

Thommen's Timely Technology Tips "Save the Polar Bears" (Power Down & Hibernate to Save Energy)

Many users leave computers, monitors, scanners and other peripherals powered on all day. Ten years ago, this was good advice because the constant cycling of the power for these devices significantly reduced their lifespan.

For today's equipment, that advice is no longer true. Even though our computers and monitors have stand by modes, they use significantly less power if they are fully shut down. Extend this energy savings to all computers on campus over the period of a year, and savings are significant.

In computer classrooms, if another group is not waiting to use the equipment, it is recommended that you and your students power down all computers and computer monitors.

If your laptop computer, is going to sit idle for an hour or longer, you might consider initiating the hibernation shutdown mode to save energy.

To Shutdown Lab or Classroom Computers (A Quick & Easy Method):

1. First, determine that the computer is on. If the computer is powered up, you will see a green LED near the power switch glowing. You may also observe a red glow under the mouse.
2. If the classroom computer is powered on, press the power switch two times. There will be a brief pause and the computer will power down. If the computer has a floppy drive, you may hear it briefly activate during shut down.
3. If the computer monitor is turned on, indicated by a green or yellow LED glowing next to the power switch, press the power switch on the monitor and the light will turn off indicating that the monitor is now off.

To Initiate Hibernate Mode on a Laptop Computer:

Using the hibernation shutdown mode to power down, will save the current state of the computer to the hard disk and the computer is subsequently powered down, saving energy. Upon restart, the computer will restart significantly faster, than an ordinary shutdown, and any programs that were open^[1], when hibernation was initiated, will be open at the completion of the restart. Microsoft strongly recommends that users initiate a full shutdown if they move a computer from one computer environment to another (i.e. moving your computer from the office to your home).

1. Click on the start button and trace to the shutdown button.
2. In the **Shut Down Windows** dialog, drop down the "**What do you want your computer to do?**" box and select the **Hibernate** option.
3. Click the **OK** button.

An Amended Note:

I was informed that MAC users felt “left out” from my last timely tip and this is my attempt to rectify that omission. Before I do, a disclaimer; I know little about MAC hardware or the OSX operating system, so unless my information is wildly inaccurate or potentially hazardous, please don’t fill my inbox with e-mails informing me of my limitations.

According to my source, OSX doesn’t support hibernation mode, out of the box, but a freeware dashboard widget called “Deep Sleep” can enable a mode similar to hibernation on a MAC. It is my understanding, that "Deep Sleep" is available for download from the Apple web site.

Before installing this program, I recommend that you carefully read and understand which versions of OSX and MAC hardware are supported by "Deep Sleep." While I wouldn’t expect that the program would cause harm to an unsupported system, this information is posted for a reason.