



10 Tech Resolutions for 2025

🎆 🎉 🥂 🎆 **Happy New Year!** 🎆 🎉 🥂 🎆

I trust you rang in the new year with loved ones and a celebration befitting a new quarter of a century. Now that the celebration (and possible resulting hangover) is over, it is a perfect time to review your current tech setup and make some changes to enhance your habits and ensure your digital environment is secure, efficient, and up-to-date. To that end, here are 10 resolutions to consider for the year:

1. Strengthen Your Cybersecurity

This could easily be an entire college course unto itself, but let's stick with the top three things that I urge you to put into place. I know many of you have already done this, but I also know some of you what haven't... you know who you are.

- A. Use strong, unique passwords for every account.
If you want to be *super secure*, consider email aliases for each account.
- B: Implement a password manager to keep them organized.
Note that a password manager is a specialized program, not just letting the browser remember your password.
- C: Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) wherever possible.

2. Regularly Back Up Data

I always recommend the following:

- A. Use a combination of online/cloud based backups and local backups.
- B: Set up automatic backups for critical files, and consider offline archives of your backups for emergencies that might render your current backups unusable or to recover accidentally deleted files or corrupted files.
- C: Test your backups on occasion to ensure they're working properly.

3. Update Software and Firmware

I know the "experts" urge everyone to keep operating systems, applications, and firmware updated to protect against vulnerabilities, and I agree with one condition:

- A: Make sure you have a system restore point in place so if an update breaks something you can roll it back until the issue is fixed.



4. Organize Digital Files

This is something I encourage you to undertake a little at a time (maybe an hour a day or something like that) since I can personally attest to having multiple terabytes of files and data, and trying to do it all at once is simply not a reasonable expectation.

- A. Declutter and organize files on your computer and cloud storage.
- B. Archive old data based on any record retention policies/regulations.
- C. Maintain a logical folder structure. If you can't find the most recent version of a specific file because you have 5 versions in 7 different places your structure needs some tweaking.

5. Audit Subscriptions

I'm not going to get on my soapbox about how much I loathe the subscription business model, but I do urge you to review your tech-related subscriptions, such as software licenses or streaming services.

- A. Cancel those you no longer use to save money.
- B. Consider "rotating" your active streaming services.
If you notice you haven't watched anything on a particular platform, cancel it until they have a new show you want to watch, then re-activate it.
- C. I know people who "merry go round" their active streaming services (keeping only 1 service active at a time) and they're reported significant savings.

6. Improve Network Security

At the very least, you should:

- A. Change the default passwords on your routers and any IoT devices (security cameras, smart thermostats, stuff like that.)
- B. Consider upgrading your wi fi router with one that has advanced security features like WPA3
- C. Be sure to check regularly for firmware updates.

7. Learn a New Tech Skill, or Improve Existing Ones

With all the constant updates to your computer operating system, phone, and the programs that exist on both, keeping current with all your existing tech skills is probably enough of a challenge, but if you want some mental exercise, consider dedicating time to learning a new software, skill, or operating system. Basic coding, video editing, or social media management are a few examples, and the new Artificial Intelligence tools can be entertaining, informative, and enhance your productivity.



8. Implement a Digital Detox

Schedule regular screen-free times to reduce stress and maintain a healthy work-life balance. If you are running a business, encourage your employees to do the same. At the risk of some serious hypocrisy, I think the days of chaining yourself to your desk and working 12+ hours non-stop should be a thing of the past.

9. Review and Upgrade Hardware

I know some of you are still running systems that are really out of date, and with Windows 10's pending end of life you really should evaluate any aging devices and consider upgrades if your local performance is lagging (remember that sometimes you may be staring at a spinning wheel because a website or your internet service is having issues.)

10. Create a Contingency Operating Plan

For those of you running a business in CA, it's wise to have a C.O.P. that you can implement in the event of an earthquake, wild fire, tsunami, mudslide, etc. (Sheesh, why are living here again?)

In the theater the philosophy is "The show must go on" but I do think that, for you business clients, being able to provide your services even after a major event requires a realistic evaluation of how such an event might impact your workflow and client base. Will your services be more in demand after such an event? Will existing jobs or projects move forward or be temporarily paused until normalcy is restored? Will a new workflow be needed (think of Covid and the whole "work from home" surge.) You're the best at evaluating if a COP is needed.

Businesses should also have a plan for responding to data breaches or IT emergencies (such as a successful ransomware attack or identity theft) since time is money, and events like these can easily result in extended downtime.

Home users should be prepared for malware or hardware failures, but I would go a step further and encourage you to think of your home as a business that might need a secondary tech headquarters from which to start any recovery process from any incident. Having a plan might be a wise investment... think of it as your own little personal tech insurance policy.

As always, if you have questions feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Christopher Cho

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