

Increase Laptop Battery Life

Have you ever had your laptop's battery quit right when you needed it the most? Here are a few things you can do to increase the time your laptop will run on battery power without being recharged.

Lower the Screen Backlight

The laptop screen takes a significant amount of power. You can reduce how much power is used by decreasing the backlight brightness. The procedure for this varies by brand and model.

Turn off the Wireless

WiFi also uses a considerable amount of energy. When you're not using the Internet, turn off the wireless and you'll conserve energy for your present project. Don't forget to turn WiFi back on when you want to use the Internet again.

Adjust Power Options

Most operating systems have power options you can adjust to increase battery life-- how soon the monitor shuts off, how soon the hard disk shuts off, and when the system goes on standby. You can normally access these settings by clicking the battery icon in the system tray. In Windows XP you can also select **Start**, then **Control Panel**, then **Power Options**.