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Total downloads: 3957 on iPhone Stepping into the time travel mystery Life Is Strange with Life Is Strange for iPhone. Download Back to the details page Life Is Strange 1.6 Boydz1980/ShutterstockWhen your laptop starts taking what it looks like forever to begin with—but then the battery immediately falls—you might just throw up your hands in frustration, thinking that it's just the way the tech world is. But there are actually many ways to make your machine last longer—by avoiding this common laptop practice that can cause it to die off before time. And be careful in these ways you shorten your phone life, too. Montri Thipsorn/ShutterstockJust because it's called a laptop doesn't mean you have to set it up in your lap. In fact, putting it there too often can cut a computer's lifespan short. The processor is a computer brain, and it becomes very, very hot, and needs to vent this heat somewhere, explained Aaron Schoeffler, director of operations for Computer Repair Physicians. Often, the fan is located at the bottom of the laptop, where there is little ventilation. But if the ventilation is covered by your pants or blanket, your laptop could overheat, or dust might start settling inside. Canned air can sometimes move enough dust to bring the laptop back to the top end shape, but it can also end up with internal damage that requires professional help. takkun/ShutterstockSantu is easy to close your laptop lid at the end of the night so boot up in just a few seconds the next morning but leaving it all the time means you don't get the updates your computer needs. The system needs patching to fix vulnerabilities or improve software. Most of those patches don't apply unless you restart your computer, said Trey Eiland managing partner at Computer Support Services 5Q Partners. He recommends turning it off at least once a week, although more is even better. Find out exactly how often you should shut down your computer (and why). polymanu/Shutterstock There's a reason you're told to unplug electronics during a storm. If you plug in and lightning hits around your home and you get a spike, that laptop will be fried, Eiland said. Relying on unplugging is not the safest option—a power surge can leave you off guard, your battery may need juice before the storm passes, or you may not be at home to unplug it. Eiland recommends investing in a surge protector if you don't already have one. Try 11 other tricks that make your laptop battery last longer than ever before. ViewFinder nilsophon/ShutterstockSan is easy to pick up an open laptop at the top, where the screen is, but it can mean bad news for your computer. There are metal screws attached to the plastic box screws can loosen them. Of course, the metal is a little stronger... and moving it causes stress on the plastic, Schoeffler said. If bending also will eventually snap or release to the point where it begins to deteriorate. Be kind to your laptop by scooping it up from below instead. polymanu/ShutterstockWhen you need to bring a laptop, make sure you tuck it in the laptop slot if your bag has it, or tuck it into a padded box before putting it in your bag, suggests Eiland. That way, if you drop a bag or plo p on the floor, there will be something softening the blow to the computer inside. Don't miss the other 15 computer errors you need to stop creating. manusapon kasosod/ShutterstockUnless you have a new model, your laptop may have a so-called hard disk drive (HDD)—that's what causes the sound to spin when you boot it. Unfortunately, the HDD can't spin fast enough to keep up with the demands after a while, which is why tech experts recommend upgrades to solid state drives (SSDs). When you take a computer boot and it takes one to two minutes to take five to ten seconds, that's a pretty big difference, Schoeffler said. Ask your local computer pros if they can install it for you—it's a worthwhile investment. mokokomo/ShutterstockIf your Windows laptop has run too slowly, try pressing Ctrl + Shift + Esc to bring up Task Manager, suggests Schoeffler. Go to the Start-up tab to find a list of all the apps that open when you boot your laptop and how much it impacts on start time. Right-click on any program you don't use every day and click Disable. That doesn't mean it won't run, it just means you have to start it manually, Schoeffler said. Next time you restart, you should see that things are ready to go faster than ever. Do you know what actually happens when you ignore security warnings on your computer? Jill W/T/ShutterstockOver time, files on your laptop can become fragmented, which means files that are supposed to be opposite each other are not. If you have a Windows laptop, defragging your computer is a way of compressing and reuniting those files so that your computer doesn't have to work so hard. Basically, it