbs.db files

My Computer / Tools / Folder Options: View tab / Do not cache thumbnails – OK

13. Fast-Food Nutritional Data <http://www.nutritiondata.com/>

This site provides excellent nutritional information for any food or recipe including many Fast Food restaurants.

14. What's Running on your PC? <http://www.whatsrunning.net/whatsrunning/main.aspx>

Explore processes, services, modules, IP-connections, drivers and much more through a simple to use application.

15. CCleaner <http://www.ccleaner.com/download>

CCleaner is a freeware system that removes unused and temporary files from your system - allowing Windows to run faster, more efficiently and giving you more hard disk space.

16. Audacity <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/windows>

Audacity is a free, easy-to-use audio editor and recorder for Windows, Mac OS X, GNU/Linux, and other operating systems. You can use Audacity to: Record live audio, Convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs, Edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3, and WAV sound files, Cut, copy, splice, and mix sounds together.

17. InfanView <http://www.irfanview.com/>

IrfanView is a very fast, small, compact graphic viewer for Windows 9x/ME/NT/2000/XP/2003/Vista.

18. Open Office <http://www.openoffice.org/> *** Large Download 100MB Download

OpenOffice.org is both a fully-featured office suite compatible with leading office products, and a virtual community working through OpenOffice.org's numerous projects.

19. AVG Anti-Virus <http://free.grisoft.com/doc/avg-anti-virus-free/lng/us/tpl/v5>

AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition is a free anti-virus protection tool developed by GRISOFT for home use.

20. AVG Anti-Spyware <http://free.grisoft.com/doc/avg-anti-spyware-free/lng/us/tpl/v5>

AVG Anti-Spyware Free is a free anti-spyware protection tool developed by GRISOFT for home use.

21. Comodo Firewall <http://www.comodo.com/>

A great choice for free firewall protection. Comodo firewall keeps hackers out and keeps unauthorized programs from accessing the Internet, even tricky ones that sneak around normal program control.

22. NetStumbler <http://www.netstumbler.com/>

NetStumbler detects 802.11b,a,g wireless LANs. Run it on a laptop and you can get a good overview of our own WiFi network or that of others

23. .Picasa 2.0 <http://picasa.google.com/>

A very nice photo management tool from Google that will find, organize, edit, and share your photos.

Windows Tips, Tricks, and Freeware Continued

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24. E-Sword <http://www.e-sword.net>

E-Sword is a fast and effective way to study the Bible. e-Sword is feature rich and user friendly with more capabilities than you would expect in one of the purchased software packages. Powerful search capabilities, yet simple to use. Enter as many words you want to search for and select the search style and range. You can even search on Strong numbers and exclude words from the search! The installation includes the King James Version w/ Strong's numbers and Strong's dictionary. Other books are available for free or a \$15 fee.

25. Disconnect USB Flash Drives before Removing

1. Save and Close all open files
2. Left-click the Safely Remove Hardware icon in the System Tray
3. Left-click again on the "Safely remove USB Mass Storage Device" message that appears.
You should receive confirmation that it is now safe to remove the drive.

26. Interesting Gun Web Sites <http://www.smith-wesson.com/> <http://gunwebsites.com/>

Special offer from the makers of Spyware Doctor, Registry Mechanic, PC Tools, etc.

Use this special code, 25VIP7216, for 25% the price.

Go to: <http://www.pctools.com> for this special offer for our club.

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