

**SONY**

# User Guide

Personal Computer  
**VGC-LA series**



# Contents

Before Use .....	5
Notice .....	5
ENERGY STAR .....	6
Documentation .....	7
Ergonomic Considerations .....	11
Getting Started .....	13
Locating Controls and Ports .....	14
About the Indicator Lights .....	19
Connecting a Power Source .....	20
Shutting Down Your Computer Safely .....	23
Using Your VAIO Computer .....	24
Using the Keyboard .....	25
Using the Mouse .....	32
Using the Built-in MOTION EYE Camera.....	37
Using the Optical Disc Drive .....	39
Using the TV Function .....	50
Using PC Cards .....	54
Using the ExpressCard Module .....	57
Using the Memory Stick Media .....	61
Using Other Memory Cards .....	66
Using the Internet.....	69
Using Wireless LAN (WLAN) .....	70

Using Peripheral Devices .....	78
Connecting a Universal Serial Bus (USB) Device .....	79
Connecting a Printer .....	81
Connecting an i.LINK Device .....	82
Connecting to a Network (LAN) .....	84
Customizing Your VAIO Computer .....	85
Setting the Password .....	86
Setting Up Your Computer with VAIO Control Center.....	89
Using the Power Saving Modes .....	90
Configuring Your Modem .....	95
Upgrading Your VAIO Computer.....	97
Adding and Removing Memory.....	98
Precautions .....	104
On Handling the LCD Screen .....	105
On Using the Power Source .....	106
On Handling Your Computer.....	107
On Using the Built-in MOTION EYE Camera.....	109
On Handling Floppy Disks .....	109
On Handling Discs .....	110
On Using Headphones.....	111
On Handling Memory Stick Media.....	112
On Handling the Hard Disk .....	113

Troubleshooting .....	114
Computer .....	115
System Security .....	122
Built-in MOTION EYE Camera.....	124
Internet.....	127
Networking.....	129
CDs and DVDs.....	132
Display .....	136
Printing.....	137
Microphone .....	138
Mouse .....	139
Speakers .....	140
Keyboard.....	141
Floppy Disks .....	142
PC Cards .....	143
Audio/Video.....	144
Memory Stick Media .....	145
Peripherals.....	146
Support Options .....	147
Sony Support Information .....	147
e-Support .....	148
Trademarks.....	150

## Before Use

Congratulations on your purchase of this Sony VAIO® computer, and welcome to the on-screen User Guide. Sony has combined leading-edge technology in audio, video, computing, and communications to provide state-of-the-art personal computing.

## Notice

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## ENERGY STAR

As an ENERGY STAR Partner, Sony has determined that this product meets the ENERGY STAR guidelines for energy efficiency. The International ENERGY STAR Office Equipment Program is an international program that promotes energy saving through the use of computers and their office equipment. The program backs the development and dissemination of products with functions that effectively reduce energy consumption. It is an open system in which business proprietors can participate voluntarily. The targeted products are office equipment such as computers, displays, printers, facsimiles and copiers. Their standards and logos are uniform among participating nations.

ENERGY STAR is a U.S. registered mark.



## Documentation

Your documentation includes printed information and user guides to read on your VAIO computer.

Guides are provided in PDF format, which you can easily browse through and print out.

The **My Club VAIO** portal is a perfect starting point to use your computer — a comprehensive collection of everything you need to get the most from your computer.

The user guides are collected under **Documentation**, which can be shown as follows:

- 1 Click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, and click **My Club VAIO**.
- 2 Click **Documentation**.
- 3 Select the guide you want to read.



You can manually browse to the user guides by going to **My Computer > VAIO (C:)** (your C drive) > **Documentation > Documentation** and opening the folder for your language.

You may have a separate disc for the documentation of bundled accessories.

## Printed Documentation

- A Setting Up Poster** — Describes the process from unpacking to starting up your VAIO.
- Troubleshooting Guide** — Contains solutions to common problems.
- Recovery Guide** — Contains an explanation of how to recover your computer's system if you need to.
- Booklets containing the following information: Sony **GUARANTEE** conditions, **Safety / Regulations, Modem Regulations, Wireless LAN Regulations, Bluetooth Regulations, End User Software License Agreement**, and **Sony Support services**.

