Making Your Technology More Shabbat Friendly

As you know, Tikvat Israel did not have on-line services on Shabbat or Yom Tov mornings previously due to our inability to provide these services in a way that wouldn't violate our synagogue's Shabbat and Yom Tov practices. The concerns were multi-fold, including turning on and off the computer, the act of writing (typing), and making a permanent creation.

Using the directions below, you can avoid each issue. As noted in my letter, at this time it is would be necessary to click start on the page when the service begins. This single click violates, at most, a rabbinic ruling, not a Biblical law – it does not involve writing, does not open or close a circuit and does not create a permanent file. In the current situation and for this purpose only, I believe it is permissible.

There are several steps to make the necessary changes, including some that are a bit more complicated and may require the help of someone with greater computer knowledge. I suggest you set this up with enough time before Shabbat to test it and ensure that everything is working correctly.

KEEPING YOUR COMPUTER/TABLET POWERED ON

By turning off automatic sleep mode, you won't have to wake it up, turn it on or re-enter password. Please make sure your device is plugged into power.

1. **FOR iPHONE/iPADs**: Go to "Settings." Now go to "Display and Brightness." Set the auto-lock feature to "Never." (For Android and other phones, there will be a similar process. If you aren't able to find it, contact your "go-to" person for tech questions or contact your provider for help.
2. **FOR PC**: Go to Settings. Now go to Power & Sleep. Change both the Screen-Saver and Sleep when plugged in to Never. If this doesn't work or if your operating system is older and uses different wording, go to https://www.help.k12.com/s/article/How-to-Disable-a-Screensaver for more detailed instructions.
3. **FOR MacOS**: Go to Control Panel and then "Desktop and Screen Saver." On the Screen Saver tab, change "Start After" to "Never." Go back to Control Panel and click on "Energy Saver." On the Power Adapter tab, slide the bar to Never. (You will get a warning – see note below.)

NOTE: You may want to reverse this step after Shabbat and re-do it each Friday. This will ensure that your screen doesn't "burn out" and help you to save energy during the week.

SETTING YOUR COMPUTER TO LOG-ON TO A WEBSITE AT A SPECIFIC TIME

Using these directions, you can set your computer ahead of Shabbat to directly open a website at a specific time. This will be more relevant when we begin to use Zoom and/or once we fix the livestream site so that it won't require someone to click on the window to activate it.

1. Use Google's Chrome browser.
2. Download a Chrome Extension called "Tab Schedule" (you will be warned as to whether you trust this extension – say yes!). https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/tab-schedule/kegpdidbhjabdmbbonhembegjpinjegl?hl=en
3. In Chrome, open the extensions tab by typing chrome://extensions/ into the search bar.
4. Find the "Tab Schedule" section, and click on "Details," which will open a new screen.
5. On this screen, go down on the page and click "Extension options". You will now enter the exact URL (web address) of the site you want the computer to open at the specified time. Once you enter the URL, add the date and time you want it to open (best to do it a minute or two after the broadcast begins).

ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS TO AUTO-START A ZOOM MEETING

There are several additional steps to open a Zoom Meeting automatically

1. Enable the Zoom app and log-in to your account.

2. The following is a modification of your Chrome that avoids the need to click "start." (If you are uncomfortable doing so, you can still open the page with the Tab Scheduler as described above. You wouldn't need to type, but you will need to click a checkbox each time.)

    a. **FOR MacOS**

        i. Under Applications/Utilities, Open the "Terminal" app.
        ii. Copy and Paste the following text into the Terminal app:
            defaults write com.google.Chrome ExternalProtocolDialogShowAlwaysOpenCheckbox -bool true
        iii. Click Ok, Close the Terminal app and Restart Chrome.

    b. **FOR PC**

        i. Download the file at
            https://drive.google.com/open?id=1dbIIOTcFx0XXnI06LIy3QVn5SjdYEpWf
        ii. Click on the file to download. You will see some scary warning messages about editing your windows registry. I have done this on my computer and can attest that it did not cause any harm.
        iii. Reboot your computer

3. Assuming you already downloaded Tab Scheduler (see previous section on "Setting Your Computer to Log-on to a Website at a Certain Time") open Chrome and go to chrome://extensions/

4. Find the "Tab Schedule" section, and click on "Details," which will open a new screen

5. On this screen, go down on the page and click "Extension options". You will now enter the exact URL (web address) from the Zoom invitation and click Add URL. If the room has a password, you will need the long form of the url that encodes the password as well. (e.g. https://zoom.us/j/10DIGITMTG#?pwd=PASSWORD)

6. Once you enter the URL, add the date and time you want it to open.

7. You can repeat this process for multiple zoom rooms and multiple dates for each one.

8. The first time you do it, you will get a pop up asking if you should always open this type of link in another program. Check the box and say yes, and then you will not see this box in the future (this is what all the terminal and registry stuff was about). After that, it will not ask again. We will provide a test opportunity before we use Zoom on a Shabbat morning.

STOPPING THE STREAM

If the host does not close the Zoom feed (or any other interactive platform), your computer will continue broadcasting and anything that passes in front of your computer camera will be visible, as well as any audio in the room. To avoid accidentally broadcasting your lives to the world:

1. Ideally, set-up the device before Shabbat in a room that can be closed off. (Note that noise travels further, making it harder to avoid the computer picking up noise from another room.)

2. One low tech solution is to physically block the device when not in use. If you are using a headset, put it in a drawer or cover it to muffle the sound; Physically cover the camera.

3. For a more high-tech (and energy-saving) solution, program your computer to "go to sleep" at a particular time.

   a. **FOR MacOS**: Go to System Preferences and select "Energy Saver." Click "Schedule" and then set the computer to "Sleep" at a particular date and time. (i.e. Saturday at 12:15 pm) The computer will go to sleep automatically 10 minutes after the time selected. (note, the same feature can also be used to wake the computer).

   b. **FOR PC**: There are several ways to schedule sleep/wake for computer using Windows OS. Check out https://windowsloop.com/schedule-windows-to-sleep-at-specific-time/ or https://www.groovypost.com/howto/schedule-wake-sleep-windows-automatically/.

I want to express my appreciation to my colleague Rabbi Josh Heller, a member of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards and author of the proposed teshuva on Streaming on Shabbat. I have made some modifications with the intent of making his recommendations even more clear. If you have problems using any of these instructions, it is probably my fault!