

What computer users should know

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As has been hotly debated in my previous article I am of the opinion that a computer is not an appliance and needs a certain amount of proficiency to be able to be used in a safe and effective manner. As most of us who deal with end users know this is sadly not the case. I put this down to the spreading of the "computer is an appliance" mentality which causes people to assume that a computer can be used without any education at all.

Following is a list of what I think is the absolute minimum a computer user should know to be able to keep their machine running as problem free as possible. I would also say that most of, if not all of, these things are not followed by the majority of people.

1. Know your operating system. Knowing what operating system and version you have is a great help for when you have problems and need outside help. It also helps for when you wish to install programs so you can choose the correct one for your operating system.
2. Know your file system.

[rest here](#) [2]

[OS](#)

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