



SVECC Newsletter

Sunland Village East Computer Club

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Monthly Reminders:

- Run Disk Cleanup
- Run CC Cleaner
- Defrag your hard drive
- Manually Update Windows
- Update Malware Bytes
- Run your Anti-virus

How to Check Which Programs Are Phoning Home From Your PC

Anybody who uses the Internet has to be aware of the constant danger of being infected with malware that surreptitiously connects to the Internet. Various kinds of spyware and Trojan horses can phone home and reveal your personal information. Or an infection may turn your computer into a zombie that is part of a botnet without your knowledge.

One way of guarding against unwanted Internet activity is with a two-way firewall that monitors both incoming and outgoing traffic. However, many average PC users have a firewall that only checks incoming traffic. There are also a variety of programs for analyzing network activity but most of these require a knowledge of

networking that average PC users do not have. Fortunately, there are some simple ways that anybody can use and this tip will discuss one of these. It doesn't require anything to be downloaded and installed and the information it provides is easy to interpret. It doesn't replace more advanced methods but it makes useful information available to users of all levels of expertise.



Using the command "netstat" to check Internet activity

All current versions of Windows come with a number of network tools that run from the command line. (How to use the command line is discussed at (<http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/perhaps-most-underappreciated-tool-windows-command-line.htm>) One of these tools is the command

"netstat", which has a number of features for analyzing network traffic.

More experienced users can read about using "netstat" for detailed network analysis at (<http://commandwindows.com/netstat.htm>)

This tip shows a quick and easy way to use "netstat" to see what programs are connecting to the Internet:

1. Open the command prompt. For this tip, Windows Vista/7 will require administrator privileges
Enter "netstat -b" (without quotes)

A list of the executable files that are making connections to the Internet will be displayed. You can also add a switch "n" to tell you which IP addresses are being contacted. Then step 2 becomes:

Enter "netstat -bn" (without quotes)



How To Fix ‘BOOTMGR is missing’ Error in Vista and Windows 7



After some searching (on another computer) I had some solutions. Barring any hardware errors, here's how to fix that error:



Fixing the "BOOTMGR is missing" error isn't too hard; here's how. The day before yesterday I was testing out a program with several system utilities built in. One of its components left my computer in a bit of a mess – no icons anywhere and other assorted woes. I had set a system restore point before I ran the program, so I thought I'd do a system restore. System restore gave me a message that it couldn't restore my files. I decided to restore a disc image I had made a short while back. When I booted up the computer I got a message: BOOTMGR is missing Press Ctrl+Alt+Del to restart

I stared at it the white letters on the black background for a few minutes, while the cursor blinked back at me. After some searching (on another computer) I had some solutions. Barring any hardware errors, here's how to fix that error:

- Insert your Windows Vista or Windows 7 disk into your DVD player and restart your computer.
- The next screen

you see should have the Language, Time and Currency and Keyboard boxes.

- In the lower left side there are two options: "What to know before installing Windows" and "Repair your computer."
- Click on "Repair your computer"
- Windows will then try to find the installation directory for Vista or Windows 7, depending on what you have.



- Next up is a screen with a box called Recovery Options. Click the first option, Startup Repair.
- You'll see a Startup Repair box with the message "Startup Repair is checking your system for problems..."
- When it's done, it will prompt you to reboot. If there is more than one problem it may reboot again to continue repairing. At this point, you can

remove the DVD, reboot and everything should be working. Two sites I found helpful are [BOOTMGR is Missing](http://pcsupport.about.com/od/findbyerrormessage/a/bootmgr-is-missing.htm) at about.com (<http://pcsupport.about.com/od/findbyerrormessage/a/bootmgr-is-missing.htm>) and cyberstorms [How to fix "BOOTMGR is missing" in Windows Vista](http://cyberstorm.blogspot.com/2007/04/how-to-fix-bootmgr-is-missing-in.html) (<http://cyberstorm.blogspot.com/2007/04/how-to-fix-bootmgr-is-missing-in.html>)

If the method outlined above doesn't work, try Solution #2 at the [cyberstorm link](#). Oh, restoring the disc image went fine and all is well. All my data was backed up (somewhere other than the hard drive Windows is on) so that was one thing I didn't need to worry about. Windows Vista and Windows 7 are the only Windows operating systems where this message appears; XP users don't have to worry about this one.

Thomas Jefferson

At 5, began studying under his cousins tutor.