## Non-printed Documentation

- ❑ **User Guide** (this manual) — Contains features of your computer. It also includes information about the software programs included with your computer, as well as information on solving common problems.
- ❑ **Specifications** — The online **Specifications** describe the hardware and software configuration of your VAIO computer.

To view the online **Specifications**:

- 1 Connect to the Internet.
- 2 Go to the Sony online support Web site at <http://www.vaio-link.com/>.

## My Club VAIO

In **My Club VAIO** you can find:

**Documentation**, which gives you:

- ❑ Access to the **User Guide**. This manual explains the features of your computer in detail, how to use these features confidently and safely, connect peripheral devices and more.
- ❑ Access to **Help & Training**. This is the portal of **VAIO Help and Support Center**.
- ❑ Important information about your computer, in the form of notices and announcements.

In **My Club VAIO** you can also find:

- ❑ **Accessories**

Want to expand the capabilities of your computer? Click on this icon and have a look at your compatible accessories.

- ❑ **Software**

Feeling creative? Click this icon for an overview of your software and check out our upgrade options.

- ❑ **Wallpapers**

Click this icon and check out our most popular Sony and Club VAIO wallpapers.

- ❑ **Links**

Click this icon and check out our most popular Sony and Club VAIO web sites.

## Help and Support Center

**Help and Support Center** is a comprehensive resource for practical advice, tutorials, and demonstrations to help you learn to use Microsoft Windows XP and your computer.

Use the Search feature, Index, or table of contents to view all Windows Help resources, including those that are on the Internet.

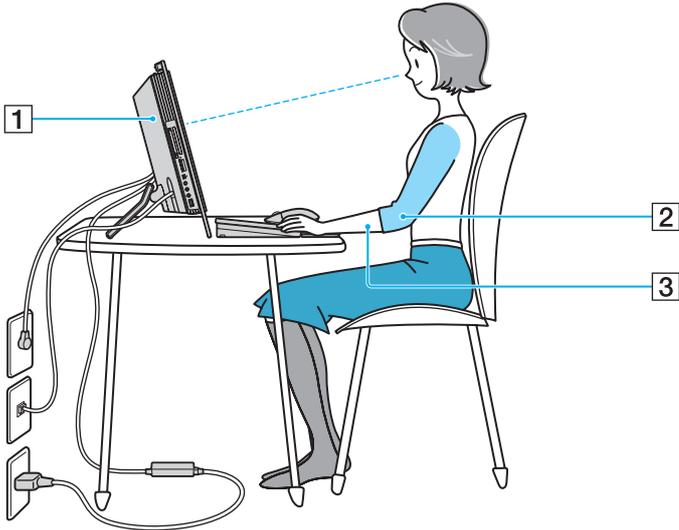
To access **Help and Support Center**, click **Start** and then **Help and Support**. Or go to the **Help and Support Center** by pressing the Microsoft Windows key  and the **F1** key.

## Further Sources

- Consult the help files on the software you are using for detailed information on features and troubleshooting.
- Go to [www.club-vaio.com](http://www.club-vaio.com) to find online tutorials about your favorite VAIO software.

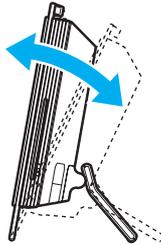
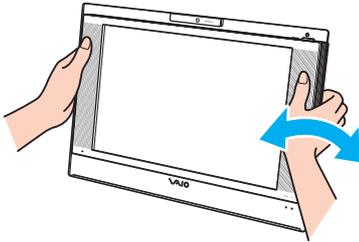
## Ergonomic Considerations

Whenever possible, you should attempt to take account of the following ergonomic considerations:



- ❑ **Stable work surface** — Use a stable work surface large enough to support the computer and other peripheral equipment.
- ❑ **Position of your computer** – Place the display directly in front of you (1). Keep your forearms horizontal (2), with your wrists in a neutral, comfortable position (3) while using the keyboard, pointing device, or external mouse. Let your upper arms hang naturally at your sides. Have breaks during sessions with your computer. Excessive use of the computer may strain muscles or tendons.

