Gene's Computer Outlet – The Computer Corner Radio Show – WCHE – Gene's List (June 2011)

- Use a quality Surge Protector, or better yet, an Un-interruptible Power Supply. Use one that also protects the Ethernet
- Laptops also need surge protection.
- Do not plug in or remove the keyboard or mouse connection while the computer is powered up.
- Don't leave your computer on overnight or when you are away.
- Open and CLEAN the dust out of your computer every 6 months to a year from all the fans and power supply.
- Laptop fans must also be cleaned. Don't block the ventilation fan on the bottom of the laptop.
- Never bump or move a computer while it is turned on. This includes laptops.
- Keep Recovery/Installation CDs safe and where you can find them. Label them as to which computer they belong to.
- If you don't get Recovery CDs with your new computer, return it immediately or demand one from the manufacturer. Some computer manufacturers have you burn and make those disks. Do it ASAP !
- Don't allow CDs or DVDs to get scratched or be exposed to sunlight or humidity.
- Backup the files you need (pictures, music, documents, etc) on a regular basis. Your important documents, pictures, and music should be on at least 2 separate drives. Your backup drive should be off line and not connected unless actively backing up.
- Use a good anti-virus such as Vipre Premium by Sunbelt Software. Make sure your anti-virus is kept up to date. Never allow your anti-virus to expire. Avast and AVG are decent alternatives.Make sure it updates and scans as many trojans can disable it. Watch it as it does.
- Don't use multiple anti-virus programs - They will interfere with each other.
- Run "Disk Cleanup" or CCLeaner once a month. **Then Run Defrag once a month**.
- Keep your computer up-to-date with Windows & Adobe updates. Anti-virus software won't protect without them.
- Make sure your desktop computer is not set to hibernate or go into standby during a software installation, update, or virus scan. Your screen saver can also foul software installations and updates.
- Use MSCONFIG once every few weeks and optimize your startups. Note which are related to your anti-virus and make sure they are always on. You can stop Adobe, iTunes, Quicktime, and other utilities that steal your memory and power.
- If you use DSL, FIOS, Cable, or other broadband provider, use a Router to translate your IP address. Most of these providers now supply them, but installations from years ago may not have them.
- If you use wireless, make sure you have encryption turned on to prevent "drive by" connections that can get into your system. Hackers use these so they are not traced to their own connection.
- Use Firefox or Chrome instead of Internet Explorer. (Don't remove IE). Use Thunderbird instead of Outlook Express. They are free and much safer.
- **Never click on any link from an email message, even from known persons. They can be links to phoney and Rogue software or even a Trojan. Never click on a warning pop-up**. Popup warning messages can contain links to infections or phony software.
- Don't use a debit card for Internet transactions. I know 2 people that had their bank accounts cleaned out. Although your bank may eventually straighten it out, you may be months with all your money gone.
- Only open attachments from people that you know and are expecting one from.
- Delete your cookies and close your browser after any financial transaction.
- Don't "compress" your drive or files. This will slow your computer down.
- Don't use simple passwords. Do keep a written list for all your log-on's in a safe place.
- Don't allow others to use your business computer for general surfing the web. Never allow kids on a computer that has business, financial, or tax information.
- If you choose to use "make my files private", back up your data immediately as this makes data recovery nearly impossible.
- If you use a computer near a carpet or wear a sweater, you may subject your computer to static electricity and damage.
- If you open your computer case and change or add components, use a static strap to prevent static electricity and damage. Additionally, if you add or change memory, understand how the sockets work to prevent permanent damage.
- Protect the Windows License on the computer case from damage. If missing or destroyed, you can not reload Windows after a serious virus infection without purchasing a new license ($100-$200).
- Learn what "Phishing" is and protect yourself from identity theft. Never give your credit card number to a link that you personally did not go directly to. Never give your social security number, date of birth, or mothers maiden name to a web site or questioner. Most contests are phoney, just to collect information.
- Do not purchase "Disk or Registry Cleaners" or even "anti-virus software from a popup. These are Fakes.
- If you do not understand any of the above, listen to or call into the Radio Show and ask. Saturday 8 to 9AM 1520AM