

CS&T Meeting – Wed., Feb 26, 2014

Links & Notes – “So, you have a new Win 8 PC”

Setup for your new Win 8 PC is different than previous Windows PCs. There are some very important tasks to complete.

These days new Win 8 PCs are pre-installed with Windows 8. However, Windows 8.1 is available, and most definitely should be installed. Also, Windows 8.1, Update 1 is expected to be available in March 2014.

Additionally, there are features in Win 8 that are new and very desirable. However, many can't get passed the screen of tile apps to appreciate, or even find, the benefits.

Win 8 has two interfaces: the familiar **Desktop**; and the **App Screen**, a collection of tiles for applications like those we have become used to on tablets and smart phones.

Like an iTunes Account, or a Google Account, that many are used to with an iPhone or Android device, now there is a Microsoft Account you should use. You can use your everyday email as your Microsoft Account **username**. Your Microsoft Account password should **NOT** be your email password. There will be more about the Microsoft Account later.

Here we go.

First, do all Win 8 updates. Install “GodMode” if you have trouble finding the settings you need.

<http://www.hongkiat.com/blog/unlock-godmode-windows/>

Go to the App Screen, Store tile, and update all apps. You will then be offered Win 8.1. Follow the prompts.

Do all the updates.

Customize and clean up after the update from 8 to 8.1.

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/8-super-windows-8-1-tweaks-for-power-users/>

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/personalization-gallery>

Maybe you have a laptop without an optical drive, and you have an older version of MS Office you want to keep using. Problem solved:

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-ca/help/office-2007-for-your-netbook-HA010362100.aspx>

Do all the updates.

NOW, safe guard all your hard work.

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-create-a-windows-8-recovery-disk/>

(** - do not, as suggested at one point, delete a recovery partition - **)

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-restore-refresh-or-reset-your-windows-8-installation/>

I prefer making a clone, or an image, of the updated, clean install of Win 8.1. I recommend using:

<http://www.macrium.com/reflectfree.aspx>

While you're at it, prepare an inventory list for your PC that records your Product Keys using:

http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

Continuing with security issues, it is sometimes nice to have past versions of your files

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-CA/windows-8/set-drive-file-history>

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2418904,00.asp>

Securing your PC against theft.

You can use your Microsoft Account to secure your PC against a thief.

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-CA/windows-live/sign-in-how>

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-ca/windows/two-step-verification-faq>

http://howto.cnet.com/8301-11310_39-57580180-285/how-to-use-two-step-verification-with-your-microsoft-account/

Win 8 machines are often designed to “wake up” from inactivity very quickly. This is accomplished because the PC’s BIOS has been replaced with UEFI.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unified_Extensible_Firmware_Interface

(* see below for som background info)

So, you could combine 2-step verification with sleep settings for convenience without loss of security in case of theft.

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-ca/windows/change-password-requirement-computer-wakes#1TC=windows-7>

However, it is important to keep this in mind:

http://www.thewindowsclub.com/difference-windows-8-1-shutdown-behavior?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=difference-windows-8-1-shutdown-behavior&utm_reader=feedly

One last note on security :

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/secure-your-microsoft-accounts-with-recovery-codes-and-recent-activity/>

Last minute tips for you:

<http://blogs.technet.com/b/canitpro/archive/2013/12/30/top-4-windows-8-1-useful-hotkeys-and-hidden-features.aspx>

<http://blogs.technet.com/b/canitpro/archive/2014/01/02/next-4-windows-8-1-useful-hotkeys-and-hidden-features.aspx>

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* Added info on UEFI and Win 8 – booting from USB isn’t easy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t12mxNswcfq>