- ❑ **Furniture and posture** – Sit in a chair with good back support. Adjust the level of the chair so your feet are flat on the floor. A footrest may make you more comfortable. Sit in a relaxed, upright posture and avoid slouching forward or leaning far backwards.
- ❑ **Viewing angle of the display** – Use the display's tilting feature to find the best position. You can reduce eye strain and muscle fatigue by adjusting the tilt of the display to the proper position. Adjust the brightness setting of the display as well.



**!** While adjusting the viewing angle, do not exert excessive pressure on your computer, especially on the center of the speaker grill, to eliminate a risk of mechanical damage.

- ❑ **Lighting** – Choose a location where windows and lights do not create glare and reflection on the display. Use indirect lighting to avoid bright spots on the display. You can also purchase accessories for your display that help reduce glare. Proper lighting adds to your comfort and work effectiveness.
- ❑ **Ventilation** – Make sure you leave at least 10 cm of space behind and at least 20 cm of space on each side of the main unit.

# Getting Started

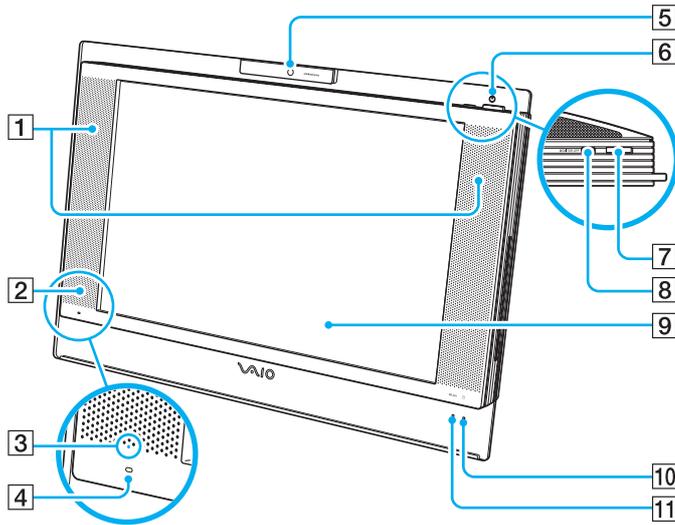
This section describes how to get started with using your VAIO computer.

- ❑ **Locating Controls and Ports** ([page 14](#))
- ❑ **About the Indicator Lights** ([page 19](#))
- ❑ **Connecting a Power Source** ([page 20](#))
- ❑ **Shutting Down Your Computer Safely** ([page 23](#))

## Locating Controls and Ports

Take a moment to identify the controls and ports shown on the following pages.

### Front



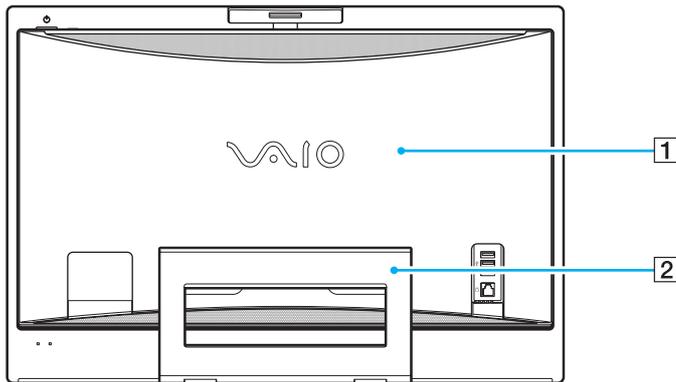
- 1 Built-in speakers
- 2 Infrared receiver  
Point the supplied remote commander to this sensor for operations.
- 3 Infrared signal indicator ([page 19](#))
- 4 Built-in microphone (monaural)
- 5 Built-in MOTION EYE camera ([page 37](#))
- 6 Power indicator ([page 19](#))
- 7 Power button
- 8 **MONITOR OFF** button / **MONITOR OFF** indicator ([page 19](#))  
Press this button to turn off the LCD backlight and the speaker volume.



You can change the **MONITOR OFF** button setting to keep the speaker volume on. See [Setting Up Your Computer with VAIO Control Center \(page 89\)](#) and find out more in its help file.

