

## Have More Fun!

Optimizing your computer means optimizing your time. In our busy lives, extra time can be invaluable. With the start of a new school year on the horizon, now is a good time to clean up your computer and even breathe new life into it. Computers have a tendency to become slower over time. This is not necessarily due to age as much as it is due to becoming bogged down.

A simple scan using a free malware removal software such as Malwarebytes may reveal a hidden culprit leading to a slow experience. Removing any unused programs is another way to speed up performance.

*continued...*



## Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 80, Two South Main Street  
Winchester, Illinois 62694

[www.e-co-op.com](http://www.e-co-op.com)  
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## A Few Helpful Websites!

### **download.com**

- Offering thousands of free software downloads

### **microsoft.com/securityessentials**

- Microsoft's free antivirus software

### **ehow.com**

- A guide on how to resolve many computer related issues along with other topics

### **malwarebytes.org**

- A free tool to help remove malware from your PC

Another area to easily upgrade for free is your browser. Whether it is Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, or Google Chrome, they all at some point need upgraded. Make sure you have the most current version by checking their respective websites.

If your home has multiple computers online, an issue that can cause slowness is bandwidth. Bandwidth is extremely important when more than one user is on the Internet or streaming movies with services such as Netflix. IRTC Internet subscribers can upgrade to our 2 MG package for a month for free. A newer, 6 MG service called Pure Wave is now offered in certain areas.

"Bandwidth is extremely important when more than one user is on the Internet or streaming movies with services such as Netflix."

Computers on the Internet are vulnerable to nasty viruses. This is why having antivirus software on your computer is very important. Microsoft offers its users free virus protection software called Security Essentials. It can be downloaded at the link above.

For more information on improving your computer's performance, visit us at [www.e-co-op.com](http://www.e-co-op.com). If you are an IRTC Internet user and want to increase your bandwidth or are interested in having our Internet service, give us a call at 1-800-468-4732.

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## Where to look for savings!

With rising costs in just about all areas of living, we are all looking to save a few dollars. To start saving, we should begin at a home. There are simple things you can do to save money on your electric bill. Let's take a look at two specific areas: windows and lighting.

Windows provide our homes with light, warmth, and ventilation. However, they may also lead to you losing money every month. Look for areas around your windows where air may be escaping or coming in. Use caulking or weather stripping to make your windows more efficient.

**Conduct a FREE  
online energy audit  
at [e-co-op.com](http://e-co-op.com)!**

Insulating with draperies is a low-cost, quick fix to drafty windows and can reduce heat loss from a room up to 10 percent. They're just as helpful in hot summer months by blocking sunlight. White plastic-backed drapes can reduce heat gain by up to 33 percent. If you are building a new home or replacing windows, consider double-glazed panes and "low-e" coatings on glass to help reduce air loss.

Lighting is another area that can be cheaply upgraded and lead to significant savings. The average home contains 40 light fixtures, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). By replacing older incandescent bulbs, homeowners can save \$50 every year.

If you would like more information on ways to save, visit [www.e-co-op.com](http://www.e-co-op.com) or [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com).

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# Take a Trip Back in Time with Us!

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The co-op was recently given a copy of High-Line News that we published in 1941. We will be running the full publication in next month's center section.

The publication was given to us by Carl Hoos of Barry. His father, the late Edward Hoos, held on to it all these years. We are greatly appreciative of Carl's getting the publication to us.

This newsletter is a reminder to co-op members that we are still working towards the same goal as we were in 1941: to make people's lives better. We hope that you all find this publication as interesting and as fun as we do.

Let us know if you see yourself or relatives and can share more of the story.



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