



5 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 5 resolutions to consider for the year; if you feel super motivated there is another article with 10 suggestions [here](#).

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 update is patched.



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 trying to do it all at once may not be a reasonable expectation if you have a lot of files/data.

- 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, etc.)
- 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.

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.)

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