- 9 LCD screen ([page 105](#))
- 10 Hard disk drive indicator ([page 19](#))
- 11 **WLAN** (Wireless LAN) indicator ([page 19](#))

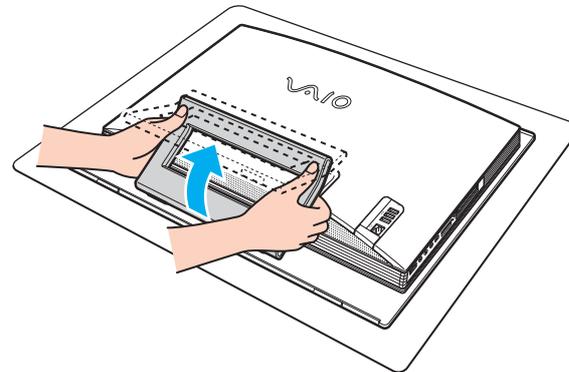
## Back

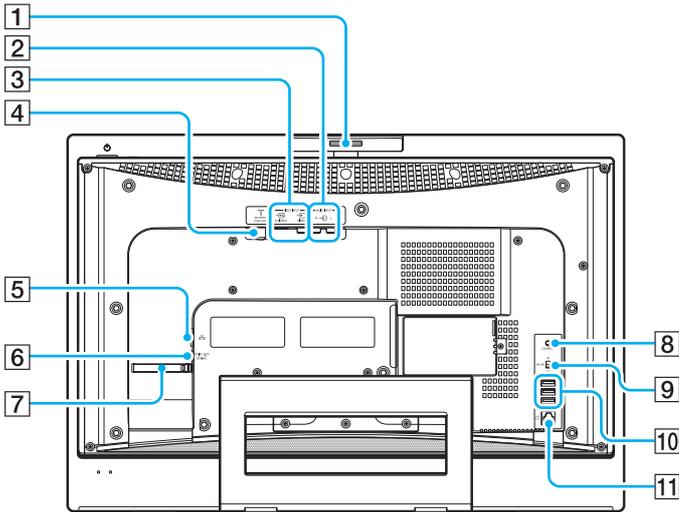


- 1** Back panel cover  
Remove the back panel cover to access the ports and jacks behind it ([page 20](#)).

**!** Before removing the cover, be sure to shut down your computer, disconnect all peripheral devices, and unplug the computer.

- 2** Prop-up stand  
Grasp the side ends with both hands and raise the bottom end, as shown below, to place your computer upright. When moving or storing the computer, you can simply push it back in for easy handling.

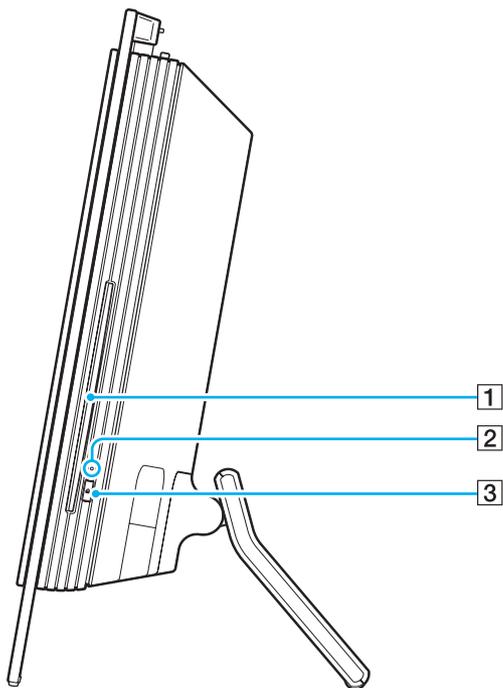




- 1 Capture angle adjuster (page 38)
- 2 **AUDIO INPUT (L/R)** jacks  
Connect an external device such as a VCR.
- 3 **VIDEO INPUT (S VIDEO/VIDEO)** port  
Connect an external device such as a VCR.
- 4 **VHF/UHF** port (page 50)
- 5 Network (Ethernet) port (page 84)
- 6 **DC IN** port (page 20)
- 7 Cable bundler (page 22)
- 8 **CONNECT** button (page 25), (page 32)
- 9 **WLAN** (Wireless LAN) switch (page 70)
- 10 Hi-Speed USB (USB 2.0) ports \* (page 79)
- 11 Modem port (page 69)

