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Tune Up Your IBM-PC for  
Performance!

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New Salem Research

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## VII. Questions and Answers

### Introduction

Most (95%) PC problems are software

Anyone can "fix" software

But you need to know what and how

Here are some suggestions

The first few in each category are easy...

The others may be a little harder

### Hardware Problems?

Really, this is last thing to worry about!

Check all connections and jiggle them

>Outside the case (Is it plugged in?!) )

>Inside the case (Touch a ground first)

Don't open power supply or monitor

Get symptoms, background, run tests

What has changed? What were you doing?

Get a diagnosis program and learn to use it

Swap parts and boards

## Hard Disk Maintenance

**DO BACKUPS!**

Run a virus checking program

Recover lost clusters - CHKDSK /F

Run a de-fragmentation program

Use a disk utility like Norton

Utilities

Check your "interleave" - MFM, RLL only

Consider using Stacker 2.0 to double space

## Configuration Files

Use a disk cache (SMARTDRIVE)

Load DOS high with DOS=HIGH

Load other TSR's and devices high

Have enough FILES (about 10 - 30)

Use extended memory with HIMEM.SYS

Use expanded memory with EMM386.SYS

Use a RAM drive (RAMDRIVE.SYS)

## Communications:

Get a modem (\$50 - \$100)  
Obtain free advice and information  
from many bulletin boards and  
vendor forums

Join CompuServe etc. (but it gets  
expensive)

Use Echo Mail and an off-line  
reader to keep up on the latest  
developments

### Windows:

Type SET to see your PATH= and  
TEMP=

Put your TEMP files on your fastest  
disk

Print out and read the Windows  
readme files

Get the Windows Resource Kit  
(\$20)

Use a permanent swap file (386's)  
Use 32 bit disk access (386's , most disks)  
Get a newer, faster, bigger disk  
RAM is cheap -- expand to 8 MB if possible

## Windows, continued

Consider getting a graphics accelerator

Save your current initialization (\*.ini) files on a floppy --  
Then check occasionally for new things added by programs you don't use anymore

Learn to use the keyboard -- it's much faster than just using the mouse

## Question and Answers?

I can't treat specific complaints --  
But I'd be glad to discuss general  
issues

Thanks for attending!!