

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. In this month's article I'm going to look at way to make Windows start up faster.

I recently read an article on five secrets to make Windows Vista start up faster and I think they'll apply to both Windows XP and Windows Vista. So here they are:

- 1. Avoid sluggish security software.** There is some antivirus and antispyware software that can be over protective and slow down the start up process by scanning system files while Windows is trying to boot up. AVG Antivirus and Avast are two examples. Also Webroot's Spysweeper will slow the start up down.
- 2. Hardware.** Examine the hardware connected to your computer. Make sure external devices are turned on before booting Windows as some drivers will wait for a timeout period waiting for the device to respond. Some of these timeout periods can be as long as 30 seconds. Look for odd things on USB drives such as non-standard partitions as they can cause Windows to delay while it tries to figure out what they are.
- 3. Network Connections.** If you have mapped network drives make sure they are available for start up. Again Windows will wait for a timeout period to see if the drive is available.
- 4. Craplets.** These mostly affect notebooks but can also be on some desktop computers. These are little programs supplied by the computer manufacturer to monitor some aspect of the computer such as wireless networking or power management. Both of these monitors are built into Windows so you really don't need the one supplied by the computer manufacturer.
- 5. Browser add-ins.** While this category doesn't slow down the start up of the computer, they do slow down the start up of the web browser. And since most people time how long their computer starts up from power on until they get to their internet home page, they should be mentioned. Just remember the more of these toolbars, search boxes, weather bugs, etc. you have in your browser, the slower it will be to start up.

So hopefully you'll be able to clean up you computer a little and start off the new year with more productivity! I wish you all a happy and successful new year!

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.