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OVERHEATING LAPTOP:

One of the most common issues with aging laptops is overheating, something many people aren't sure how to fix. We'll help you figure out what's causing the heat and how to keep your notebook functioning at a lower temperature. Overheating computers can cause a lot of problems, from seemingly random blue screens to data loss. You might not even know that it's the root of your issues, and before you know it you have a burnt-out motherboard on your hands. Let's go step by step and see how to deal with overheating computers. We'll be dealing primarily with laptops, but most of the same principles apply to desktops as well. The first thing you need to do is figure out where the heat is coming from. No air flow means no heat transfer, so figure out where the air vents are. Are they blowing hot air, or is there barely a breeze, even when the fan is overtaxed? Most commonly, an accumulation of dust in the vents and fans through the cooling channels will be culprit in restricting air flow. Cleaning it out will work best. Turn your laptop upside-down and look at what you've got. Find and unscrew the fan doors and you should be able to lift out the fan and clean everything with a can of compressed air (or the small head of a vacuum cleaner). The more processes that are running, the harder your computer must work, which generate heat. Try turning off programs you are not using. FYI...batteries are not meant to be at 100% or 0% all the time. Unplug your laptop and use the battery occasionally so it still knows how to function. Your processor has a temperature at which it maxes out and causes problems. I suggest downloading Core Temp for Windows from alcpu.com. It will let you know how hot your machine is and when it may be in trouble. Laptop owners have a lot of luxury by not being tethered to a chair and desk. We develop a lot of habits, like browsing in bed that can actually work against computers. A lot of laptops are designed with their air vents on the bottom for some ridiculous reason, so setting it down on soft bedding or carpet for prolonged use is a bad idea. You'd be surprised at how quickly the heat can build up. If you this is a habit, you might consider investing in a laptop stand to keep the air flow unobstructed. I actually have mine resting on two pencils. Hey...it works!

SECURE SHOPPING ONLINE:

I have probably talked about this secure feature before but it is worth mentioning again. I shop online. Most everyone shops online. Lots of other people want to shop online. So how safe is it? It is just as safe as shopping in a retail store. If someone sets up a shop on the street corner they may not be there when you have a complaint or problem. Same is true online. Don't give your credit card information to a site that is not encrypted and secure. If a website promises you the world for a song, run. If they ask for your credit card and ask too many personal questions, run. If you type in the website you want to visit, you obviously know something about this site or they are a well-known company. When you first go to a site that is selling something look in the address bar. It says <http://www.example>. Once you get to the final checkout you should see <https://www.example>. Did you notice the "s" which I capitalized for you? That means SECURE and encrypted. You are safe to use your credit card on this page. It is just as safe as shopping in person. They are just as responsible for your transaction as if you used your credit card anyplace. I hope this helps you feel more comfortable.

I MAKE HOUSE CALLS:

I will come to your home or office to help you with almost any predicament including REPAIRS and upgrades. I have an endless amount of patience and knowledge. I offer a 20% discount on my hourly rate for those aged 60 and over. Give me a call at 419-318-9112. References are always available upon request. Don't forget to sign up for my FREE NEWSLETTER at OhComputerTraining.com. Subscribers will get added hints, tips and exciting new web-links.

Janis Weber, B.A., owner of Ohio Computer Training, is a professional computer instructor at UT, Lourdes, and MCCC. E-mail any specific questions or comments to jwpctutor@gmail.com or contact her for assistance at 419-318-9112. Public classes are listed on her website: www.OhComputerTraining.com.
Private tutoring and repairs are a just phone call away.