NUIIT Tech Talk

Refresh Your Mobile Devices for the New Year 2013

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Today’s Topics

• Getting to know your new device
• Steps to ensure secure devices
  – Laptops
  – Smartphones/Tablets
• How to enhance performance and battery life
• Tips on getting latest software through NU
  – Staying up-to-date with software
• Top 5 myths about technology you should know
Getting to know your new device!

• New Products
  – Microsoft Surface
  – Tablets
    • Kindle
    • Nook
    • iPad Mini
  – iPhone
  – Android phone
  – Windows phone
Accounts & Password

Apple ID

Google Account

Windows Live

Kindle

Nook

- This is how you buy apps on your smart device
- Remember your password, keep it in a safe place
Staying Secure

• Laptops
  – Mac vs. PC
  – Antivirus
  – Secure Wireless
  – Changing password often (3 mo. recommended)

• Smartphones & Tablets
  – Disabling radios when not needed (WiFi, Bluetooth)
  – Safe password for Apple ID, Google, Microsoft account
    • Use alphanumeric and one symbol
  – Adjust Privacy settings
• Both Mac & PC versions
• Available through NU software portal: www.it.northwestern.edu/software/
• Staying secure
  – Be knowledgeable of attachments & downloads
  – Keep laptop antivirus up-to-date by doing updates
  – Clean up hard disk regularly
• Anti-malware
  – Malwarebytes (http://malwarebytes.org)
• Set computer to scan automatically
• Routers have different types of WiFi security
  – **WEP** *(Wired Equivalent Privacy)* – easy to set up/more common
  – **WPA** *(WiFi Protected Access)* – more secure/harder configuration
  – NU uses **WPA2**

• Always protect your devices by using a secure wireless at home

• Instructions on setting up NU WiFi:
Enhancing Battery Life

- Modern devices use Li-ion (lithium ion) battery
- No need to overcharge
  - Older nickel-cadmium laptop batteries would lose charge easily, resulting in needing to leave them charged all the time; not the case with newer Li-ion batteries.
  - Save electricity by not keeping devices plugged in; avoid “vampire” power
- Use custom ‘Power Options’ to reduce device standby time
1. Start -> Control Panel
2. Power Options
• Apple -> System Preferences
• Energy Saver
Always install updates!
  – System updates are critical to staying secure whereas app updates are app specific
  – Antivirus updates (e.g., Symantec LiveUpdate)
  – Anti-malware – not the same as antivirus
    • [http://malwarebytes.org](http://malwarebytes.org)

Ethernet vs. Wireless

Clean up old data/apps
  – Temp files, photos

Turn it off when not in use/unplug
1. Click **Start**
2. Go to **All Programs**
3. Click **Windows Update**
1. Click on the Apple and select **System Update**
Get the Latest Software Through NU

- Log on to [www.it.northwestern.edu/software/](http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/)
- Choose Vendor
  1. Select Software
  2. Authenticate with NetID
  3. Download
  4. Install
- NUIT offers many software titles at a discount for faculty and staff
  - Microsoft Office 2010 & 2013
  - SPSS, SAS, Adobe Products, Antivirus, etc
Myth: Macs can’t get viruses

FALSE

All Macs are Intel based, and can get viruses, but they are uncommon. You should still keep your Mac secure by using antivirus and checking for system updates frequently.
Myth: More megapixels = better camera

FALSE

CNET explains that megapixels are important when printing photos, but for normal viewing on a computer or smart device, a quality lens and light sensor are key.

http://cnet.co/XxMGOv
Myth: Killing iPhone apps extends battery life

FALSE

Most iPhone apps close out after 5 seconds of idle time. There are app exclusions that use your location, but double tapping the home button shows only recent, not running apps.
Myth: Better specs = better experience

Just because a phone has better specifications doesn’t mean the experience will fit your needs. Always research your options before settling for the newest device possible.

FALSE
Myth: Leaving your laptop plugged in keeps the battery charged longer

As discussed earlier, all new laptops are built with Li-Ion batteries, so there is no need to keep the laptop plugged in when the battery has charge. Only begin charging when the computer needs it (<20%).

FALSE
Questions?