

SHOWCASE

Mark Your Calendar ! Friday, May 1, 2009 Library Services Spring Meeting

Is it better to turn my computer off when I am not using it or leave it on all the time?

This is one of those questions where there is no single right answer. In other words, it depends on how you use your computer.

There are at least three situations that force you to leave your computer on 24 hours a day:

You are on a **network**, and the network administrators back up files and/or upgrade software over the network at night. If that is the case, and you want your machine backed up or upgraded, then you need to leave it on all the time.

You are using your machine as some sort of **server**. For example, HowStuffWorks has a machine that creates the images for the [How Webcams Work](#) article. It needs to be on 24 hours a day. If your machine acts as a file server, print server, Web server, etc., on a **LAN** (local area network) or the Internet, then you need to leave it on all the time.

If you are running something like SETI@home and you want to produce as many result sets as possible, you need to leave your machine on all the time.

If you do not fall into any of these categories, then you have a choice about whether or not to leave your machine on.

One reason why you might want to turn it off is **economic**. A typical PC consumes something like 300 watts. Let's assume that you use your PC for four hours every day, so the other 20 hours it is on would be wasted energy. If electricity costs 10 cents per kilowatt-hour in your area, then that 20 hours represents 60 cents a day. Sixty cents a day adds up to \$219 per year.

It's possible to use the energy-saving features build into modern machines and cut that figure in half. For example, you can have the monitor and hard disk power down automatically when not in use. You'll still be wasting \$100 per year.

The argument for leaving your computer on all the time is that turning it on and off somehow **stresses the computer's components**. For example, when the CPU chip is running, it can get quite hot, and when you turn the machine off it cools back down.

The expansion and contraction from the heat probably has...*cont'd on page 2*

"Is it better to turn my computer off when I am not using it or leave it on all the time?." 01 April 2000. HowStuffWorks.com.
<<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/question328.htm>> 30 December 2008.

Use Ohio's best online research website
www.infohio.org

Get results that are:

Age-appropriate **Curriculum-related**
Librarian-tested **Teacher-approved**

Need an interesting professional development session at your next teacher in-service day?
Jo Spehar is now available to present INFOhio's Electronic Resources to your classroom teachers
so contact library@noeca.net to help spread the INFOhio-word!

Ohio AMC Digital Video Collection
<http://www.infohio.org/dvc.html>



Q. Who can use these videos?

A. Ohio's [Area Media Centers](#) (AMC) **Digital Video Collection** (DVC) is available to all Ohio K-12 schools at no cost to districts, educators or students.

Q. Can schools download videos to local servers for permanent access?

A. No, this is a violation of copyright. Permanent downloads will result in producers no longer selling digital videos to this and other consortia for unlimited statewide access.

Our Ohio
Today, December 22, 2006, 2:28:08 PM
Profiles in Government

- Auditor of State, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#) **NEW!**
- Department of Commerce, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Department of Commerce Overview, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Department of Development, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Department of Development Overview, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Department of Taxation, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Department of Taxation Overview, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Legislative Service Commission, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Legislative Service Commission Overview, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Lobbyists, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Lobbyists Overview, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Local Government and Mayors, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Office of the Governor, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Ohio National Guard, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Ohio National Guard Overview, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Secretary of State, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- Treasurer of State, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)
- U.S. Senate, time: 00:00:00. [\[View/Download\]](#)

cont'd from page 1

Is it better to turn my computer off when I am not using it or leave it on all the time?

The expansion and contraction from the heat probably has some effect on the solder joints holding the chip in place and on the micro-fine details on the chip itself. But here are three ways to look at that: machines would be failing all the time. In fact, hardware is very reliable (software is a whole different story, and there is a lot to be said for rebooting every day). I don't know a single person who leaves the TV on 24 hours a day. TVs contain many of the same components that computers do. TVs certainly have no problems being cycled on and off. Most vendors will sell you a three- year full-replacement warrantee for about \$150. If you are worried about it, spend some of the money you are saving by turning your machine off and buy a service contract. Over three years, you come out way ahead!

