

News Article

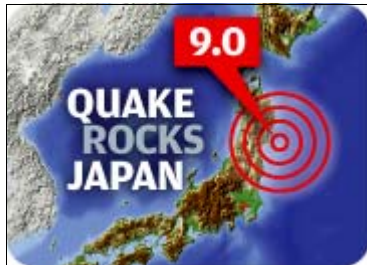
Chip makers start to resume work in Japan

Fujitsu, NEC, Panasonic, Toshiba and others slowly begin to resume chip, high-tech production after devastation

Source: Sharon Gaudin Computerworld

High-tech companies in Japan are slowly starting to get some of their manufacturing plants up and running after a massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami hammered the country nearly two weeks ago.

Japan has been devastated by the series of disasters that hit the country starting on March 11. As the nation deals with massive loss of life, a nuclear crisis, damaged roads, buildings and communities washed away, as well as rolling electrical brown-outs and black-outs, its manufacturing and economy have also taken a major hit.



But, while companies in Japan still have to deal with damaged facilities, an overwhelmed workforce and a dramatic electrical shortage, there are positive signs that some computer chip companies are starting to right themselves.

"This is huge," said Rob Enderle, an analyst with the Enderle Group. "The technology ecosystem is very complex and concerns started shifting from primary to secondary and tertiary vendors very quickly when it was clear how bad the problem was."

"Much of the world's production, of everything from tech products to cars, has been impacted because almost every modern product has some tech in it and almost all tech

has at least one part made in Japan," Enderle said.

He added that he thinks that, barring any more disasters, high-tech production there will be at about 80% in about a month and most problems should be fully resolved by the end of the year.

The crisis in Japan already has had an impact on the high-tech industry. Earlier this week, the research firm IHS iSuppli reported that the disaster was causing a shortage of 25% of worldwide production of silicon wafers, used to make computer chips.

"Because of this, the suspension of operations at these plants could have wide-ranging implications beyond the Japanese electronics industry," iSuppli noted in its report.

But work is beginning again.

The Japan-based hardware company Fujitsu, for example, has stopped production at three semiconductor manufacturing plants, but it has partially resumed operation at four other damaged facilities, including a PC manufacturing plant, a semiconductor fab and a semiconductor testing facility.

The company also has two facilities, including a mobile phone manufacturing plant, in full operation. And while Toshiba, which is headquartered in Tokyo, is moving some production, including semiconductor manufacturing, to alternative facilities, the company has two semiconductor facilities up and running. However, both received "minor damage" during the disaster.

The semiconductor, electronic

device and PC manufacturer reported that Toshiba Mobile Display, a wholly-owned subsidiary and maker of mid- and small-sized LCD displays, expects to take about a month before it gets its manufacturing line in Fukaya up and running.

While the company is focused on becoming fully operational again, executives are concerned about getting the supplies they need to build their products. "Every effort is being made to secure materials and parts and to minimize impacts on production," the company said. "Toshiba is investigating available stock, including channel inventory, parts and half-finished goods; negotiating with suppliers to switch production to locations outside the affected region; and promoting adoption of substitutes."

Renesas Electronics, which builds computer chips used in automobiles and consumer devices, partially resumed operations at five of its chip plants, and several more are expected to go back online, at least in a limited capacity, once the blackouts are over.

However, the company's Naka factory has been temporarily shut down and engineers are assessing the status of the facility's clean room for its 300mm wafer fabrication line.

Panasonic and NEC both reported Wednesday that they restarted production at some factories that had been halted after the earthquake.

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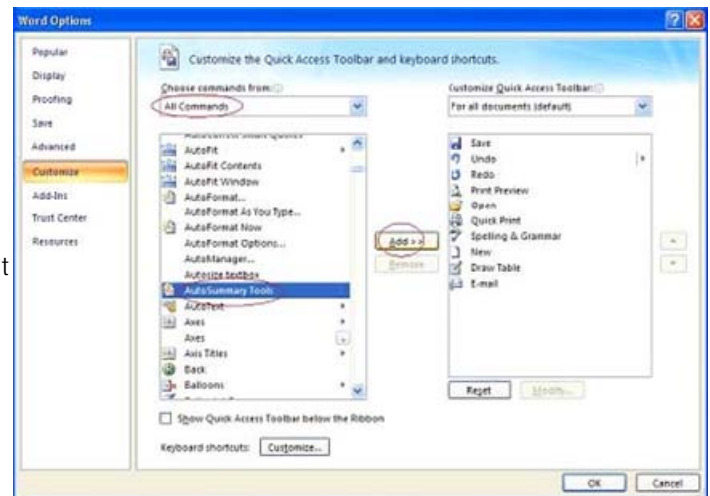
Tips for the Office

Word 2007: Create an Auto Summary

It is a time-consuming task to create a summary of a lengthy Word document. Among the many useful features of Word 2007 is the AutoSummary Tool to create a summary of a Word 2007 document. It gives scores to the sentences consisting of words which are repeatedly used. The sentences which score the maximum points are used to create a summary of a Word 2007 document. You can also utilize the Auto function to create a summary of a Word 2007 document.

You have to start by adding the AutoSummary Tools to the quick access bar. This is how you will achieve that:

- Click on the Office Button on the top left corner.
- Click on the Word options button at the bottom of the menu
- Select Customize from the left hand side of the dialog box that appears.
- Select All Commands from the drop-down menu of Choose commands from and scroll down to select the AutoSummary Tools.
- Click on the Add button in the middle.
- Click on the OK button.
- The AutoSummarize icon will now appear on the quick access bar.