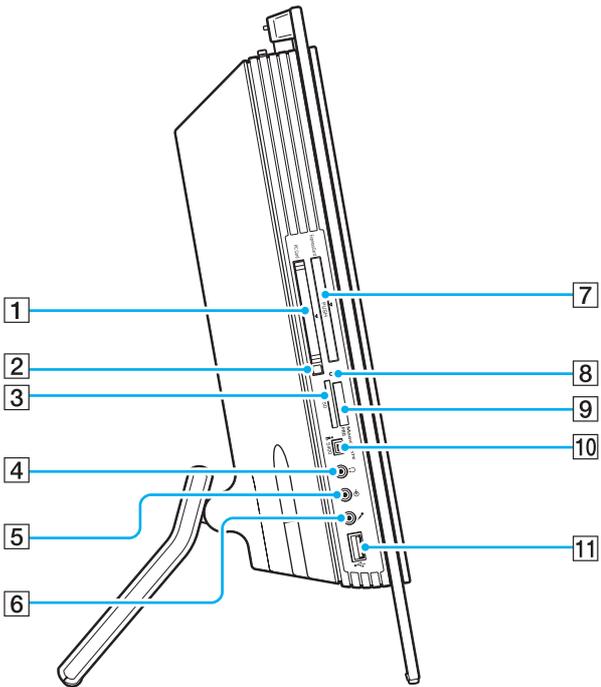
\* Supports high-/full-/low- speeds.

## Right



- 1 Optical disc drive ([page 39](#))
- 2 Optical disc drive indicator ([page 19](#))
- 3 Drive eject button ([page 41](#))

Left



- 1** **PC Card** slot (page 54)
  - 2** PC Card release button (page 56)
  - 3** **SD** memory card slot (page 67)
  - 4** Headphones jack  
Connect external headphones or speakers.
  - 5** Line In jack  
Connect an external audio device for audio input.
  - 6** Microphone jack  
Connect an external microphone.
  - 7** Universal **ExpressCard** slot\*<sup>1</sup> (page 58)
  - 8** Media Access indicator (page 19)
  - 9** Memory Stick PRO/Duo media slot\*<sup>2</sup> (page 63)
  - 10** i.LINK (IEEE 1394) S400 port (page 82)
  - 11** Hi-Speed USB (USB 2.0) port\*<sup>3</sup> (page 79)
- \*<sup>1</sup> Referred to as the ExpressCard slot hereinafter.  
 \*<sup>2</sup> Your computer supports Memory Stick PRO media and Memory Stick Duo media with high speed and high capacity capabilities.  
 \*<sup>3</sup> Supports high-/full-/low- speeds.

## About the Indicator Lights

Your computer is equipped with the following indicator lights.

Indicator	Functions
Power 	Illuminates in green when the power of the computer is on, illuminates in orange when the computer is in Standby mode, and turns off when the computer is in Hibernate mode or off.
Media Access	Illuminates when data is read from or written to a memory card. (Do not enter Standby mode or turn off the computer when this indicator is on.) When the indicator is off, the memory card is not being used.
<b>MONITOR OFF</b>	Illuminates in orange when the LCD backlight and the speaker volume are turned off.
Infrared signal	Illuminates upon receipt of infrared signals.
Optical disc drive	Illuminates when data is read from or written to the optical disc. When the indicator is off, the optical disc is not being used.
Hard disk drive 	Illuminates when data is read from or written to the hard disk drive. Do not enter Standby mode or turn off the computer when this indicator is on.
WIRELESS LAN	Illuminates when the wireless LAN function is running.



