Windows 8 Tips ©

ACRONIS BOOT CD: To boot an Acronis Recovery CD, see "BOOT FROM OTHER DEVICES". Note: Only the very latest versions of Acronis will boot in UEFI mode. Go to acronis.com for details.

APPS:
- PANDORA RADIO APP: PRADIO.COM ??? (Per TEKZILLA)
- PODCAST BANDIT:

BATTERY DRAIN:
- If your battery goes dead when a Win 8 Laptop is powered off for a while, try turning off FAST STARTUP. *For details see the BOOT FROM OTHER DEVICES section of this document.* "Fast startup" is NOT supposed to use battery power when shutdown, but it is unclear if that is true or not.

BIOS / UEFI: To access the BIOS on a PC with Windows 8 preinstalled:
- Go to lower RH corner with mouse and click on *("Settings" Icon (the Gear) > Change PC Settings > General > Advanced Startup Options > Restart Now button)* or just try holding the Shift Key down and clicking "Restart" on the power off menu.

- Upon restart, click on *(Troubleshoot > Advanced Options > UEFI Firmware Settings > Restart).*

BOOT FAILURE *(from Britec09 on youtube.com)*
- During Power on, Hold down the RH Shift Key and keep pressing F-8

- Click on *("See Advanced Repair Options" > "Troubleshoot" > "Advanced Options" > "Automatic Repair").*

BOOT FROM OTHER DEVICES (*CD/DVD/FLASH with Windows 8 PRE-INSTALLED)*:
- The UEFI/BIOS has two features called "Secure Boot" and UEFI mode that must be DISABLED. You must switch "Secure Boot" to "Disabled" and switch UEFI mode to CSM mode (Could be called enable Legacy (BIOS) Mode or the UEFI Compatibility Support Module (CSM) or similarly worded option:

- To boot any device other than the Windows 8 hard-drive, you will have to disable these two features in the BIOS. Every PC brand is different. See the section called BIOS for details.

- Afterward you will have to re-enable these features before you can boot Windows 8 again. To access the UEFI/BIOS (Setup), use the Boot Menu Key F12 (Toshiba) or other BIOS entry key. (Good Luck)

- FAST BOOT: To turn off Fast Startup: *(Control panel > Power Options > Choose what the power buttons do > Change settings that are currently unavailable).* Scroll down to Shutdown settings and click to un-check the box for "☐ Turn on fast startup".

BOOT TO DESKTOP: *(Right-click Taskbar > Properties > Navigation tab).* Click to check the box for: "☑ When I sign in....., go to the desktop instead of Start", or even better install Classic Shell or START8 Menu's.

DOWNGRADE WINDOWS 8 to WINDOWS 7:
- Http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gRkXJfyj8o&feature=em-uploademail-subject5

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS - CHEAT SHEET PDF *(Too tiny to print hardcopy)*:

- Get to the CLASSIC DESKTOP: Windows Key ⊞ + D

- PDF FROM MICROSOFT:
  http://https://skydrive.live.com/?cid=2ee8d462a8f365a0&id=2EE8D462A8F365A0!141

- WINDOWS 8 CHEAT KEYS LIST
  http://winsupersite.com/article/windows8/windows-8-consumer-preview-windows-key-keyboard-shortcuts-142358

- QUICKDOC: http://myitforum.com/myitforumwp/2012/08/21/windows-8-keyboard-shortcuts-quickdoc/

MEDIA CENTER - WINDOWS MEDIA CENTER (Add it for free to Win 8 Pro)

- How to add WMC using "Add Features":
  http://howto.cnet.com/8301-11310_39-57540793-285/how-to-add-windows-media-center-to-windows-8-pro-for-free/

MIGRATING FROM XP OR WINDOWS 7: The Easy Transfer Tool works for both Windows 7 and Windows 8:

- See my writeup on Migrating to Windows 7. Everything is the same
  http://www.jimopi.net/PDFs/Word%20Pro%20-%20Windows7_Upgrade.pdf
- Also see this tip: http://www.petri.co.il/windows-easy-transfer-to-migrate-windows-8-pc.htm

OFFICE 2013 TIPS:

- Make it look like Office 2010   http://mikenation.net/2013/09/06/mike-tech-show-podcast-473-09-05-13/

PASSWORDS

- **RESET OR REMOVE A USER PASSWORD**
  - ✓ Log on to an Administrator Account. Go to: *(Control Panel > "Add or remove user accounts" (Under "User account and Family Safety")).* Choose the Account. Click: Remove the password.

- **CREATE A PASSWORD RESET DISK:** This must be created on a Floppy Disk or a USB Flash-drive, not on a CD or DVD. It should be created when you first install a PC and before anything goes wrong. *(Control panel > User Accounts > Create a password reset disk)*

- **DISABLE PASSWORD EXPIRATION:** (Password timeout) From any Administrator level User Account, do the following:
  - ✓ **Windows 8 Pro/Enterprise**: *(By default, passwords expire every 42 days & must be renewed)*
    1) To change for all users at once: *(Control Panel > Administrative Tools > Local Security Policy > Account Policy > Password Policy).* Double-click "maximum password age" and change from 42 to 0.

