

TECHNICAL GEEKERY TIPS

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Microsoft Word

Did you just type a couple of sentences with Caps Lock on accidentally? Guess what—you don't *have* to type it all over again. Just remember the magic shortcut Shift-F3: push it to toggle between UPPERCASE, lowercase, and Title Case.

If you want to prevent the problem from happening at all, see Keyboard Shortcuts this month.

Internet Explorer Version 7

Want to know what the next version of Internet Explorer is going to be like? Go to <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/internet-explorer/beta/default.aspx> to check it out and download the beta for free.

Firefox Version 3.0

Want to get lots of fun but useless (okay, maybe a few useful) add-ons for Firefox? Simply open Firefox. In the following directions, you may need to replace the word "extensions" with "add-ons" depending on your version of Firefox. Choose Tools → Extensions, then in the corner click the Get More Extensions link and browse the resulting site for handy or useless gadgets.

Google Chrome

Google released a browser. How can anyone not have heard about it? Google Chrome offers some pretty interesting new features and runs and loads very quickly. Beware about running Flash animations and games, though: Google Chrome doesn't run very fast on them, although the Googlies are working on it, so it will hopefully be revised soon.

Go to <http://www.google.com/chrome> to download your free copy.

Keyboard Shortcuts

There are lots of interesting "accessibility" keyboard shortcuts for Windows. Although many of them are not likely to be useful unless you have some specific need, some are great for just about everyone.

Do you ever turn on Caps Lock accidentally? If you're like most people I know, you do so quite a bit—and it's quite frustrating to have to type it over. (Well, you can also select it and choose Format → Change Case in Word, but that's stupid.) Simply hold down your Num Lock key for a few seconds. You should get a dialog box telling you about "ToggleKeys". If nothing happens, just try again; Windows seems to have a tendency for swallowing accessibility keyboard shortcuts at random. Click OK in the resulting dialog, and the change will be made permanent. From now on, if you push the Num Lock, Caps Lock, or Scroll Lock, your computer's internal speaker will sound off to inform you. If you need to turn this off, simply repeat the process; there is no confirmation except a weird downward scale sound and the fact that pushing one of these keys no longer causes a tone.

Also see the Microsoft Word tip if you just want to change a bunch of text you typed in with the wrong case.

General Windows

Have you ever been in need of some background music say, for a presentation? Were you on a computer without any music on it? Well, every Windows XP or later computer has three quite good background music MIDI files on it, which can be opened in Windows Media Player. Simply choose Start > Run and type *C:\Windows\Media*. The three files are called *flourish.mid*, *onestop.mid*, and *town.mid*. The best way to get a feel for them is simply to try them out sometime and see what they're like.

Technical Geekery Forum (okay, it's not the same this time, please read it)

Okay, I know I've had the same message here for several months, so I'll change it. The Technical Geekery Forum has been moved and greatly improved...uh...say what?

Seriously, I apologize for spamming you with requests to use the forum. There is no reason that you need to; it's only to your advantage. I have now added a new "Computer News" section with all the latest news, upcoming products, etc. I put a poll on almost every post asking something like whether you think USB will *really* replace every connector on your computer or which component of your computer you'd most like to have improved.

While you're there, you can take two or three minutes to post something to the Computer Help section. Maybe your computer is booting slowly, or you want to know if there's a way to make more icons fit on your desktop, or fix up Vista's annoying User Account Control. (By the way, I could help you on all three problems.) Nothing actually has to be *wrong* for you to post. You can get the basics within minutes; if you have trouble, you can visit the Forum Information section.

You can get to the forum by visiting the main Technical Geekery website (link on Announcements section) and clicking the Forum link or by using this link: <http://technicalgeekery.2ksite.com>.

Announcements

Report difficulties, technical difficulties, and/or factual problems with this newsletter to webmaster@thetechnicalgeekery.com.

Do you have any friends who you think would like this newsletter? Have them send me an email and ask to be added to my mailing list. If you wish to unsubscribe, you can click the link in the email.

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