Tech Bytes – Computer Maintenance
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We are coming to the end of the year and it is a great time to give your computer a good cleaning. Just like your automobile, your computer needs routine maintenance to keep it in good working order. A good way to remember is to do it twice a year when you change your smoke detector batteries.

Here's a list of items you'll need:

Can of compressed air
Q-tips
Rubbing Alcohol
Soft bristle brush
Lysol Wipes

For Desktop computers, unplug all cables from the tower (chassis). Open one side panel, should have a quick release and the side cover will pop out when used.   I would suggest you take the unit outside to clean with the compressed air. Spray the compressed air into the chassis, especially around the processor fan and power supply.   Be sure to blow out the ports on the back and front of the chassis, as they get dusty too. Use the soft bristle brush to gently wipe off dust on the motherboard components and memory chips.   Put the side panel back on and use the soft bristle brush to wipe any dust off the vents.   At this point you can use a Lysol wipe to wipe clean the chassis.

With the keyboard disconnected from the chassis, hold over a trash can upside down and use the compressed air to gently blow out any crumbs or debris stuck inside. Take a couple of Q-tips and dip into the rubbing alcohol. Rub in between each key to get the in-between dust. And finally, take a Lysol wipe and gently rub over the top of the keys and keyboard.   We often forget that a keyboard and mouse can house many nasty germs and bacteria, so I recommend cleaning the keyboard and mouse often. Especially, during the cold/flu season.

Two clean the mouse, just use a Lysol wipe to wipe the exterior. If you use an old style mouse with a ball inside, you can open the door on the bottom of the mouse and remove the ball. Wipe clean with the rubbing alcohol. Using a Q-tip dipped in the rubbing alcohol to rub the inside rollers clean.
Use a wipe to gently clean off your monitor.

For Laptops, make sure that the unit is powered off and unplugged. Using the compress air, gently spray into the vent to clean out dust from the processor fan. Then blow out the dust in the keyboard. Use a wipe to clean the top of the keyboard to remove those nasty germs!

Lastly, make sure that you check and install software updates. Software updates are important measure to stay secure and virus free. Be sure to check for software updates monthly. Maintain a regular maintenance routine to increase the longevity of your computer.

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