Technology makes our lives better. You're enjoying your new high-definition television, and have your work and personal appointments organized on your computer. You pay your bills electronically and save time and money. That's fine and dandy, until someone takes out the electronic banking system and the machines take over the planet.

Sounds crazy? Perhaps. None of the technologies we included in our top 5 are guaranteed to rain death and destruction on our little planet. Some of them are a little weird, others are frustrating and a few have the potential to cause real harm. We may be OK for now, but read on to find out what weirdness may await in 2009 -- and beyond.

5: Hearing Voices at the Store - This may not sound so scary, and once you know what's going on, it isn't. But it might be a little unsettling to be walking in a store and hearing voices asking you to buy things. If you look around, you won't see anyone speaking, and none of the other shoppers will seem alarmed -- no one else can hear it but you. A company called Holosonics developed the Audio Spotlight system, which uses tiny speakers to focus sound into a very narrow beam. Ultrasonic frequencies are too high for the human ear to hear, but as the sound travels from the Audio Spotlight system's

speakers, air distorts the sound and makes it audible. It's perfect for in-store advertising, but you'd have to be standing in the right place to hear it. You can learn more about it if you read, *Can companies beam advertisements into my brain?* Perhaps hearing voices isn't frightening, but what about having your computer taken away? Keep reading to learn more.

4: Law Enforcement Takes Your Laptop

If you travel with your laptop or BlackBerry, listen up. According to the 9th Circuit Court, it is perfectly legal for Federal Customs and Border Patrol agents to seize your technological devices when you enter the United States. You might not have anything illegal on your computer's hard drive, but even if you're just carrying your personal computer and you have all your kids' vacation pictures on there, there's no telling when -- or if -- you'll get your machine back.

The idea is that in the interest of national security, U.S. officials have the right to confiscate electronics to search them for evidence of a crime -- even without probable cause. If that sounds scary to you, you can read more in our article, [Can the government take away my laptop?](#)

Perhaps the government can use this decision to prevent an attack, but can anyone prevent

an all-out cyberwar?

3: Cyberwar- Imagine a war fought completely by computer. No, we're not talking about a scene out of the movie *WarGames*, we're talking an all-out attack on a nation's electronic infrastructure. What's that, you may ask? Those are the systems that control emergency response services, banks and other electronic commerce, the systems that run the electrical grid, water and fuel pipeline controls, communications networks, and oh, yeah: defense weaponry. A well-executed attack could cause serious disruption and open the populace up to physical threats.

Attacks like these have already been launched against some countries. Russians attacked Georgia with denial-of-service attacks. Hackers have taken on the Pentagon and some suspect terrorist organizations of training their operatives to launch computer assaults. So how do you defend against a cyber attack? Educating people about computer viruses and Trojan horses will help, and using updated antivirus software is also important. You can find out more by reading *Is cyberwar coming?*

Cyber attacks might actually be useful tools against machines that have learned to think for themselves and eliminate humanity. Learn more by reading the next page.

2: The Technological Singularity

Artificial intelligence (AI) has come a long way since computers first made the scene. Yet we're not at the edge of a dystopian society in which the machines run amok and humankind fights for its survival. At least, not yet.

Vernor Vinge, a math professor at San Diego State University, proposed what he calls the singularity -- a time at which computer networks may become self-aware through advanced AI, and interfaces between people and computers help humankind evolve.

Biological advancements may become so sophisticated that doctors can even engineer human intelligence. There is a possibility however, that AI might allow machines to take over the world. There's no guarantee that such a scenario will really happen, and technological limitations may prevent it. Still, the idea that machines might someday decide we're irrelevant and arrange for our destruction is more than a little creepy. You can read more when you take a look at [What's the technological singularity?](#)

The singularity certainly won't happen if scientists create a black hole on Earth. Find out how this might occur ...keep reading!