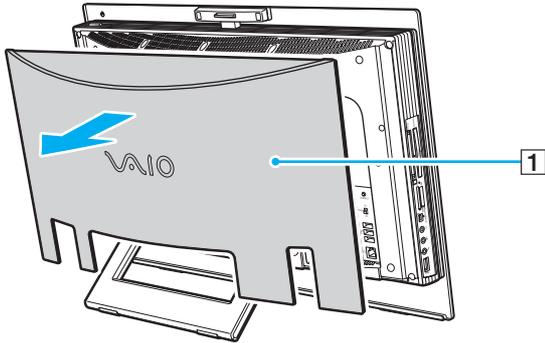
You can change the brightness of the indicator lights. See **Setting Up Your Computer with VAIO Control Center (page 89)** and find out more in its help file.

## Connecting a Power Source

You need an AC adapter as a power source for your computer.

### Before accessing the DC IN port

You need to remove the back panel cover (1). Simply pull the cover off your computer.



! Be sure to put the cover back on the computer when you are done.

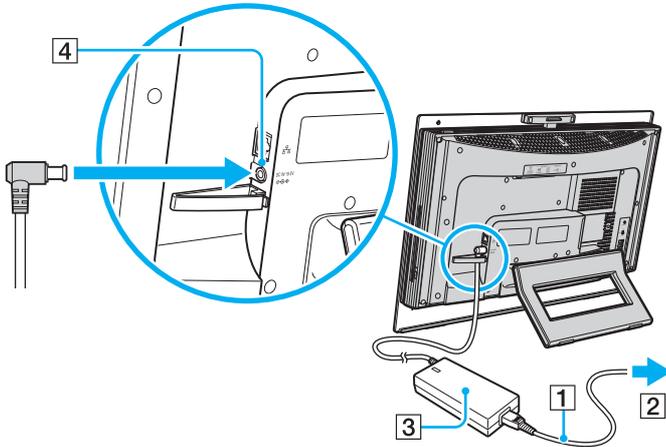
## Using the AC Adapter



Use your computer only with the supplied AC adapter.

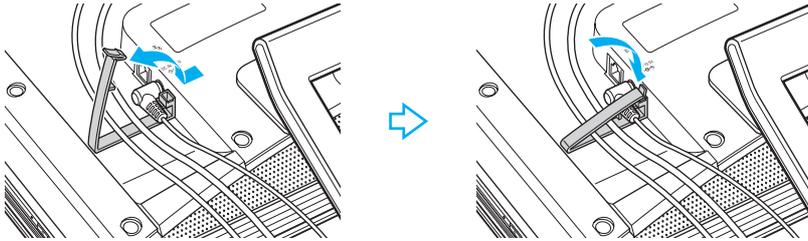
### To use the AC adapter

- 1 Plug one end of the power cord (1) into the AC adapter (3).
- 2 Plug the other end of the power cord into an AC outlet (2).
- 3 Plug the cable attached to the AC adapter (3) into the **DC IN** port (4) on the computer.





You can bundle the AC adapter cable along with other cables to keep them tidy. Snap open the cable bundler, route the cables through it, and then snap the cable bundler back shut as shown below:



To disconnect your computer completely from AC power, unplug the AC adapter.

Make sure that the AC outlet is easily accessible.

If you do not use your computer for a long period of time, place the computer into Hibernate mode. See **Using Hibernate Mode (page 93)**. This power saving mode saves the time of shutting down or resuming.

## Shutting Down Your Computer Safely

To avoid losing unsaved data, be sure to shut down your computer properly, as described below.

To shut down your computer

- 1 Turn off any peripherals connected to the computer.
- 2 Click **Start** and then **Turn Off Computer**.  
The **Turn off computer** window appears.
- 3 Click **Turn Off**.
- 4 Respond to any prompts warning you to save documents or to consider other users and wait for the computer to turn off automatically.  
The power indicator light turns off.

# Using Your VAIO Computer

This section describes how to get the most out of using your computer.

