Screen Saver: the Moving Pictures

Leave your computer alone for a few minutes and the screen fills with moving pictures. That is the screen saver. Years ago it protected the screen from damage. Today it is mostly decoration — and a little privacy, because nobody can read your screen while the pictures dance.

If your screen went black, read this first

The screen saver is not what makes the screen go fully black — that is the computer falling asleep to save power. Either way, the fix is the same and nothing is broken: move the mouse or tap any key (the spacebar is a good one). The screen wakes right back up, exactly where you left it.

Choosing your screen saver

On Windows: open Settings → Personalization → Lock screen, then scroll down and click Screen saver settings. Pick one you like from the list — your own photos make a lovely one — and set how many minutes of sitting still before it starts.

On a Mac: open the Apple menu → System Settings, then click Screen Saver on the left. Pick a design and choose when it kicks in.

Turn it off if it annoys you

You do not have to have one at all. In that same screen saver screen, choose None (Windows) or set it to Never (Mac). The computer will simply go to sleep when idle, which is perfectly fine.

When to call Sean instead

- The screen goes black after only a minute or two and it drives you crazy — the timing is adjustable.
- You want your own photos as the screen saver and cannot get them to show.
- The computer asks for a password every time it wakes up and you want that changed.

Need a hand? Call Sean at **(813) 770-6082**.