In order to create the summary, follow these steps:

- Click on the AutoSummarize button from the quick access toolbar and select AutoSummarize from the menu.
- The AutoSummarize dialog box will appear. Select from among the 4 given options.
- Click on the OK button.

The option Highlight key points can be used to get the words as well as phrases which are frequently used. You can then create the summary by yourself. If you choose one of the other three options, Word 2007 will auto generate a summary which can be put on the top of the document, on a new page or just display the summary and hide the rest of the document depending on the option you choose.

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Did your know...

Fun Computer Facts



1. Bill Gates' house was designed using a Macintosh computer.
2. TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
3. On eBay, there are an average of \$680 worth of transactions each second.
4. "Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
5. 80% of all pictures on the internet are of naked women
6. In the 1980s, an IBM computer wasn't considered 100 percent compatible unless it could run Microsoft Flight Simulator*.
7. The first computer mouse was invented by Doug Engelbart in around 1964 and was made of wood.
8. Domain names are being registered at a rate of more than one million names every month.
9. There are approximately 1.06 billion instant messaging accounts worldwide.
10. The first banner advertising was used in 1994.
11. E-mail has been around longer than the World Wide Web.
12. The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute, less than half the normal rate of 20.
13. One of every 8 married couples in the US last year met online.
14. The average 21 year old has spent 5,000 hours playing video games, has exchanged 250,000 e-mails, instant and text messages and has spent 10,000 hours on the mobile phone.
15. By the year 2012 there will be approximately 17 billion devices connected to the Internet.
16. MySpace reports over 110 million registered users. Were it a country, it would be the tenth largest, just behind Mexico.
17. While it took the radio 38 years, and the television a short 13 years, it took the World Wide Web only 4 years to reach 50 million users.
18. There are approximately 1,319,872,109 people on the Internet.
19. The first domain name ever registered was Symbolics.com.
20. Another name for a Microsoft Windows tutorial is 'Crash Course'!



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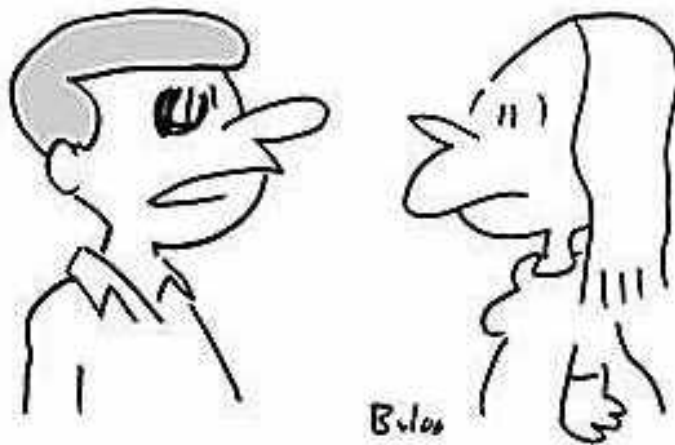
Question of the Month



Question: How do I disable the beep sound when getting e-mails in Outlook?

Answer: To disable the beep or sound you receive each time you get a new e-mail message in Microsoft Outlook follow the below steps:

1. Open Microsoft Outlook
2. Click Tools drop-down menu.
3. Click Options and then the E-mail Options button.
4. Click Advanced E-mail Options.
5. Uncheck the Play a sound checkbox.



"I sent an e-mail and it bounced."

Quote of the Month

Executives owe it to the organization and to their fellow workers not to tolerate nonperforming individuals in important jobs.

Peter Drucker

Product of the Month

Vostro V130 Laptop

Travel lightly and make a big impression.

Your laptop is as much a part of your identity as your logo. With Vostro V130, you get premium looks that show you mean business, and a lightweight, full-featured design that lets you get right down to work.

The durability you need. The design you crave. With its anodized-aluminum case, zinc hinges and magnesium-alloy palmrest, Vostro V130 blends head-turning looks with the durability you need for life on the road.

Work fast without wires — Stay connected from the office to the airport terminal using fast 802.11n wireless technology, an optional user-accessible SIM card slot and optional 4G network through Wi-Max (U.S. only).

Flex your multitasking muscle — Run Windows® 7 effortlessly while performing everyday tasks even faster with up to Intel® Core™ i5 processors and 4 GB of double data rate 3 (DDR3) SDRAM memory.

Be there, without leaving here — Give clients and the other important people in your life a little more face time by using the built-in 2-MP Webcam with your favorite video-chat program.

Stay plugged into your work.

Working on the road means adapting to new spaces — and with its easily accessible ports and connections, Vostro V130 gives you the flexibility to connect, present or simply set up in virtually any situation.

Analog or digital? Your call. Bring presentations to life on monitors, projectors and HDTVs alike using the easily accessible high-definition multimedia interface (HDMI) and VGA connections.

Back it up, or add it on. Use the two USB 2.0 ports and the shared USB/eSATA port to add devices or back up data to an external drive.

Put Bluetooth to work for you. Whether you have files to transfer, devices to sync or wireless hardware to connect, built-in Bluetooth 3.0 can help you do it all seamlessly, at blazing-fast speeds.

Point, click, shoot and share. Easily transfer photos and videos to and from your Vostro V130 with the five-in-one media card reader.



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