



ON OR OFF?

Do you leave your computer running 24/7 or do you turn it off when it is not in use? It is hard to find anyone who will agree on this subject. I'll lay down my cyber-geek reasons and let you decide.

Leave it on. Why? The electronic components inside the computer tend to last longer if they are not constantly cooling off and then warming back up so I don't really advise poking at the power switch all day. Also, it's much more convenient to just sit down in front of your computer and start working away rather than having to sit through a lengthy boot-up. Boring! You will save on your electrical bill even if it only uses the same power as one or more 100 watt light bulbs.

Turn it off. Why? Your hard drive may last longer; the constant spinning of your hard drive motor can wear out the internal bearings. It's not a big deal though. Newer hard drives will most likely run longer than the computer they live in. Leaving it on will drag more dust into your computer, dust means more heat and heat means a short lived computer. The power supply can overheat and catch on fire (very rare, but it can happen). The same applies to your CPU with overheating, except it won't catch fire, but it will be roasted in the morning as cooling fans are not totally reliable.

So what do you do? Leave it on or turn it off? Anyone who uses a Windows operating system should know that it needs to be re-booted every 24 hours. The best way to go about it is to turn your computer on first thing in the morning and leave it on all day. This will leave it readily available to all in your home who wish to use it, without having to wait for it to start up. Then when you are finished for the day, shut it down and turn it off.

This way, there is no danger of something going wrong while you are snoozing and your operating system automatically gets its re-boot. Happy!

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