

Mechanical Keyboards

What's the big deal and should you own one?

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A run-off-the-mill membrane keyboard uses domes under its keys. While they work, for the most part, they seldom offer the best of experiences. Like a cheap Android smartphone, you'll be content with its performance, oblivious to the fact that there are far better, albeit more expensive options out there. Enter mechanical keyboards.

Mechanical keyboards are like iOS devices. Overpriced, pretty and hella fun to use. Suffice it to say, you won't go back once you get the taste of a proper mechanical keyboard under your fingers.

So, why should you get a mechanical keyboard?

THE FEEL:

Normal everyday rubber dome keyboards require you to press a key all the way to the bottom to register it. This is frustrating, and is by no means ergonomic. However a mechanical keyboard only requires you to press the keys so that it can register the order before it hits the bottom. Hence, no effort or energy is wasted and the response time is more than halved.

THE DIVERSITY:

Mechanical keyboards come with a variety of switches to choose from. Each switch bears its own characteristics and has its own merits and demerits. Cherry MX options, Topre or Buckling Spring (among others) have unique characteristics that set them apart. Even Cherry MX has a variety of options (Brown, Blue etc) to better suit your tastes. Since this article is a launchpad to sum up what mechanical keyboards do, use Google to figure out which keys fit your need.

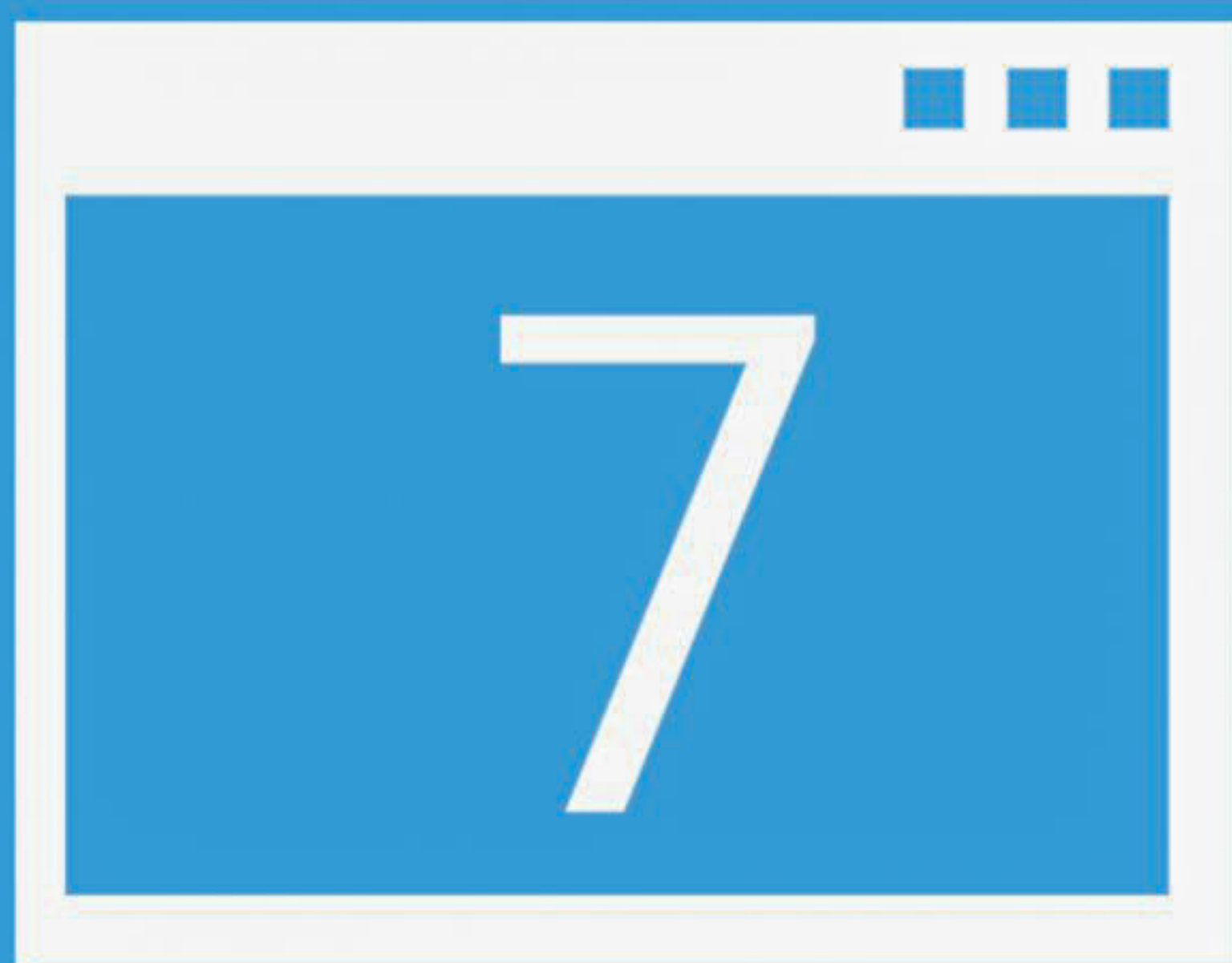
THE DURABILITY:

