# Laptop Tips and Tricks

1632  Laurie Sherrod  May 16, 2023  [Support & Services](#)

Some laptop recommendations for Clemson users:

1. **Backup your data on a regular basis**.  You cannot backup your important data in too many places; external hard drive, USB flash drive, the cloud.

2. **Once a month run a spyware check.** There are several free options to use.  One option is Malwarebytes.

3. **Do not give out your password.**  If you have to give it out to so someone can work on it, be sure to reset it to a new password.

4. **Choose a strong password.**  Short passwords are easier to crack, so be creative.

5. **Do not leave your computer unattended.** Many people will leave their computer at a desk when working in the library or a coffee shop.  Purchase a Kensington or similar lock.

6. **Do not reply to an email that requests personal information without verifying its authenticity.**  Also be wary of attachments as they can sometimes unleash a virus on your computer.

7. **Never email your social security number or credit card numbers.**

8. **Secure your data.**  If you ever replace your laptop, do not sell or dispose of your hard drive without destroying or keeping the hard drive.  The university actually requires department hard drives be physically destroyed.

9. **Liquids and computers do not get along well together.**  If the spilled liquid is sweetened, the electronics are more than likely toast.  Sometimes if the liquid spill is water, the computer may be recoverable.  Shut off the computer and unplug it from any power.  Place it so the liquid can drain out. Leave it for a day or so; sometimes they actually will still work.  Remove the battery if you don't have to remove the cover to do so.

10. **Use CU VPN when a secure connection is needed when using a public or unsecured wifi network.** This can prevent your computer from being hacked.

11. **Software licences will need annual renewal.** If you receive the message that your software license is invalid, connect to CU VPN then open the software; doing so validates your license.

12. **Have several browsers on your computer.** If you are trying to access something through a web browser and you are not having any luck, try a different browser.

13. **Google is our friend.** You can always try googling a solution to an issue you are having with either software or your hardware.

If you have more questions, email ITHELP@clemson.edu or call 864-656-3494.

Online URL: https://hdkb.clemson.edu/phpkb/article.php?id=1632