

# 14 Tips for Speeding Up Your Genealogy Computer

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A well-functioning computer is vital to genealogy research. And it is easy for a device to “slow down” over time. The problem usually isn’t hardware related but user-related! When was the last time you did a “clean up” related to desktop icons, files, folders and more?



- Focus on ACCESSIBILITY.** Having trouble locating items on your computer? Organize items into folders, use shortcuts and more to increase accessibility and productivity.
- Clean your virtual desktop!** Organize the mess of too many icons into one folder called DESKTOP. Then slowly review those items, delete unused items, add sites to bookmarks and favorites, and create a better desktop.
- Get rid of junk files.** Use an automated FREE cleaning program like **CCleaner** to remove files slowing down your computer. Also check and repair registry entries with **CCleaner**.
- Remove unused and unwanted apps.** If you haven’t used a program in at least a year, remove it. Unused apps can still be part of your start up program and slow your computer speed.
- Use a file naming convention.** Spend less time clicking to see what’s in a file. Be consistent in renaming files and rename them RIGHT after you download them!
- RESTART your computer.** A simple step but so many users leave their computer on all the time. Make sure you are getting the latest updates to your operating system and apps.
- Set a REVIEW reminder.** Review your desktop icons and other items on a regular basis. Spend 5-10 minutes each month cleaning up and tuning up your computer.
- Is your connection slow?** Check your Internet speed. Then check the agreement you have with your provider to make sure you are getting what you pay for.
- Or is your computer slow?** After cleaning out junk files and checking other items if your computer is slow you may need to upgrade to a faster model with more RAM and SSD storage space.
- Consider a solid-state drive.** Seriously ramp up your computer speed with a solid-state drive (SSD). You may need to store data in the cloud, but productivity gains are well worth it.
- Add a wallpaper image.** Users with a family photo or stunning landscape image tend to keep cleaner virtual desktops.
- Check your power settings.** Do you really need that much screen brightness? Set computer to “sleep” when unattended. Check resources usage and decide what you really need.
- UPGRADE your operating system.** Still on Windows 7 or even Windows XP? Bite the bullet and upgrade even if it means a new computer.
- Use a web clipping program.** If your desktop icons are articles from the Internet, consider using Evernote’s web clipper browser app to quickly store and catalog articles on the Web.

Check out the **Speed Up Your Genealogy Computer Resource List** on the back page!

## Speed Up Your Genealogy Computer Resource List

- **14 Ways to Speed Up Windows 10**  
<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3029168/14-ways-to-speed-up-windows-10.html>  
Computerworld article with solid tips on fine tuning your Windows 10 install.
- **Avast**  
<https://avast.com>  
FREE, effective, virus protection, malware check, computer security program.
- **CNET Reviews: Solid State Drives**  
<https://www.cnet.com/search/?query=ssd>  
FREE, unbiased tech advice from a proven leader in technology.
- **CCleaner**  
<https://www.ccleaner.com/>  
FREE cleaning program to remove junk files AND fix registry issues.
- **Evernote**  
<https://evernote.com>  
FREE note taking web app with Web Clipper to clip and catalog articles on the Internet.
- **Google Keep**  
<https://keep.google.com>  
Google's note taking program with web clipping and source citation functions.
- **Malware Bytes**  
<https://www.malwarebytes.com>  
FREE malware checking program!
- **OneNote**  
<https://www.onenote.com>  
Microsoft's note taking program with various features to capture and catalog content.
- **Speed Test**  
<https://www.speedtest.net>  
Use this site to check your ISP's download and upload speeds.