Mechanical keyboards are built to last. They can withstand up to triple the keystrokes than that of normal rubber dome keyboards. They are also easy to dismantle



and clean, allowing the user to make them last longer. That last point is the key here. Once you buy a mechanical keyboard, you'll be using it for years to come. It won't get outdated like a smartphone, it'll keep performing like it did when you first bought it and if it gathers enough filth to rival that of Rick Grimes from the Walking Dead, you'll be able to clean it in a jiffy. So, whether you're a paper pusher or a gamer, get yourself a mechanical keyboard. It'll be nothing but a sound investment for you.

Windows 7 & 8 Tweaks



AHNAF AKEEF

Today we will introduce to you some elementary tweaks for Windows 7 and Windows 8 which will definitely make using your computer a much better experience. It's always good to have a tweaked PC.

Disable Hibernation:

If you do not use the hibernation feature of Windows, you can disable it and in exchange gain several extra gigabytes of space and prevent extra writes on your boot drive – both of which are highly beneficial especially if your boot drive is on a solid state drive (SSD). You can disable it by following the simple steps mentioned below.

1. Open the Start Menu.
2. Type `CMD` in the search line.
3. Right click on the CMD icon that comes up and choose "Run as administrator".
4. Type `powercfg -h off` and press Enter to successfully disable the Hibernation feature.

Link to video tutorial:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3R_IodY0IKI

Disable System Protection:

If, like yours truly, you never use the System Restore feature of Windows, you can disable it via the following steps. This will net you lowered installation times when installing new applications/games in addition to the perks achieved when disabling Hibernation.

1. Open the Start Menu, right click on Computer and select Properties from the drop down menu.
2. Click System Protection on the left pane and select C:
3. Click the Configure button and then click "Turn off system protection".
4. Click OK to successfully disable System Protection.

Link to video tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9Rjw2Jt2ms>

Move Users folder to a different drive:

The User folder is located in the boot drive by default. But folders like Downloads etc. in the User folder can get quite heavy over time and can take up substantial amount of space in the boot drive. Moving such folders via the following steps can aid in keeping the boot drive free and prevent unnecessary writes to the drive.

1. Go to your User folder located in the "Users" folder in the boot drive.
2. Right click on the user folder to be moved (for example, Downloads) and select Properties.
3. Click on the Location tab from the Properties dialog box and change the location to a different directory (for example, "C:\Users\YourUserName\Downloads" to "D:\Downloads") to successfully move that user folder to a different directory/drive.



Link to video tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CO1bTlnPI7I>

Disable "Starting Windows" splash screen at Windows boot up:

We all know how Windows 7 feels like it takes ages to boot up, especially when used on a mechanical hard drive. This simple operation will get rid of the redundant splash screen and expedite the initiation process of Windows.

1. Open the Start Menu and in the search line, type `msconfig` and press Enter.
2. When the System Configuration window opens, click the Boot tab.
3. Check the checkbox for "No GUI boot".
4. Click Apply and restart to successfully disable the splash screen.

Spend 20 minutes on these simple operations and it will definitely result in an overall superior Windows experience for you.