Configure Power Options

Introduction
Windows provides the following plans to help you manage your computer's power:

- **Balanced** – This plan offers full performance when it is needed. It saves power during periods of inactivity. This is the best power plan for most people.
- **Power Saver** – With this plan, power is saved by reducing system performance and screen brightness. This plan can help laptop users get the most from a single battery charge.
- **High Performance** – To maximize screen brightness and increase the computer's performance in some circumstances use this plan. This plan uses a lot more energy and will reduce the amount of time that a laptop battery lasts between charges.

These power plans define how the computer uses power. All of the plans determine how long the computer will remain idle before the display is turned off and the computer is placed in Sleep mode. When working on a portable computer that is running on battery power, the Power Saver plan will increase the length of time the battery charge lasts. The default settings are defined in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power Plan</th>
<th>Turn off Display</th>
<th>Activate Sleep Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Saver</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Performance</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>Never</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the built-in Power Saver plans don’t meet your needs, a custom Power Plan can be created.

**Configure Power Options**

- Click the **Start Button** (see illustration at right).
- Click the **Control Panel** link.
- If the **Small Icons** list is not displayed, click the **View by** link and then click **Small Icons**.
- Click the **Performance and Information Tools** link.
- The **Rate and improve your computer's performance** window will display (see illustration on next page).
- In the left frame of this window, click the **Adjust power settings** link.
- The **Select a Power Plan** window will display (see illustration on next page).
- In this window, click one of the plans.
- To display the **High Performance** option, click the **Show additional plans** arrow.
- To create a new plan, click the **Create a power plan** link in the left frame.
- Click any of the other options in the left frame to make changes.
- When all the changes have been made do one of the following:
  - Click the **Close** button in the upper-right corner of the window.
  - Click the **Control Panel Home** link in the left frame.
## Rate and improve your computer's performance

The Windows Experience Index assesses key system components on a scale of 1.0 to 7.9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>What is rated</th>
<th>Subscore</th>
<th>Base score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>Calculations per second</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory (RAM)</td>
<td>Memory operations per second</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphics</td>
<td>Desktop performance for Windows Aero</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaming graphics</td>
<td>3D business and gaming graphics performance</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary hard disk</td>
<td>Disk data transfer rate</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What do these numbers mean?

View and print detailed performance and system information.

### Tips for improving your computer's performance.

Learn more about scores and software online.

Your scores are current
Last update: 8/29/2013 3:35:43 PM

---

## Select a power plan

Power plans can help you maximize your computer's performance or conserve energy. Make a plan active by selecting it, or choose a plan and customize it by changing its power settings. Tell me more about power plans.

### Plans shown on the battery meter

- **Balanced (recommended)**
  - Change plan settings
  - Automatically balances performance with energy consumption on capable hardware.

- **Power saver**
  - Change plan settings
  - Saves energy by reducing your computer's performance where possible.

Show additional plans