WINDOWS PROBLEM? TRY A TROUBLESHOOTER

Got a problem with Windows? Printer won't work, no sound, or some other issue? Before you download anything, try a Windows Troubleshooter. To access the Windows troubleshooters, type *trouble* into the search box and select "Troubleshooting" from the search results.

The System Maintenance Troubleshooter checks for (and optionally repairs) the following types of problems with just one click of the "Next" button:

- ❖ Broken shortcuts that don't launch any apps
- ❖ Troubleshooting history logs that are taking up excessive disk space
- ❖ System time incorrectly set
- ❖ Desktop icons that haven't been used in 3 months or more - may want to delete some
- ❖ Disk volume errors - bad sectors, lost clusters, cross-linked files, and directory errors.
- ❖ Error reports and logs that are taking up excessive disk space

Windows can constantly monitor your system for buildups of these problems and alert you when it's time to run the System Maintenance Troubleshooter.

To enable this monitoring: Enter *trouble* in the Search box and click on **troubleshooting** in the results list.

- Click on the "Change Settings" link to open that section
- "Computer Maintenance" should be "on" for monitoring
- Checkmark the box to allow troubleshooting to begin immediately when started.

A number of third-party utilities do the things that System Maintenance and its Troubleshooter do. If you run Advanced Systemcare, CCleaner, Privazer, JV16 Power Tools, or another "system optimizer" app, you can skip Windows System Maintenance and its monitor.

The main screen of the Troubleshooting panel organizes the troubleshooters under four categories: Programs, Hardware and Sound, Network and Internet, and System and Security. Click "View all" in the upper-left corner to see an alphabetical listing of all the troubleshooters that are available on your computer. You may prefer "view all" so you don't have to jump from one section to another as you try to guess where the troubleshooter you need is located.

After a troubleshooter runs, you may see the message, "Troubleshooting couldn't identify the problem." That doesn't mean there is (or is not) a problem! Windows will display that message if it cannot find ANY problem, or if it finds a problem but can't identify it. The moral is: don't go looking for trouble with troubleshooters. Only if you actually are having a problem with software or hardware should you look for a troubleshooter that might be able to fix it.

Take note -- while attempting to fix a problem, troubleshooters may reset some of your system settings to Windows defaults, wiping out any customized settings you may have configured. The Power troubleshooter does this, and also sets your screensaver to "none." Again, if it isn't broken don't try to fix it.