Ask Leo!
Guide to Routine Maintenance

Simple steps to make your computer last longer and run faster

Leo A. Notenboom
The Ask Leo! Guide to Routine Maintenance
Simple steps to make your computer last longer and run faster.

By Leo A. Notenboom

An Ask Leo! ebook

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The Ask Leo! ® Guide to Routine Maintenance
http://askleo.com
The Ask Leo! Manifesto

I believe that personally accessible technology is the foundation of humanity’s future.

To that end, I teach people to understand and safely use personal computers and related technology so that they can do more, be more, grow more, and connect more than ever before and be an active participant in that future.

I do that by answering questions, educating on important topics and trends, and sharing my overall passion and excitement for the possibilities.

That is why Ask Leo! exists.

I hope I can help you.

Leo A. Notenboom
http://askleo.com
Be sure to register your book!

Your purchase of this book entitles you to additional bonuses, including *companion videos* and downloads of all formats that this book is published in: .pdf, .epub, and .mobi.

You'll find the information that you need to register near the end of the book.

Be sure to check out the Additional Resources section at the end of each chapter for links to your chapter-specific bonus material.
Introduction - 12 months or 12,000 miles

Computers are often compared to automobiles.
Both need routine care and maintenance to run well and keep running well for as long as possible.
Unlike automobiles, however, you won’t get a service reminder from your dealer when maintenance might be due. There’s no odometer to tell you when you’ve hit that equivalent of 12,000 miles that might call for a peek under the chassis.
And yet, like your car, maintenance becomes more important the more that you use your computer. Ignore maintenance, and your computer may begin to perform poorly – or not at all.
This book contains a collection of articles taken from Ask Leo! (augmented with videos available to registered book owners only) that outline the things that you can do periodically in Windows to keep the software running smoothly for as long as you own the machine. Some will be things to do differently. Some will just be things that you should simply do every so often. Some might be tools to pull out when it seems like something’s not working as well as it should. Some of it will even be automated – set it once and Windows will do the work thereafter.
Sadly, like cars, computers don’t last forever – but with the right care, they can last a very long time.
This wouldn’t be an *Ask Leo!* book if I didn’t mention backing up.

In my opinion, backing up is *so* important that I wrote an entire book on it. In fact, I wrote two:

- **Backing Up 101** is an overview of several different types of backup approaches and presents pros and cons for each. Naturally, it leads up to what I honestly recommend everyone should do – run an image backup program and backup their computer nightly.

- **Maintaining Windows 7 – Backing Up** is my book that walks through the process of doing exactly that – twice. Once, using Windows’ own backup program and again using Macrium Reflect, a commercial program. Maintaining Windows 7 – Backing Up covers setting up a backup step-by-step from program installation to disaster recovery and all of the steps in between. (While titled for Windows 7, most of the information is equally applicable to Windows 8.)

The rest of this book assumes that you have a backup strategy of some sort in place and that it’s happening regularly. Some of the items that we’ll be looking at may involve some risk. A proper and recent backup is one way that you can guarantee that no matter what happens, you’ll always be able to recover from whatever it is that might have gone wrong.

I’m not going to harp on it.

I’m just going to assume it.

*Please* make sure that you’re backing up regularly. It’s the only way to protect yourself from just about anything that can go wrong.

Including maintenance.

We’ll start our foray into maintenance with a couple of additional protections…