- ❑ **Using the Keyboard** ([page 25](#))
- ❑ **Using the Mouse** ([page 32](#))
- ❑ **Using the Built-in MOTION EYE Camera** ([page 37](#))
- ❑ **Using the Optical Disc Drive** ([page 39](#))
- ❑ **Using the TV Function** ([page 50](#))
- ❑ **Using PC Cards** ([page 54](#))
- ❑ **Using the ExpressCard Module** ([page 57](#))
- ❑ **Using the Memory Stick Media** ([page 61](#))
- ❑ **Using Other Memory Cards** ([page 66](#))
- ❑ **Using the Internet** ([page 69](#))
- ❑ **Using Wireless LAN (WLAN)** ([page 70](#))

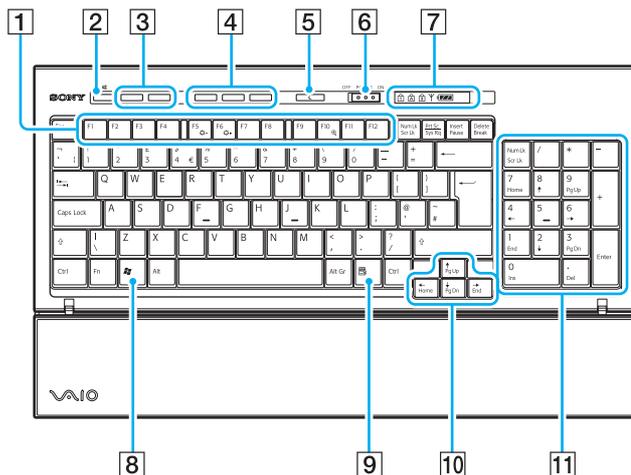
## Using the Keyboard

A wireless keyboard is supplied with your computer.

The wireless keyboard uses a standard key arrangement with additional keys that perform specific functions.

The VAIO-Link web site ([www.vaio-link.com](http://www.vaio-link.com)) also contains glossary information to help you use the keyboard.

## Using the Wireless Keyboard



Illustrated above is the English keyboard as an example.

- 1** Function keys  
Perform certain tasks. The task associated with each function key varies among software applications except the following combinations with the **Fn** key.

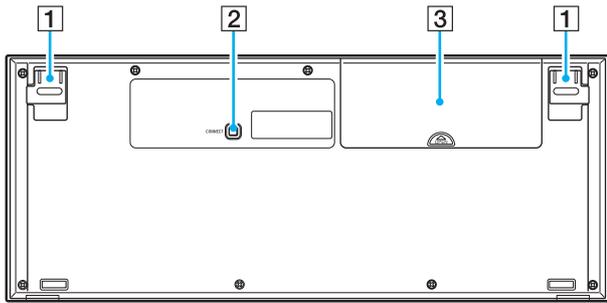
  - Fn + F5**: Decreases lightness intensity of the LCD screen.
  - Fn + F6**: Increases lightness intensity of the LCD screen.
  - Fn + F10**: Changes the screen resolution.
- 2** Muting button  
Turns the volume on and off.
- 3** Volume control buttons  
Increase (+) or decrease (-) the volume.
- 4** Shortcut buttons  
Perform the pre-assigned tasks. The default tasks are as follows:

  - S1**: Launches or exits **LifeFlow**.
  - S2**: Launches **Internet Explorer**. When **Internet Explorer** is up and running, press this button to magnify the contents in the foreground **Internet Explorer** window. One press magnifies the contents by 25%. When magnification reaches 200%, it goes back to 100%. If the **Internet Explorer** window is minimized or hidden behind another window, pressing this button will bring the window into the foreground.
  - S3**: Opens the **Media Center Start** menu.



You can change these button assignments with **VAIO Control Center**. See **Setting Up Your Computer with VAIO Control Center** (page 89) and find out more in its help file.

- 5** Standby button  
Provides for the lower level of power consumption.  
For details on power management, see **Using the Power Saving Modes (page 90)**.
- 6** **POWER** switch  
Slide the **POWER** switch to turn on and off the wireless keyboard.
- 7** Indicators
-  (Battery):  turns on while the AA batteries for the wireless keyboard are sufficient and switches to  when the batteries wear out.
-  (Num lock): Turns on while in the Num Lock state.
-  (Caps lock): Turns on while in the Caps Lock state.
-  (Scroll lock): Turns on while in the Scroll Lock state.
-  (Connect): Turns on while connection between the computer and the wireless keyboard is in place to indicate that the keyboard is ready for use ([page 30](#)).
- 8** Windows key  
Displays the **Start** menu.
- 9** Applications key  
Displays a shortcut menu in certain software applications.
- 10** Directional arrow keys  
Move the pointer on the computer screen.
- 11** Numeric keypad  
Use the numeric keypad to type numbers or to perform basic math calculations.



