

C H A P T E R ▼ T H R E E

BATTERY POWER & POWER MANAGEMENT

In this chapter, you will learn the fundamentals of power management and how to use it to achieve longer battery life.

In this chapter, you will learn how to operate your notebook on battery power, how to handle and maintain the battery pack, and learn about the system's power saving features.

TFT display, central processor, hard disk drive are the major hardware subsystems that consume the most power. Power management deals how these key components should behave to conserve power. For example, you can have the system turn off its display after 2 minutes of inactivity to save power. Efficient power management can help you work longer sessions before having to recharge the battery.

The Battery Pack

Lithium-Ion Battery

Your notebook uses a four-cell (or six-cell) Lithium-Ion battery pack that provides power when you don't have access to an AC outlet.



Note: It is necessary that you charge the battery pack for at least 6 hours before using it for the first time.

Note: In the Standby Suspend mode, a fully charged battery loses its power in roughly 1/2 day or less. When not being used, the battery's power will deplete in 1-2 month.

Battery Low-Power Warning

1. Low Battery Warning

Low battery condition occurs when battery power is reduced to 6%. The red battery status LED indicator blinks and the system beeps once every 16 seconds or so.

2. Very Low Battery Warning

Very Low battery condition occurs at 3 % power remaining. The red battery status LED indicator blinks and the system beeps at 4-second interval.

When the notebook warns you of its low battery condition, you will have about 3-5 minutes to save your current work.



Warning: Do not expose battery packs to temperatures below 0 degree Celsius (32 degree F) or above 60 degree C (140F). This may adversely affect the battery pack.

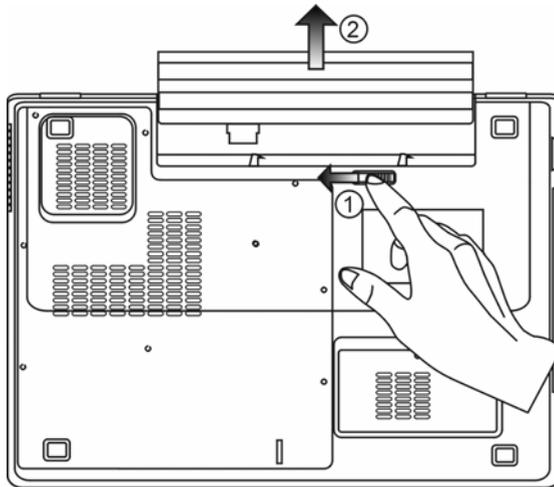


Note: Press Fn+F3 to turn off the battery warning beep.

Installing and Removing the Battery Pack

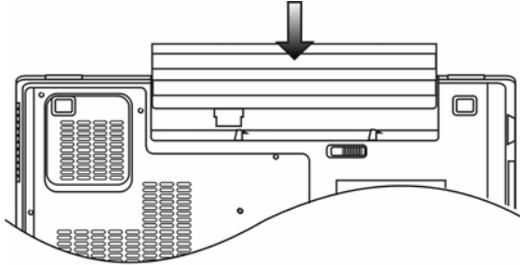
To Remove the Battery Pack:

1. Place the notebook bottom-side up on a flat and secured surface.
2. Push the latch and pull the battery's hard case away from the notebook.



To Install the Battery Pack:

1. Place the notebook bottom-side up on a flat and secured surface.
2. Carefully insert the battery pack into the battery compartment of the notebook.



Charging the Battery and Charging Time

To charge the battery, while the battery pack is in the notebook, plug the AC adapter into the notebook and an electrical outlet. The charging time is approximately 4-6 hours when the notebook is turned off and approximately 6-10 hours when the notebook is turned on.

When the battery is fully charged, the battery charge indicator becomes green.



Note: If system runs at heavy loading or in a high temperature environment, the battery may not be fully charged. You need to continue to charge it with the AC adapter plugged in until the charging LED turns green.

Checking the Battery Level

You can check the remaining battery power in the Windows battery status indicator, which is located at the lower right-hand corner of the task bar. (If you do not see a battery or AC-in icon on the task tray, go to Power Options Properties box and click on the Advanced tab. Check off ``Always show icon on the task bar``.)

Alternatively, you can access the power meter by clicking the Power Options icon in the Windows Control Panel.