At 9, studied Latin, Greek and French.

At 14, studied classical literature and additional languages.

At 16, entered the College of William and Mary.

At 19, studied Law for 5 years starting under George Wythe.

At 23, started his own law practice.

At 25, was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses.

At 31, wrote the widely circulated "Summary View of the Rights of British America" and retired from his law practice.

At 32, was a Delegate to the Second Continental Congress.

At 33, wrote the Declaration of Independence.

At 33, took three years to revise Virginia's legal code and

wrote a Public Education bill and a statute for Religious Freedom.

At 36, was elected the second Governor of Virginia succeeding Patrick Henry.

At 40, served in Congress for two years.

At 41, was the American minister to France and negotiated commercial treaties with European nations along with Ben Franklin and John Adams.

At 46, served as the first Secretary of State under George Washington.

At 53, served as Vice President and was elected president of the American Philosophical Society.

At 55, drafted the Kentucky Resolutions and became the active head of Republican Party.

At 57, was elected the third president of the United States.

At 60, obtained the Louisiana Purchase doubling the nation's size.

At 61, was elected to a second term as President.

At 65, retired to Monticello.

At 80, helped President Monroe shape the Monroe Doctrine.

At 81, almost single-handedly created the University of Virginia and served as its first president.

At 83, died on the 50th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

John F. Kennedy held a dinner in the white House for a group of the brightest minds in the nation at that time. He made this statement: "This is perhaps the assembly of the most intelligence ever to gather at one time in the White House with the exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

This has nothing to do with computers but I thought it was cool

JZ



At 83, died on the 50th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.



Manage Windows Explorer Favorites in Windows Vista/7



Windows Explorer contains an area on the left side for placing shortcuts to folders that you use often. In Windows 7, the area is near the top of the left pane and is called "Favorites". In Vista, it is called "Favorite Links". Adding or removing links is very easy. To add a link, just drag a folder from the right pane to the link area. To remove a link, right-click it and choose "Remove" (Windows 7) or "Remove Link" (Vista). This also applies to the *Open/Save* dialog boxes.

Rename files fast in Windows Vista/7

Do you ever need to

rename a bunch of files? Here is a quick way to do it. Personally, I find "List" view to be best for this operation.

Select the first file you wish to rename
Press the function key **F2**

Type in the desired new file name
Press the "Tab" key.
Do not press "Enter"
Windows will automatically select the entire name of the next file, allowing you to type right over the old name. If you do not want to rename that particular file, press Tab again and the next file will be selected

Type in the desired new name and press the Tab key again.

Repeat until you reach the last file you want to rename.

When you have renamed the last file, press the "Enter" key to finish.

Note that after you rename a file, it may jump to a new place in the list, depending on your settings. If that happens and a file suddenly appears in the middle of your list, just press Tab to go on to the next file. list, depending on your settings. If that happens and a file suddenly appears in the middle of **your** list, just press Tab to go on to the next file.

Do you ever need to rename a bunch of files? Here is a quick way to do it.

Back-up, Back Up, Back-Up

Don't get caught sleeping; backup your cloud data!

Some recent incidents with popular free online services such as Flickr, Google Calendar and Gmail where users lost their data (some temporarily, some permanently) has underscored the importance of the three rules of computing: **BACKUP, BACKUP, BACKUP!**

Not only is this not really thought about by most users, most would have no idea what to do to properly backup their online accounts.

That's where the folks at Backupify come in! They have a great suite of options for backing up nearly a dozen popular online services including **Gmail, Google Docs, Flickr, Picasa, Twitter** and even **Facebook**.

Best of all, the basic service for up to 5 accounts is FREE!



My computer is running slow

The #1 complaint that we hear in the computer club is 'my computer is running too slow'.

If you have a computer that's 6 months old or older, the likelihood that it runs as fast as the day you got it is nearly zero (unless you never use it).

The reasons for this common performance degradation vary, but in general it's a combination of what you have installed and where you have been on the Internet.

The television commercials prey on those looking for instant gratification for a fairly complex problem.

Most of what you see advertised claim to be 'Registry Cleaners' because the Registry controls every aspect of how a Windows-based computer runs.

Think of the Windows Registry like the registry in a hotel; it's supposed to keep track of who's in which room, for how long, what their preferences might be, any wake-up calls requested, what charges have been accrued during the stay, etc.

