

You get an extra day this week! Sort of. February 29th only comes around every 4 years. How will you spend it? This is a mindset thing but if you haven't done some routine maintenance on your phone and computer, use Leap Day to get it done. I'm looking at a few things everyone should do every now and then to protect information, speed up their devices, and improve the battery.

TRT 131

STD OUT

SUPER

0-8 Jamey Tucker/whatthetech.tv

ON-CAMERA TEASE

Feeling like there aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done? You're in luck. I'm Jamey Tucker coming up with a Leap Day project to speed up your phone and computers and improve your privacy.

ANCHOR INTRO

EVERYONE GETS AN EXTRA DAY THIS WEEK. LEAP DAY COMES AROUND ONLY ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS, SO HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND IT?

IT'D BE GREAT IF EVERYONE GOT THE DAY OFF BUT OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER SUGGESTS USING LEAP DAY TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DEVICES.

PACKAGE SCRIPT

If you've ever thought there aren't enough hours in the day to get stuff done, you've got an extra 24 on Thursday. Well, sort of. It is an extra day in the year and a great time to do some things to speed up your phone and computers. First, update your software on computers, smartphones, and tablets. Updates often include security patches to protect your devices and improve performance. Don't forget your web browsers. Chrome, Firefox, and Safari might not get updated automatically. Clear out old files you no longer use. Apps on your phone, particularly the free ones, not only take up space you'd rather use for photos but will improve speed and make the battery last longer. Back up everything. If you've got an external hard drive, move important files to it in case your computer crashes. Run a security scan on your computer. There are free software programs that'll search for malware and other things you don't need. Malware Bytes and Trend Micro are free and good to use.

Check Facebook for any third-party programs and apps using your username and password. You've probably signed in or signed up for free apps using Facebook. Go to settings, Facebook

logins, and remove any you don't recognize or don't use. And finally, restart your router by turning it off for a few seconds and turn it back on. You can do this when everyone leaves the house for a little while. It'll install updates and your home WiFi network will work more efficiently and faster. That's What the Tech? I'm Jamey Tucker

ANCHOR TAG

AND IF YOU'RE WONDERING, SOME COMPUTERS HAVE HAD ISSUES WITH A 'LEAP-DAY BUG' IN THE PAST. LAST TIME THERE WERE REPORTS OF HOTEL COMPUTERS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH ROOM KEYS AND SOME AIRPORTS HAD MINOR ISSUES WHEN COMPUTERS COULD NOT PROCESS THE EXTRA DATE.

WEB STORY

Leap Day, arriving only once every four years gifts us with an extra day this week. Many may consider this a bonus day, and our consumer technology reporter suggests it's an ideal time to conduct routine maintenance on your digital devices.

With our increasingly busy lives, an extra 24 hours can make a world of difference. So, why not use this time to enhance the performance and security of your smartphones and computers?

1. Start by updating your software. Regardless of whether you're using a Mac, PC, or tablet, software updates often come with important security patches that not only safeguard your devices but also improve their performance. And don't overlook your web browsers. Chrome, Firefox, and Safari might not update automatically, so make sure they're up-to-date.
2. Next, declutter your devices. Erase old files and apps, especially the free ones that are no longer in use. This simple step will free up storage space for photos and other important files and could enhance your device's speed and battery life.
3. It's also advisable to back up everything. In the unfortunate event of a computer crash, having important files stored on an external hard drive can be a lifesaver. While your phone is likely backed up to the cloud, creating an additional backup on your computer is a smart precaution.
4. Protect your devices from potential threats by running a security scan. Free software programs like Malware Bytes and Trend Micro can help detect malware and other unwanted elements.
5. Remember to also review your Facebook settings for any third-party programs and apps that might be using your login credentials. To do this, navigate to settings, then Facebook logins, and remove any programs you don't recognize or no longer use.
6. Finally, restart your WiFi router. You can do this when everyone is leaving the house for a bit. It'll only take a few minutes and will install any security updates, and speed up your home internet speeds.

So, this Leap Day, take some time to care for your digital devices. It could make your everyday tech experience smoother and more secure.