Top 5 Scary Technologies of 2008 (cont'd)



1: The Large Hadron Collider

- The Large Hadron Collider is the largest and most powerful particle accelerator ever built. It's designed to smash tiny particles into tinier ones to find out the stuff from which the universe is made. The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the organization that built the collider, are optimistic that their experiments will help them find the elusive Higgs boson particle or evidence that string theory exists. You can learn more by reading [How the Large Hadron Collider Works](#).

Critics, on the other hand, have filed suit to have the LHC deactivated. Why? They fear that the LHC could create a black hole at the surface of the Earth, or create a strange -- and for now, hypothetical -- material called strangelets that could reduce the planet into a lifeless chunk of space debris. CERN scientists reject both theories, but the point is moot, for now. An electrical failure caused problems with the collider shortly after it powered up and the gigantic machine won't be operational again until probably June 2009.

Pollette, Chris. "Top 5 Scary Technologies of 2008." 04 December 2008. HowStuffWorks.com. <<http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/5-scary-technologies.htm>> 22 December 2008.

Go Green !!

Narrow Your Margins, Save a Tree

Nov 12/08/2008 - 9:51pm — [Jim Lynch](#)



My colleague Eric Husk here at TechSoup signs his messages with the Margaret Mead quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

One great example of that is Tamara Krinsky's one-woman campaign to get everyone to do one simple little thing to make a big impact on the environment: to **narrow the margins on all your documents to reduce paper use**. Her campaign is aptly enough called [Change the Margins](#). The campaign goal is to convince Microsoft to change the default margin settings in Microsoft Word to .75 inches on all sides, persuade five corporations to officially sanction narrower margins, and challenge five universities to adopt narrower margin settings.

On her Web site, she cites some Pennsylvania State University research that finds that that a single university could save 72 acres of forest and over \$120,000 per year by reducing the default margin settings campus-wide. More specifically, reducing margins to .75" on all sides results in a total reduction of paper by 4.75%. Narrowing default margins on a ton of paper saves 19 reams of paper, which saves 1.14 trees (find an analysis of these stats at www.changethemargins.com then click on "Stats: How Much Will I Really Save?")

Unfortunately changing default margins is different in various versions of word processors. One easy way to deal with this is to use the Internet search term: 'change default margins on (name of your word processing application)'. Here are a few of the major ones:

- ▶ [Microsoft Word 2007](#)
- ▶ [Microsoft Office Word 2003](#) or [here as well](#)
- ▶ [Microsoft Excel](#) (not a word processor, but it does use lots of paper)
- ▶ [Office 2008 for Mac](#)
- ▶ [AppleWorks \(PDF\)](#)
- ▶ [Open Office](#) or [here as well](#)
- ▶ [Google Docs](#)

Better yet, think twice before printing any of them and read and edit the documents electronically!

[Trackback from \(blog\) to \(trackback\)](#)

Want to make your library more "green"?

- 🌍 PRINT DOUBLE-SIDED
- 🌍 TURN OFF MONITORS WHEN NOT IN USE
- 🌍 RESIST THE URGE TO PRINT EMAILS AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE THAT CAN BE READ AND SAVED ELECTRONICALLY.



Have you hugged a tree today?

 **Please consider the environment before printing!**

You have options...

Use the **OFFLINE** feature of **Workflows** if, for whatever reason, you cannot connect to your network (or the server here at NOECA). This feature is also very convenient if your software is running s-l-o-w-l-y. Visit Section 16 of your manual or print the documentation: <http://www.infohio.org/documents/sirsmanual/sirsijava/sirsihandbookjava.html>

Don't forget to click the **OFFLINE** toolbar when using this feature!