Prolonging the Battery's Life and Usage Cycles

There are ways you can do to prolong the use of battery.

- Use the AC adapter wherever AC wall outlet is available. This will ensure uninterrupted computing.
- Purchase additional battery pack.
- Store the battery pack in room temperature. Higher temperature tends to deplete the battery's power faster.
- Make good use of the power management function. Save To Disk (Hibernate) saves the most energy by storing current system contents in a hard disk space reserved for this function.
- The life expectancy of the battery is approximately 300 recharges.
- See the notices section in the beginning of the user manual on how to care for the battery pack.

Note: Read Section Protecting Your Notebook in the beginning of this manual for tips about how to maintain the battery pack.

Note: To achieve optimal battery performance, you may need to do a battery calibration at a 3-month interval. To do this:

1. Fully charge the battery.
 2. Then discharge the battery by entering the BIOS setup screen. (Press F2 key as soon as you turn on the computer. And let it remain at the setup screen until the battery runs out.
 3. Fully charge the battery again.
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Using Windows Power Options

Windows Power Management provides basic power saving features. In the Windows Power Options Properties [Start > Settings > Control Panel > Power Options] dialogue box, you may enter time-out values for display and hard disk drive. Windows power manager saves power by turning off hard drive after 1 minute of inactivity, for example.

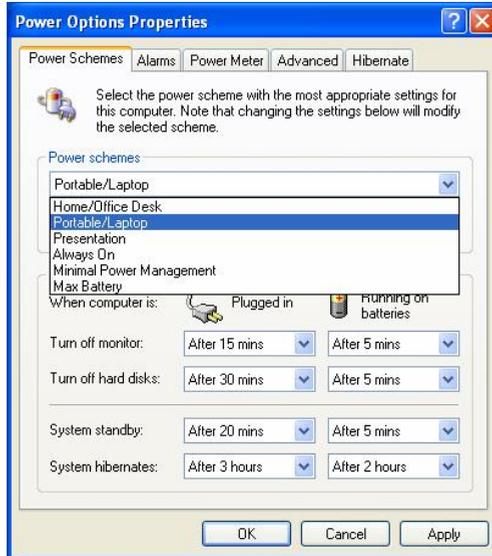
Windows' Power Schemes

The power management control panel in Windows XP, known as Power Schemes, is designed to provide the user with an easy-to-use interface. The Power Schemes tab can be found in the Power Options Properties panel that is accessible via the control panel window.

Schemes are easy to understand, based on notebook usage scenarios, and control not only processor power usage but other system peripherals as well.

Go to [Start > Settings > Control Panel] and double-click the Power Options icon.

Always on mode puts the processor into maximum performance mode, which provides no power saving. The other schemes control processor performance based on demand. For example, Max Battery mode lowers the processor's speed and voltage to conserve power as much as possible.



In this dialog box, you can manually set the LCD and hard drive's time-out values in the Plugged in column and in the Running on batteries column. Lower time-out values will save more battery power.



Note: Also consult Windows user guide for more information on how to use Windows power management functions.

Note: Actual dialogue box shown above may appear slightly different.

Suspend Mode

Standby Suspend

The system automatically enters this mode after a period of inactivity, which is set in the Power Schemes dialog box. In Standby mode, hardware devices, such as display panel and hard disk, are turned off to conserve energy.

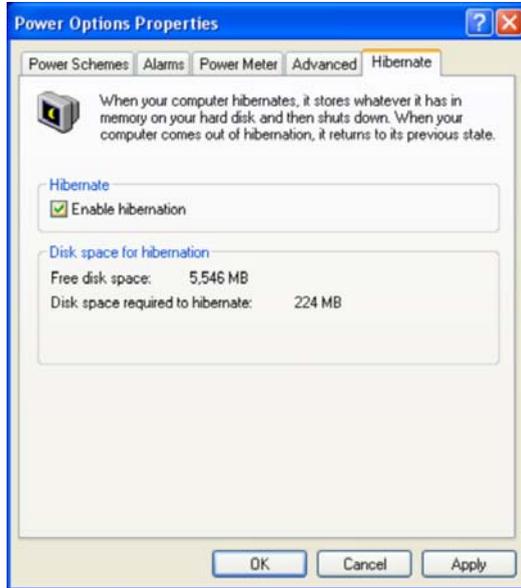
Hibernate Suspend

In this mode, all system data are saved in the hard disk before powering down. When this mode is activated, all system state and contents are saved to the hard disk drive after a period of inactivity defined by the user. No power or very little power is drawn from the battery module under this mode.

