

RB Balch PC Tips Newsletter, APRIL 2007 – Effect of RAM & hard drive on performance

Reflections of **Better Business**

Your guide to technology and an error-free computer environment

By: **RB Balch & Associates, Inc.** Full service, award winning computer consulting firm. Serving AZ since 93.

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SPECIALS THIS MONTH

APRIL – April Showers Special. Although it seems we got all of our rain last month - we're raining savings for April. Celebrating the Spring holidays. \$20 off our standard hourly rate for April service calls. Just mention this newsletter special. It's a good time for Spring cleaning - call us and setup an appointment to cleanup those computers - and save money!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Contact us at 623-561-9366 OR at help@rbbalch.com OR online from our you'll save an additional \$5 off your next appointment.

REMOTE TECHNICAL SUPPORT. Contact us for remote technical support - it's easy, fast, less interruptions at the office and less expensive for you! (1/2 hour minimum)

Our motto: "you don't have a problem until you have a problem". Think about it. Contact Rochelle at rb@rbbalch.com.

2 TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER TIP

RAM and hard drive space really can affect your PC

Contributions by Mike Schrock

You hear about faster, better, quicker, newer computers. Bigger and better, new chips for the motherboard. After all, these days it seems that what you bought yesterday is considered "old"; what you bought last year - well - very old.

There are some things to check on your computer - and to watch for when buying a new computer - that can help make your computer run a little better.

For example, if the RAM (this is also referred to as memory) is low, it can not only affect how many things you can do at once (how many programs can be open at one time), but can affect your speed.

Pricing for RAM has come down substantially over the years; get more than you think you might need, if you can, when you buy new. For example, we've noticed some new PCs installed with VISTA that have 512MB RAM (that's like ½ GB) - but - to run VISTA with all the bells and whistles and (per Microsoft) to get the most of out of it, 2GB is recommended.

Hard drive space (this is where your programs and data are stored on the computer) should be sufficient to have a "big scratch pad area". To upgrade a hard drive from 80GB to 160GB when buying new is about \$10! That would have been \$150 to \$300 a couple of years ago. If you have the option, increase the size of the drive when you buy the computer. While you can replace a hard drive later, you then need to backup everything, and then re-install everything - and this takes HOURS!

Effects that low RAM may have on your computer:

- Moving or copying files takes a very long time
- Computer may "crash" every time you try to copy/move
- Programs that preview photos or other documents take a long time to preview the data
- Performing scans on your computer takes a time to complete
- After modifying a photo, the change doesn't appear for a bit

Effects that low hard drive space may have on your computer:

- After installing a program the program doesn't appear after the installation is complete
- After downloading anything, from the Internet or external device, the file(s) don't appear right away
- Installing new hardware locks up the computer, or it just won't install
- Your computer will no longer save new or old files or even apply updates (when out of space)

Things that may happen if your computer is low on RAM or hard drive space, or both:

- Computer is sluggish upon opening programs and displaying webpage's
- Computer takes a while to preview pictures
- Computer is locking up and you have to restart it to get it going normal again

Any questions on options? Contact us at help@rbbalch.com 623-561-9366 or Rochelle directly at rb@rbbalch.com OR schedule on-line at www.rbbalch.com

3 Andy's Did You Know?

By Andy Karpel, the "A lot about nothing" expert

BTW - Happy Birthday Andy!

MONTH: APRIL

Birthstone: Diamond, White Sapphire - Meaning: Innocence

Color: Clear

Flower: Daisy, Sweet Pea

Astrological Sign(s): Aries (The Ram) March 21 - April 19

Taurus The Bull April 20 - May 20

Moon Phases: April 2 Full-April 10 Last -April 17 New - April 24 1st Qtr

Sunday, April 1 April Fool's Day

Sunday, April 1 Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 1 US Air Force Day

Monday, April 2 Passover begins at sundown, lasts 8 days

Wednesday, April 4 Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.(1968)

Friday, April 6 Good Friday

Sunday, 8 Easter Sunday

Sat, April 14 President Lincoln shot by John Wilkes Booth (1865)

Sunday, April 15 Income tax Day

Sunday, April 15 The Titanic hits an iceberg sinks. (1912)

Monday, April 16 Patriot's Day To New Englander's a day off)

Wed, April 25 Administrative Professionals Day (was "Secretaries Day")

Friday, April 27 Arbor Day (always the last Friday in April)

Friday, April 27 Babe Ruth Day

Friday, April 27 1st SS checks were distributed on this day in 1937

Monday, April 30 The Vietnam War ends with the fall of Saigon (1975)

Babe Ruth Day April 27th - Babe Ruth Day honors one of Baseball's greatest players ever. On April 27, 1947, The Babe attended Yankee Stadium for Babe Ruth Day. It was to be the 2nd to last time he was at the stadium. In 1946, Babe Ruth was diagnosed with Throat Cancer. On this day in 1947, "The Bambino" returned to "The House that Ruth Built" to be honored.

Andy's second hand "tidbits"..... Thanks to one of our faithful readers in sunny California "EK" for this tidbit on the time change..... The good news on the earlier time change - it's not a problem for pilots. All pilots everywhere use Zulu time (which is also called Greenwich Mean Time). The reason is because pilots often have to fly across time zones and it could easily get confused as to what time zone you're referring to.