If things get mixed up in the hotel's registry, the hotel doesn't run very smoothly and the same goes for your computer.

And just like every hotel has its own unique set of guests and issues making their registry one-of-a-kind, your computer's Registry is unique to your combination of hardware and software.

The Windows Registry is a very complex system and to date, no automated process has ever proven to be 100% effective. The unfortunate actuality of Registry cleaners is that they often cause more damage to an already fragile situation (we see the results of this in our stores almost daily).

The worst thing that you can do to a computer that is already unstable or running really slow is to install additional software. Whenever you install any program into your computer, it must add more entries into your Registry in order for Windows to be able to run it (often adding fuel to the fire).

After this question came in, we decided to test a handful of the websites that claim they can speed up your computer over the Internet to evaluate what they actually are doing.

We started with one that you see on television commercials around the clock that shows lots of what appear to be common folk proclaiming the merits of the system.

To really test the honesty of these sites, we decided to take a brand new machine that only had Windows installed and have it 'evaluated'.

When we went to the website, it offered to install a free scanner to tell us if we had any problems. Once installed, the scanner took less than 30 seconds to report to us an astonishing thing: I had 223 issues with our Registry!

Of course, we knew that this was erroneous, so we declined their offer to help (for \$40) and used their uninstaller to remove the program.

Just for good measure, we decided to manually inspect the Registry to see if they had in fact properly removed themselves, and found 4 sets of Registry keys that were not removed.

When a 'Registry Cleaner' can't even uninstall itself cleanly, we are quite certain they won't do a great job of addressing real issues.

Just to be fair, we tested 3 additional sites that made similar claims. None of them reported that we were in as bad shape as the first, but each one claimed we had pressing issues: 75, 42 & 39 and none of them removed themselves cleanly either.

In fact, a couple of them left quite a bit on the computer including extra folders, files and even entries in the 'RUN' section of the Registry (very bad form!)

The reality is that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to a slow computer. There are lots of great tools (many of them are free) that can help clean up your computer, the problem is that it takes a knowledgeable eye to know which tool to use when



Question

I've been thinking about using one of those programs that you see on TV that claim they can speed up my computer. Do they work?

Answer

The #1 complaint that we hear in the computer club is 'my computer is running too slow'.

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911 Call to help group

What it costs elsewhere

Geek Squad in home call \$149.00 per hour

Serving Online Seniors in home call \$85.00 per hour

On line help \$79.95 subscription + \$24.95 per month

a gratuity to your SVECC helper is recommended

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Brief problem description

Computer Help Group

Group Leader Joe Zagar

Joe Zagar	480-373-9373	all systems and programs
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Depending on the season we have a number of helpers to assist with problems or installations. Contact Joe Zagar for assistance, referral, or recommendation of local service provider.

In addition on most Tuesdays from October to March we offer a fix-it session from 1pm to 3pm at the Training Center. Sessions are open to all residents of SVE and are first come first serve. Charge is \$15.00.

Call ahead to see if your problem can be solved at a Tuesday session.

August 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Update your programs	2 Intermediate class	3 Intermediate class	4	5	6
7	8	9 patch tuesday Intermediate class	10 Intermediate class	11 ASU Auction	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Adding spell check to Internet Explorer

For some reason, the folks up in Redmond (Microsoft) haven't quite gotten around to adding a spell check feature to the Internet Explorer browser.

Firefox and Chrome have had it for quite sometime, so switching to one of them for tasks that require a spell check (form submissions, online documents, webmail, etc.) is one option or adding a spell checking extension to IE is another.

ieSpell is free Internet Explorer browser extension that can check the spelling on any text input boxes before you click OK or Submit. While it isn't realtime like the built in spell checker in Firefox, you can run a spell check anytime you want simply by right-clicking on the text box you are typing in.

SVECC

**Check us out at
svecc.com**

President
Delores Bruno

Sunland Village East Computer Club

Founded for the Residents of Sunland Village East

Mission: To help each other learn about Computers

Membership is open to all residents of SVE

Dues are \$20.00 per Year

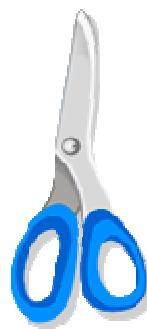
Due October 1st

Sunland Village East Computer Club



Lawnmower

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the shed, the boat, making beer. Always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.



When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a

short time and then went into the house.. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

SVECC

**Check us out at
svecc.com**

People helping
People