

# The Technology Insider Newsletter, Coupons, & Specials 216-571-2115

## Why is my computer so slow? Mobile broadband with a smartphone

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### Featured Article



Look to the right!

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Newsletter 4 has arrived! This time we included 2 stories on topics you want to know about. Suggestions on topics you'd like to know more about are still welcome! Also, we will be sending these out 1-2 times a month, so you will not be bombarded with emails from us! And of course, your email address and info will remain confidential.

### ➔ [Why is my computer so darn slow?!?](#)

Is your computer running slow these days? Would you like it to run as it did when you first purchased it? There are many reasons a computer can run slower than it should, and we'll go over some common ones here.

Viruses, spyware, and malware: Most people already know that these things can cause many different problems including security issues, and the disabling of anti-virus software, firewalls, and internet connections. Malware and etc can also slow your computer down to a crawl as it runs in the background and logs the keys you press, websites you visit, steals passwords, or turns your computer into a spam bot.

Hard drive issues: There are many hard drive issues that can severely impact the performance of your computer. A fragmented hard drive is just one. Running Windows' built in defrag tool is a good idea, but unfortunately, it misses a lot of things such as parts of the boot sector, restore points, and other areas.

Unnecessary files can also clutter the hard drive and slow it down. Windows has the disk clean up utility, but as with the

defrag utility, it misses many junk files.

A hard drive that is almost full can severely impact the performance of a PC. To defrag, the hard drive needs to have at least 15% free space. Upgrading to a bigger hard drive can be easy, or removal of programs and other files can solve the problem.

Finally, a dying hard drive can also adversely affect the performance of your system by slowing it down. Not to mention the possible loss of valuable data. There are tests that can be run to determine if the hard drive is healthy and if it's not too far gone, it can be copied byte for byte to a new hard drive.

RAM (a.k.a. memory): This is where programs that load from the hard drive and data are stored temporarily. RAM is faster than the hard drive, and older machines may not have a whole lot of it. This will cause the computer to run slower. Adding RAM is a relatively cheap upgrade, and is easy to do. Once you do it, you'll be glad you did as a difference in speed will be apparent.

Extra (non-malicious) programs running in the background: Often, a lot of unnecessary or seldom used programs are loaded into memory at start up. Not only does this increase boot time, but these programs suck up valuable RAM space and CPU clock cycles as they run. Disabling them can help increase performance.

Internet connection: Many of us remember the days of dial-up when web pages took forever to load and downloading a video was often a process that could take several days. Many of us now use broadband connections such as DSL or cable. Aside from malware issues, if your browsing seems be slower these days perhaps it's time to upgrade to a different broadband package (they are often sold as tiers; the slower connections are cheaper, faster are more expensive) Give your internet service provider a call and see what they can do to get you a faster connection.

When using a wireless connection many other issues affect the speed. The newer type N routers are faster and have a longer range. Other factors include: distance to router, other wireless devices that could be interfering (cordless phones,

microwave ovens), things in the way such as metal duct work, the number of people using the wireless connection at once, and other things.

If you're using a wired connection, your computer may have the older 10/100 network card installed. Upgrading to the newer and faster Giga-bit type card can improve performance.

Custom Computer Solutions offers a specialized, thorough service designed to speed up slow computers for a flat rate. See [our website for more details](#) and the coupon below to save even more on this service!

### **Mobile Broadband With a Smart Phone**

OK, so you've been thinking about mobile broadband for your laptop, but are not sure if you want to go out and spend the money on the adapter and the data plan that you need to use it. Well, this may be lucky day...

If you own a 3G smart phone, such as a Black Berry, you may be able to use the phone as a broadband modem instead of purchasing extra hardware and another data package from the cell provider.

A few things you'll need (besides the smart phone): a USB cable (usually comes with the phone, could also use Bluetooth too), a data plan for the phone if you don't already have one, and some software for your laptop. Oh, and you'll probably want to have one of the following carriers: AT&T, Sprint, or Verizon. Some T-mobile phones can work also.

For AT&T, do a search for their Communication Manager software. It's free and can be found on their website. Sprint uses software called Sprint PCS Connection Manager, which should also be free. For Verizon, look for VZAccess Manager. Download, install, and go mobile!

A few things to note: you may not be able to make/receive calls or send/receive email when using the phone as a modem. Please check with your carrier to ensure there are no extra fees involved.

## → We've Been Around For A While Now...

Some of you may not remember hearing about Custom Computer Solutions. We have been around for two and a half years now; serving residential and business customers in the Cleveland/Akron area (and everything in between), we have great prices AND great service coupled with technical know-how. On top of all of that *we are a Better Business Bureau accredited business*, so you know we're fanatical about customer satisfaction. We also have a price match guarantee for the cost conscious customers.



[See our website for more info!](#)

If your computer is running slow, go to our website and check out our PC Tune-Up. It is a 12 step, extremely thorough package that will get your computer running like it did when it was new--all at a low, flat price.

Sincerely,

Brian Jenkins  
Custom Computer Solutions, LLC