Zulu or GMT never changes, (as for daylight savings time and back again). On the West coast they are presently Zulu minus 8 hours. Starting Sunday March 11, they will be Zulu minus 7. When you radio into the airport advisory frequencies to get wind direction, barometric pressure, etc, they always give the info

in reference to Zulu time. They picked the word Zulu because it corresponds to the last letter of the phonetic alphabet. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, etc. ...hummm wonder how they got that Greenwich Mean thrown in there ??

Andy's "Image That" Patriot's Day is held on the Third Monday in April, this year April 16th. To New Englanders, it is a big, very big day. Patriot's Day commemorates the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. This battle began the American Revolutionary War. It also honors the "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere", that evening when Paul Revere rode through town warning the colonists that "The Red Coats are coming!" In the states in New England, it's a holiday with a day off of work. Banks, schools, post offices, and businesses have the day off. A big holiday for the New Englander's....."image that"

Andy's "I didn't know that" The term "the whole 9 yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the Pacific. When arming their aircraft on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole 9 yards." **I didn't know that!**

"Just like Andy" (AND now you have the facts) Some money saving home remedies: Try chewing on a couple of strong Altoids peppermints. They'll clear up your stuffed nose. Sore throat? Just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria. Honey remedy for skin blemishes ... Cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a Band-Aid over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight. - Easy eyeglass protection... To prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of - Clear nail polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them. - Cleaning liquid that doubles as bug killer ... If menacing bees, wasps, hornets, or yellow jackets get in your home and you can't find the insecticide, try a spray of Formula 409. Insects drop to the ground instantly. - Smart splinter remover. Just pour a drop of Elmer's Glue-All over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. The splinter sticks to the dried glue. ..**AND now you have the facts.**

YET MORE important information

When you rearrange the letters

- DORMITORY = DIRTY ROOM
- PRESBYTERIAN = BEST IN PRAYER
- ASTRONOMER = MOON STARER
- THE EYES = THEY SEE
- THE MORSE CODE = HERE COME DOTS
- SLOT MACHINES = CASH LOST IN ME
- ELECTION RESULTS = LIES - LET'S RECOUNT
- SNOOZE ALARMS = ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S
- A DECIMAL POINT = IM A DOT IN PLACE
- THE EARTHQUAKES = THAT QUEER SHAKE
- ELEVEN PLUS TWO = TWELVE PLUS ONE

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4 Community Update

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Small Business Impact Magazine: Watch for an article in the USPS (yes, the US Post Office has a small business magazine) - and online - featuring Rochelle Balch, president of RB Balch - and read about opinions on healthcare for small businesses. DUE OUT April or May.

RB Balch is proud member of:

Arizona Small Business Association (ASBA) - Chamber of Commerce - National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) - Better Business Bureau (BBB).

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5 RB Balch. WHY do we issue this and WHO are we?

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WHY: Purpose of this newsletter?

- To help you learn more about technology and computers
- To be informal and informative
- To answer specific questions asked by readers

....To continue our commitment of keeping you informed

Reflections of **Better Business** (published since 1994) is for employees, clients, friends and associates of **RB Balch**.

WHO ARE WE: RB Balch. Computer-consulting firm. Established 02/93. Experienced. Reliable. Ethical. Good. Revenues since 1993 over \$20 million. Our mission is to be your one source solution for all of your computer needs. Consider us your "computer guy", your IT department. We're only an email or phone call away.

SERVICES: PC Field Support, Software Development Projects, Business/Marketing Consulting, Seminars & Keynotes.

PC Field Support: PC troubleshooting, network installation and maintenance, server and workstation setup/support, hardware and software upgrades, virus and spyware detection & repair, data recovery, backup/restore, programming, web design, web and email hosting, more. Troubleshooting is our specialty. Contact us as needed, or set-up recurring regular maintenance appointments (discounted, no contracts, no pre-paid bundle of hours required). We come to you.

Software Development Projects: PC development, no job too small. We specialize in projects 1 to 500 hours (longer projects also accepted). New or maintenance. Simple changes or complex systems. Programming, Databases, Web design, Contingency plans/strategy plans, etc. Available nationally.

Business Consulting: Utilize technology to help you grow your business - we're here to help. IT strategies, Disaster/recovery planning, IT security audits. Marketing and promotional plans.

Seminars, Keynotes: Technology and Motivational workshops, keynotes and lunch programs for your staff or association. As a successful entrepreneur and award winning business owner, Rochelle Balch, president RB Balch and international professional speaker (member of the National Speakers Association), is available for programs for technology, team building, marketing and business, and personal development. Get everyone on the same page to understand technology in your company. Mention this newsletter for discount off speaking fees. For sample topics see

<http://www.rochellebalch.com>

Appointments: We offer, and highly recommend, regularly scheduled PC maintenance appointments. We offer on call/as needed service and emergency service. We are available weekends/evenings/holidays, and on special retainer, if required. No pre-pays, change frequency or cancel maintenance appointments at any time. Contact us at help@rbbalch.com, at 623-561-9366, or visit our web site at www.rbbalch.com for on-line scheduling. Contact Rochelle Balch directly at rb@rbbalch.com or contact Andy Karpel directly at andy@rbbalch.com if you like.

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MAINTENANCE
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