However, depending on how much RAM that have been installed on your computer, the amount of time the system requires to restore all its previous contents can range from 5 to 20 seconds.

For Windows XP users, hibernation is handled by the operating system; therefore, no special disk partition or disk file is necessary.

If you wish to activate Hibernate mode, you need enable Hibernate Support in the Hibernate tab of the Power Options menu.



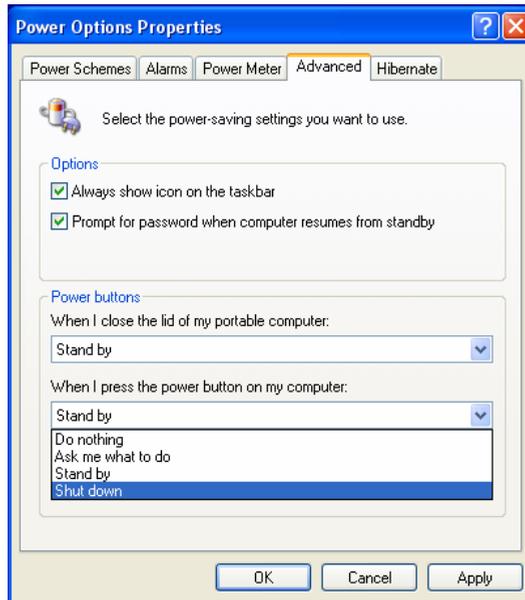
Note: Do not install or remove the memory module when the system is in the suspend mode.

Note: Actual dialogue box shown above may appear slightly different.

Power Button Action

The notebook PC's power button can be set to turn off the system or activate the suspend mode.

Go to [Start > Settings > Control Panel > Power Options] and click on the Advanced tab. In the pull-down menu, select how you wish the power button to work as.



Note: Actual dialogue box shown above may appear slightly different.

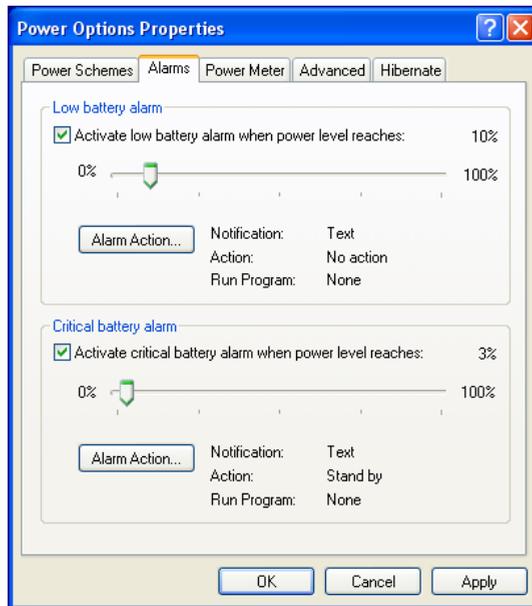


Warning: In the *When I close the lid of my portable computer* pull-down menu, DO NOT select *Do nothing* – otherwise the system will still run at high speed while the processor's fan grill is fully blocked by the closed LCD panel. The heat will damage the LCD panel.

Low Battery Warning

You can define when and how the system warns you of its battery-low condition.

Go to the Alarms tab in the Power Options Properties box. If you wish to hear audible beeps, click on the Alarm Action button and put a check on Sound Alarm.



Note: Consult Windows user guide for more information on how to use Windows power management functions.

Note: Actual dialogue box shown above may appear slightly different.

Power Menu Quick Access

Instead of making specific selections in the Power Options Properties box, you can quickly and easily specify which pre-set power saving function you desire by clicking on the Battery icon at the lower right-hand corner of the task bar. (If you do not see a battery or AC-in icon, go to Power Options Properties box and click on the Advanced tab. Check off ``Always show icon on the task bar``.) Select Max Battery if you want the system to enter suspend mode more often. Or, select Always On if your notebook PC is plugged into an AC power source.



Note: Actual dialogue box shown above may appear slightly different.