Use the **STAFFWEB** feature of **Workflows** if you need a convenient method of checking out/in, Login at: <http://sirsi.noeca.net:81/staffweb/my-apps/sirsidynix/webclient.jsp> This feature is also very convenient if your software is running s-l-o-w-l-y. Visit Section 18 of your manual or print the documentation:

<http://www.infohio.org/documents/sirsmanual/sirsijava/sirsihandbookjava.html>

Q. What am I supposed to do with those PATRON UPDATES that Lisa emails to me everyday???

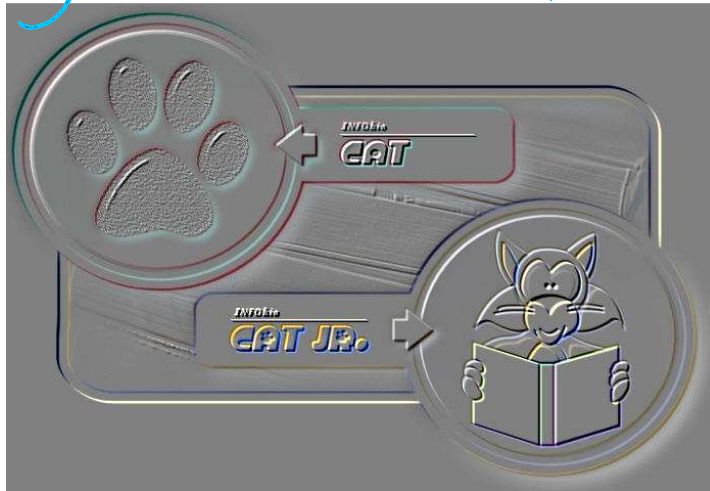
A. The patron updates that show up in your email daily are informational gems that tell you what is going on with the students in your school.

For instance, if you are a library that scans student barcodes in checkout, you'll want to pay attention to the **NEW STUDENT** section of the patron updates. You will know who the office has newly registered into the system and it gives you a "heads up" that you're going to need a barcode for new students. In Workflows, you have the ability to print a new barcode (or just ask Lisa for help).

The **UPDATED/MODIFIED** section of the patron updates lists any changes that were put in DASL the preceding day. So, if a student address changes, you'll see that notated in the patron update. If a student withdraws from your school, you'll notice that the **EXPIRATION DATE** is yesterday's date (...hopefully you already knew this because the school secretary already called to find out if any fines/fees were owed to you before processing the withdrawal paperwork!)

After reviewing the patron update email, go ahead and **DELETE** it ... remember, it's just there to give you information about your students.

"CAT" 2009 OPAC ENHANCEMENTS



❖ Welcome page

- Voting button removed - PAW won the election.
 - Added INFOhio link from INFOhio logo.
- Improved mouseovers for Firefox/Safari throughout.

❖ Results and Record Display

- Reinstated holdings in both brief list and record displays (with CALL NUMBER display!).
 - Only holdings for those libraries which are selected for searching should appear.
- Added quiz number in Reading Program detail display (if listed in the MARC record).
 - Fixed and improved results sorting.

❖ Searching

- Improved sorting dropdown on search screen.
- Added item group selection to Quick Search along with additional item group choices.
 - Revised the Clear and Reset button in Advanced Search
 - Added new material type and language filters in Advanced Search
 - Added ability to search ALL libraries during Reading Program search.

❖ Kept List

- Fixed erroneous call numbers with multiple copies in pickup list.
- Can now “unkeep” items from the brief results list or full record display.
 - Citation no longer places title within quotes.

❖ My Account

Added ability to renew items that are checked out. **If your teachers/students use MY ACCOUNT, they now have the ability to renew their own items.** If you want to disable this feature for the entire district, email lisa@noeca.net or open a SERVICE DESK ticket.

Set My Account for 60-second time limit. After 60 seconds, a user will be challenged to re-log on or to validate their PIN depending on which screen they are on.

- Alt ID login currently does not work. Will reinstate once we receive a fix from the vendor.

❖ CAT Jr.

- Corrected unauthorized search for Mysteries in Visual Search, AtoZ, letter “M”.