

November 2015, Issue #1 Windows 10 Tune-Ups

For those of you who have tried the Windows 10 upgrade, you will notice things are a quite a bit different vs. Windows 7 and moderately different than Windows 8. Here are four “Tune-Ups” you can do to make Windows 10 a bit more efficient and friendly... and safe.

Tip #1: Get rid of the annoying Search Box: Windows 10 has a gigantic search box in the bottom task bar near the “Start” icon. Some may like it; I find it annoying because it searches not only your computer, but also the internet at the same time. Oh yeah, it also sends those search terms to Microsoft so they can know what you are searching for. You like that idea? Did not think so... here is how to turn it off.

1. Right-Click inside the Search Box
2. Select “Search”
3. Select “Hidden”

Tip #2: Prevent Windows Update Sharing: Windows 10 has what Microsoft terms a “feature”: the ability for your computer to share windows updates with other computers in your home or business, and with the greater worldwide web. I like the part about sharing updates within my home network, but not the part about sharing outside the home. Here’s how to set updates to only update inside your home:

1. Click [Start] button, select “Settings”
2. In Settings, select “Update and Security”, then “Windows Update”
3. Select “Advanced Options”, then “Choose how updates are delivered”
4. Click the “PC’s on my local network” option button

Tip #3: Prevent WiFi Sharing: Microsoft thought this was a great idea: share your WiFi with everyone you know. Yeah, I thought that is kind of dumb too, what if you don’t want to share it? Wouldn’t you rather choose who you share with? Taking one more step up the logic ladder, what if one of your friends shares out to you a sketchy WiFi access point run by a hacker? Is that a good idea? Nope. Microsoft called it “WiFi Sense”: I call it “WiFi Non-Sense”. Here’s how to turn it off:

1. Click [Start] button, select “Settings”
2. In Settings, select “Network and Internet”, then “WiFi”
3. In WiFi, select “Manage WiFi Settings”
4. Click the two selector buttons for both options to “Off”

Tip #4: Turn off OneDrive: By default, Microsoft includes their OneDrive cloud backup/sharing software in Windows10. While I like OneDrive, many people do not have any use for it. Do this to disable it:

1. In the bottom-right-hand task tray is a “cloud” icon, right-click it.
2. Select “Settings” then when it opens, select the [Settings] tab at the top
3. Un-Check the “Start OneDrive when Windows Starts” option, then Exit.

There you have it, four tips to make your Windows 10 experience a bit more enjoyable...!

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