organizes your data on your hard drive in a more efficient way for laptops, Eiland said. You can see the data is set and the gap is closed. The defragmentation tool should already be built into your computer, so just type defrag in the search bar and it should appear. Here are some signs your slow computer is a virus. kirill_makarov/ShutterstockHopefully, this need not be said, but antivirus software is essential to keep bugs out of your system. If you get malware or viruses on your laptop, it can run hot at that point and can be damaging your laptop, says Eiland. Most should install updates automatically, but make sure you choose a trusted brand for the first time. Be careful if you have seen this online scam that you need to be aware of. ViewFinder nilsophon/ShutterstockFor the most part, your laptop may be able to handle your habits tabs open at once. But if it's not well ventilated, making it work hard to keep all those pages running can cause extra stress. The more processors you have to work, the more heat it will generate, and ultimately it shortens lifespan, Eiland said. Montri Thipsorn/ShutterstockIf your laptop runs painfully slowly, don't lose hope and buy a new one just yet. This is not the same as a simple restart—resetting your Windows laptop reinstalls the operating system. There's no better way from a software perspective to get back to that fresh and sharp experience again than a fresh start, Schoeffler said. In Windows 10, go to Settings & Recovery & Reset this PC. You'll have two options: Save the file or delete it all, so unless you're ready to lose all the documents and photos, you'll have to choose the first option before letting the reset do its magic. Schoeffler recommends reinstalling every year or so. Find out these 10 other ways to speed up a slow computer. kirill_makarov/ShutterstockPecial if you have an HDD, you should be careful when taking your laptop around. If you have something that spins very quickly and you jostle, you have a high chance of causing some kind of damage, Schoeffler said. Damage to the hard drive is one of the most expensive repairs, he says, so be careful when you take it around—and it should go without saying that you should try not to drop your laptop as well. SSDs are not as small, which is an added bonus to upgrade. PowerUp/ShutterstockHopefully, your alarm bells ring when a pop-up claims you've just won \$1 million, but it may be harder to catch fraudsters posing as your friends. Hackers can spoof one of your friends' Facebook profiles or email addresses, then send you a link. You may not question it at first, but it can download malware or collect data from your computer. If something goes wrong—not just how your friend spoke or you've reconnected a Facebook friend—Schoeffler recommends reaching out to that person to confirm that it's legitimate before you click. And be careful with these 12 red flags that someone is spying on your computer. Originally Published: December 18, 2019 Also in this article: 7 Stupid Things We Do And 8 Tricks To Keep Mistakes in Bay Buy the Book,Also in this article:We are prone to making mistakes in circumstances that, in many cases, we don't even realize. For example, the color of an object can completely skew our assessment of it. Hallinan cites research showing that the color of certain pills can affect our perception of In one study, he said, people rated black and red capsules as 'strongest' and white as 'weakest'—whether this was true or not. Hallinan also referenced an interesting study conducted by two researchers several years ago in which trained referees were shown videos of the same aggressive game during football games. In one video, more and more the team wore white clothing; on the other hand, it's wearing black. Which team do you think referees feel behaved much more aggressively on the field? You get it: Teams in black uniforms, time and again, are judged to be more deserving of a penalty than a team in a white uniform. The same researchers went on to compile records for actual and benign pro football hockey during the 70s and 80s, to make sure they covered up what happened to the real world. Conclusion? For both sports, reported Hallinan, the researchers found that teams wearing black uniforms [had] been punished significantly more than average. Another mistake we made: We were heavily influenced by the first impression, whether it was right or wrong. And too often, we'd rather wing it than take the time to learn the manual or set the direction. Hallinan has long studied the science of error and has more reports. For additional interesting data and analysis of the mistakes we all make and why, see its website, www.whymakemistakes.com.Why We Make Mistakes, Copyright © 2009 By Joseph T. Hallinan, published for \$24.95 by Broadway Books, 1745 Broadway, New York, New York 10019 10019

