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Best Practices for Using Your HP Notebook Computer

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Sources of Information

- * The printed *Startup Guide* introduces the notebook computer and shows you the basics. It also contains troubleshooting information.
- * The online *Reference Guide* shows how to set up the operating system, install and connect accessories, and maintain and upgrade the computer (for Windows 98 or 2000, click Start, Programs, HP Library, or for Windows XP, click Start, Help and Support, HP Library).
- * The Microsoft Windows manual, shipped with your computer, contains information about using the standard features of your Windows operating system.
- * For updates to the BIOS and other technical documentation, connect to our website at <http://www.hp.com/notebooks> or <http://www.europe.hp.com/notebooks> (European mirror).

Precautions

This section describes certain situations that could cause serious loss of data.

Do not remove a data storage PC Card while it is actively reading or writing. This could cause its data to become corrupted.

Certain applications, such as Intuit's Quicken, keep their working files open, and they update the files as you make changes. For such applications, you should open only files that reside on the hard drive, not on a removable disk. An open file on a removable disk (such as a floppy disk or PC Card) is susceptible to corruption in certain situations.

Before suspending, docking, or undocking your computer, always save your data and close any applications you have open, especially applications that are not power aware, audio and video applications, and applications using PC Cards and I/O devices such as a CD-ROM drive.

Changing Display Settings

To change display settings such as resolution (screen area) or extended desktop setup, you should use the advanced Intel settings instead of the normal Windows settings. Open Display properties in Control Panel, on the Settings tab click Advanced, Intel Graphics Technology, Graphics Properties, then change the settings you want. Or you can click the Intel Graphics Technology icon in the taskbar.

Using Wireless LAN

Here are some suggestions about setting the wireless LAN configuration:

- * When you connect to a wireless network via an access point, your computer should be able to use network resources. If, when you log on, your computer cannot connect to network resources, your computer may not have been assigned an IP address. For Windows 98, to check your IP address, click Start, Programs, MS-DOS Prompt and type winipcfg. For Windows 2000, to check your IP address, click Start, Programs, Accessories, Command Prompt and type ipconfig. If the subnet mask for your wireless connection is 255.255.000.000, the network server did not assign an IP address to your computer, and you may have to release and renew your network IP address--see the readme file mentioned below. If this does not fix the problem, the access point may need to be rebooted.
- * If you want to change the SSID to a different value to connect to a different access point, or if you want to change from Infrastructure mode to AdHoc mode, you may first have to release and renew the internet IP address. See the readme file mentioned below.

If you have trouble setting up or using a wireless LAN connection, see the information about wireless LAN in c:\hp\Drivers\Wireless\Readme.txt.

Working with Graphic-Intensive Applications

You can press Fn+F5 to switch between built-in and external displays. However, you should avoid switching while graphic-intensive applications are running, such as multimedia or OpenGL applications. In some situations, switching displays can cause video corruption or application shutdown.

You should also avoid pressing the blue sleep button the computer while graphic-intensive applications are running. In some situations, this could cause the application or computer to lock up.

Working with Audio

If you are recording audio on your computer, keep the following suggestions in mind:

- * To get optimum results using the built-in microphone, use the following settings. In Windows Volume Control, mute the microphone control for playback. Then click Options, Properties and select the recording option. Click Options, Advanced Controls to show the advanced microphone button. On the microphone volume control, click Advanced and turn on the option to boost the microphone output.

- * The audio line-in control is displayed even though there is no audio-in port on the computer. An audio-in port is available on a dock.

Using a CD-RW Module with a Docking System

If you use a CD-RW drive module in your notebook computer and in a docking system, you should recalibrate the drive each time you move it, especially if you will be writing CDs. Use the CD-RW software and a clean commercial CD for the calibration.

Windows 2000

Playing DVDs or Multimedia with Multiple Displays

If you get poor display quality or error messages when playing DVDs or multimedia output with multiple displays active, you should try these suggestions:

- * Change your display settings to no greater than 1024x768 resolution and high color (16-bit). Reboot the computer after changing the settings.
- * Use only a single display, not dual displays or extended desktop.

Using the Volume Controls

When you use the volume bar on the right side of the computer or press Fn+F7, an on-screen display shows the volume settings. However, if you open the Windows volume controls, such as by clicking the volume icon in the taskbar, the on-screen display may stop working for the volume bar and Fn+F7, even though these controls continue working. If this happens, you can restore the on-screen display by restarting the computer.

Reinstalling HP One-Touch

Your computer comes with HP One-Touch software preinstalled. If you need to reinstall or update the HP One-Touch software, you must log in as administrator to complete the installation properly.

Hibernating when Docked

If you install Windows 2000 WinFax and also use a docking product, you should check your computer after hibernating, such as by pressing Fn+F12. With WinFax installed and the computer docked, the computer may turn on again after it hibernates. To avoid this situation, you can shut down the computer instead of hibernating when docked, undock before hibernating, or uninstall WinFax.

Windows XP

Microsoft Plus! Not Recommended

Microsoft Plus! for Windows XP is not recommended for a notebook computer. Microsoft Plus! incorporates digital media tools, 3-D graphics and animations, and 3-D games software. These enhancements are intended primarily for desktop computers. The battery operating time of a notebook computer could be greatly reduced by some of these enhancements.

Best Practices for Using Your HP Notebook Computer

The following are recommendations on how to maintain your notebook computer during everyday use, as well as how to prevent potential physical damage or data loss. Hard disk drives and other internal components are not infallible, and can be damaged by inappropriate handling and operation.

Physical Care

- * Avoid bumps or jolts.
 - Suspend or shut down the computer before transporting it. This turns off the hard drive. A drop of a few inches onto a rigid surface while the hard drive is operating could cause loss of data or damage to the drive.
 - Carry the computer in a padded case to protect against bumps and jolts.
 - Set down the computer gently. Take precautions against accidental bumps.
 - Do not operate the computer while traveling over bumpy terrain.
- * Make sure there is adequate ventilation around the computer. Suspend or shut down the computer before putting it in a carrying case or other enclosed space.
- * Do not pick up or carry the computer by the display.
- * Do not use the computer outside in the rain or snow (inclement weather) or in any extremes of temperature or humidity.

General Use

- * Set the brightness of your display to the lowest comfortable level. This will help prolong your battery charge.
- * Back up your work regularly. Copy files to floppy, tape or network drives.
- * Use a virus scanning program, preferably one that will run automatically, to check the integrity of your files and operating system on a periodic basis. Check your disk using "scandisk" and "defrag" utilities.
- * Before undocking, you may need to shut down the computer.
 - For Plug-n-Play operating systems, you do not have to shut down before undocking.

See your manual for details on how to start and stop your HP notebook computer.

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