

LESSON 87

PERFORMANCE TIPS

One way to speed up the loading of Windows on your computer is to tell Windows not to look for any "new" floppy disk drives at startup. This change has no effect on your current A: drive and will not prevent your computer from booting up from the A: drive.

Right-click on My Computer. Select Properties and click on Performance. Click File System, and select the Floppy Disk tab. Remove the check mark in the box next to "Search for new floppy drives each time your computer starts." Click OK.

To increase the performance of your removable-media drives, e.g. Zip or Jaz drives, follow the same steps but click on the tab marked Removable Disks instead of the Floppy Disk tab. Place a check mark in the box next to "Enable write-behind caching on all removable disk drives." Your computer will now write information to removable disks when it has time, so you aren't waiting while data is being written to that disk.

Dial-up Internet connections often run slower than the speed at which your modem should be running. Phone line "noise" can force modems to negotiate lower connection speeds. The number of phone company "switches" between you and your ISP may have an effect on the amount of line noise you encounter. Call your ISP and ask for a connection number with the closest POP (Point Of Presence) to your current location. Reducing the number of phone switches you go through to connect to the Net can reduce line noise and give you a faster connection.

To see how many Internet servers you go through to reach a particular destination, click on Start, Programs and on MS-DOS Prompt. At the prompt, type "TRACERT" (without the quotes) and the destination you are interested in. For example, type "TRACERT **WWW.JEFFLEVY.COM**" (without the quotes) and press Enter. Your computer will now display a list of servers it connects with to take you to that Internet destination. Type, "EXIT" (without the quotes) and press Enter to return to Windows.

