

## Should I Shut Off My Computer?

A lot of people ask me whether it is best to leave their PC and monitor on all the time or to turn it off every day. The “myth” that you should never turn off your PC stems from very outdated information. 10-15 years ago, hard drives had a relatively short life span. A MTBF (mean time between failure) of 20,000 hours was pretty common. This meant that the first predicted failure would occur after only 2-3 years. Back then hard drives were big bulky devices and would often fail during startup. If you kept your machine running all the time, this lessened the possibility for a startup failure. However, today’s drives have an MTBF of about 500,000 hours (about 57 years). Based on that, it is safe to say that most of today’s hard drives will outlast the usefulness of the PC.

There are numerous valid reasons for shutting down your PC daily. For one, it will save you money. An average PC uses about \$200 of electricity a year if it is left on all the time. Shutting your PC off when you are not using it could save you a large percentage of that amount.

Secondly, shutting your PC off daily will help it run better. When a PC starts up it reads a fresh copy of windows into RAM which it then uses to run on. As you work your system resources get depleted. Also, any time an application crashes, your Windows becomes more unstable. After several days of nonstop operation your windows may become very unstable. Shutting down daily forces your PC to reload a fresh copy of windows and will improve its stability and performance. For a more detailed explanation of system resources you can go to [www.csdimmitt.com](http://www.csdimmitt.com) and click on [LINK OF THE WEEK](#).

Lastly, shutting your PC down reduces the risk of an internet attack. If you have “always on” internet, your PC is more vulnerable than with dial-up internet. The longer your PC is on, the more time hackers have to try to hack into it. Shutting it down will greatly minimize the chances of an attack since most hackers work late at night. Let’s not give them any more opportunities.