



Congratulations!

Students Certified in the Past Month...

- Tom Dorcy
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LTS Lowdown

June 2011

Tech Tip of the Month...

While we're on the topic of energy conservation, let's take a look at screen savers. Screen savers generally do not save energy. In fact, certain graphics-intensive screen savers can use up to twice as much energy, and may prevent the computer from entering sleep mode.

Screen savers were originally developed to prevent the permanent etching of patterns on older monochrome monitors. Modern displays do not suffer this problem, but screen savers are still used for entertainment.

If you want to use your screen saver in conjunction with monitor power management, set the screen saver "wait time" to less than the period of time until the monitor enters sleep mode. If your screen saver appears but your monitor never enters sleep mode, try disabling it.

Green IT

What does it mean and how can I implement green practices at my desktop?

Most of us turn on our computer, use it, and turn it off at the end of the day unless our IT department tells us to leave it on 24/7. All computers made in the last few years consume power if they are plugged in. Power is used to keep the CMOS (BIOS) data intact, provide power to the USB ports (this is how I charge my mobile phone at night), wake on LAN feature, etc. This is not a lot of power and I am not recommending you unplug your computer every time you turn it off.

Windows 7 provides a whole new granularity for power management. Open the **Control Panel**, Click **View by:** (pick your icon size) and open **Power Options**. By default Microsoft offers a **Balanced** or **Power saver** power plan. Click on **Create a power plan** in the left pane and see four options of which one is **My Custom Plan 1** where you can create your own plan.

Click **Change plan settings** for any plan and click **Change advanced power settings** opening the **Power Options** window. Using the slider you can see all the options that are available that can be set to optimize your power usage based on how you work.

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Let's look at **Sleep**. Click **Sleep** and you will see four options. **Sleep after** is set to 30 minutes. Is this right for you? If you are up and down from your desk a lot you might want to set this very low, perhaps less than five minutes, especially if you don't lock your computer when leaving your area. Sleeping shuts down your monitor, spins down the hard drive and minimizes the processor speed (see **Processor power management** setting).

A new feature to Windows 7 is **Hybrid sleep** (on is the default) where documents are saved to disk while the computer enters sleep mode. If your computer loses power you don't lose your work. When Hybrid sleep is on your documents are saved when your computer enters sleep mode.

The Power On button will wake up your computer quickly from sleep mode and like a start up in hibernation mode. Either way you are right back to where you left your computer and are helping to reduce energy consumption in the process.

Green IT isn't just for the enterprise; *you* can initiate good practices right at your own desktop!

Also see <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/Sleep-and-hibernation-frequently-asked-questions>.

-Nathan Keith

***Reminder! \$100 bucks, greenbacks, dollars
to anyone who refers a new student***



Thanks from the LTS Team!

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