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Tune Up Your IBM-PC for
Performance!

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III. Hard Disk Maintenance

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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!!