    2) To change for one user *(Right-click Computer > Manage > double-click Local Users and Groups > double-click Users).* In the center pane, double-click the desired User Account. Click to check the box for " never expires". *This must be done for each User.*

- **PASSWORD RECOVERY:**   Try this free Utility: http://www.lazesoft.com/download.html

POWER OFF BUTTON

- Create a Shortcut Icon to power off Win 8 in one Click (Double-Click):
  http://blog.laptopmag.com/how-to-shutdown-windows-8-in-just-one-click

REFRESH YOUR PC:

- This is actually a repair reinstall where the system is cleaned and refreshed but your data and microsoft store apps are saved. I am pretty sure that independently installed programs will be lost. Time will tell.

- Custom Refresh image: http://www.howtogeek.com/108944/how-to-create-a-custom-refresh-image-in-windows-8/

Windows 8 Tips ^{cc}

REPAIR DISK: To create a Windows 8 Repair Disk:
- Download: http://www.windowsreinstall.com/winre/createfromiso/
- Create: http://www.softwareok.com/?seite=faq-Windows-8&faq=27

SAFE-MODE (Sort of) *(from Britec09 on youtube.com)*
- During Power on, Hold down the RH Shift Key and keep pressing F-8. Click on *("See Advanced Repair Options" > "Troubleshoot" > "Advanced Options" > "Startup Options" > "Enable Safe Mode")*.

- SAFE MODE AND OTHER ADVANCED STARTUP OPTIONS:.
Http://forums.toshiba.com/t5/Windows-8-Knowledge-Base/How-To-Safe-Mode-and-other-Advanced-Startup-Options-in-Windows-8/ta-p/341094

SSD Migrate an operating system from a hard-drive to an SSD.
- I use Acronis, but Paragon's "Migrate OS to SSD" is a highly recommended alternative and it works with UEFI.
- Paragon ($19.95)   http://www.paragon-software.com/technologies/components/migrate-OS-to-SSD/

START MENU and START BUTTON
- To make the Desktop look like Windows 7 including a Start button, download this freeware program: http://classicshell.sourceforge.net/

- Or this cheap Utility ($5.00): http://www.stardock.com/products/start8/

- See this Tip: http://www.pcworld.com/article/2054422/five-tools-to-bring-the-start-menu-back-to-windows-8-1.html

- Also, Windows 8.1 will help but this programs are better.

UPDATE TO WINDOWS 8.1:   See my separate sheet titled: "WINDOWS 8.1 UPGRADE"

UEFI: See BIOS

UEFI BOOTLOADER REPAIR: http://superuser.com/questions/460762/how-can-i-repair-the-windows-8-efi-bootloader

USERS - LOCAL ACCOUNT vs MICROSOFT ACCOUNT:
- Differences explained and how to log into Windows 8 without creating or using an online Microsoft Account: http://www.howtogeek.com/121975/htg-explains-microsoft-accounts-vs.-local-accounts-in-windows-8/

- Basically, when going through the initial install, on the SIGN IN screen, you must select: "Don't want to sign in with a Microsoft Account?", then carefully follow the instructions and you will eventually see a familiar User Account screen. Similar to Windows 7 User Account creation.

GENERAL TIPS
- 10 cool features: http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/jj721664.aspx

Tips from ED Bott. (9-18-2011)

With a touch screen, you need to learn three gestures:

    Swipe from the left edge to the center to flip through open apps.
    Swipe from the right edge to the center to display the menu of Windows 8 "charms": Search, Share, Start, Devices, and Settings. Start always takes you back to the Start screen.
    Swipe from the top or bottom of the screen to open an app bar on the bottom, with commands relevant to the app you're using. In the Metro-style Internet Explorer, tabs appear at the top of the window when you swipe

Sometimes a mouse gesture is the most obvious alternative to a touch gesture. But keyboard shortcuts, especially those that involve the Windows key, can be much faster and make you more productive.

    Tap the Windows key to toggle between the Start screen and the program you used most recently.
    To go to the Windows desktop (aka "classic Windows") press Windows key+M.
    To switch between running apps (treating the entire Windows desktop as a single "app"), use Windows key+Tab.
    To switch between running programs, where each Windows desktop app is on a par with Metro-style apps, use Alt+Tab. This is the same as Windows 7 and earlier.
    In any window, you can aim the mouse pointer at the lower left corner of the screen to bring up a hidden Start menu with the same choices as the Charms menu on the right side of a touchscreen.
    You can enter any command in the Run menu, which is available when you press Windows key+R.
    Press Windows key+E to bring up Windows Explorer with the Computer window selected. From here, you can click commands on the ribbon to bring up the System Properties dialog box, open Control Panel, or add or remove a program.

One thing that puzzles many first-time Windows 8 users is the lack of a Close command on full-screen Metro-style apps. That's by design: these apps suspend themselves within five seconds when you switch away, and they'll close automatically if you need the resources. But if an app becomes unresponsive, it's handy to know that you can use Task Manager to kill it. (See the details and learn the Task Manager keyboard shortcut.)

I'll have a lot more to share later, including how to create and use Windows virtual machines (first you have to enable Hyper-V, which is off by default). I'm also impressed by the new File History feature, which combines the Backup program and the Previous Versions feature into a simpler package. It should be easier to find deleted files and old versions using this new Restore interface.

Are you among the first million people to use Windows 8? What do you think so far, and do you have any hands-on questions or tips for my next installment?