

# Speed It Up – A Non-Technical Guide for Speeding Up Slow Computers

John Kamper

I'd been having all kinds of "slow" problems with my computer, beginning at boot-up and continuing through all functions, from opening programs to shutting down. I got a significant amount of help from TCS members, but I wanted to know more of what I was doing, so I jumped at the chance to review this book.

Overall opinion – a great book if you're having similar problems, whether you run XP or Vista. (I use XP.) It covers both. It has six parts, 18 chapters, 312 pages and a good Index. Each Section has a review of the information provided called "The Bottom Line" which highlights the most important information of that Section.

Part I – Quick Diagnosis for Sluggish PCs – discusses whether your computer is really slowing down or whether you just think it's slowing down. How and where to tell the difference is covered as well.

It covers standard suggestions like backup your stuff before you start tinkering, delete unnecessary files and programs, defragment your hard drive, etc. This Section is pretty much standard for the typical Tucson Computer Society member.

Part II – Simple Speedups Anyone Can Do – gives directions on how to perform the fixes for what you diagnosed in Part I. Chapter 6, Part II is entitled "Making Windows Go Faster." It provides general information, directions and cautions for both XP and Vista:

- Install the Latest Drivers
- Delete Unused Fonts
- Turn Off Systems Sounds

- Don't Look for Bootable Media On Startup
- Optimize Window's Display Settings
- Reconfigure Processor Priority
- Eliminate Background Services
- Disable File Indexing
- Optimize Virtual Memory
- Turn Off System Restore

Part III – Power Speedups for Power Users – discusses the Registry: cleaning it up, understanding it, editing it, using Registry Cleaners and tweaking it. It concludes with a discussion on reinstalling Windows if everything else fails. A very good chapter.

Part IV – Upgrading your PC for Speed – discusses what you need to do before an upgrade, adding memory and the different kinds of memory, adding disk space, upgrading video cards and upgrading the CPU.

Part V – Internet and Network Speedups – devotes three chapters to this subject.

Part VI – The Ultimate Speedup: Buying a Faster PC – talks about when you "need" a new PC, the applications that might require a new PC and the components of a new PC you need to have to have a speedy PC.

All in all, I got the most use from Parts II and III. The other chapters are very informative, but by following the suggestions given I believe I sped up my PC by about 20%. I recommend this book to anyone who thinks his/her computer could run faster.

**About:** *Speed It Up – A Non-Technical Guide for Speeding Up Slow Computers*

**Author:** Michael Miller

**Publisher:** Que  
[www.informit.com/que](http://www.informit.com/que)

**ISBN-10:** 078973947X

**ISBN-13:** 978-0789739476

**Price:** \$21.95, \$14.95 @ Amazon