- 1** Keyboard feet  
Flip open to adjust the keyboard angle.
- 2** **CONNECT** button  
Press to enable the wireless keyboard to communicate with the main unit.
- 3** Battery compartment  
Storage compartment for the AA batteries.

## Before You Use the Keyboard

Four AA alkaline batteries are supplied with your computer for use in the wireless keyboard. Before attempting to use the wireless keyboard, you must install the batteries and establish communication between the computer and the keyboard. To connect your wireless keyboard, it must be located within a range of 30 cm to 1 m from the computer.

**!** To maintain good communication, operate the wireless keyboard within the distance limitations of keyboard: 10 m from your computer.

Confirm that the supplied AA batteries are properly installed.

Press the **CONNECT** button located on the back of your computer first, and then press the **CONNECT** button on the bottom of the wireless keyboard.

Avoid using any wireless devices that exchange radio signals on the 2.4 GHz frequency band near the wireless keyboard. These devices may cause interference, causing the keyboard to stop working properly.

Do not place metal furniture near your computer or wireless keyboard, as this may create interference, causing the keyboard to stop working properly.

Do not mix old (used) and new batteries when replacing batteries in the wireless keyboard. Always use the same type and manufacture of battery.

Do not mix alkaline with manganese batteries. Using incompatible batteries or mixing used, new or different types of batteries can damage the wireless keyboard.

## To connect the wireless keyboard

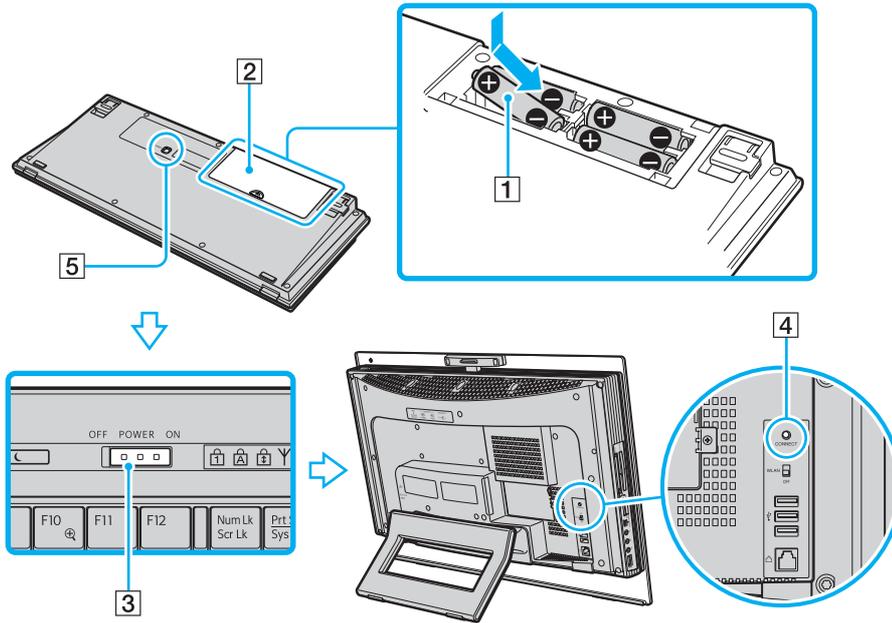
- 1 Insert the supplied four AA batteries (1) into the battery compartment (2) on the bottom of the wireless keyboard.
- 2 Turn on the computer.
- 3 Slide the **POWER** switch (3) at the top of the keyboard to the **ON** position.
- 4 Press the **CONNECT** button (4) on the back of the computer.
- 5 Press the **CONNECT** button (5) on the bottom of the keyboard.

The connect indicator  $\Upsilon$  turns on in the indicator window on the keyboard when connection is established between the computer and the keyboard. If not, repeat the procedure.



Steps 4 and 5 must be completed within 10 seconds of each other.

If the wireless keyboard is left unused for 20 minutes or longer, the connect indicator  $\Upsilon$  will turn off. This could indicate that the connection between your computer and the keyboard is lost. Press the **Fn** key to check that the connect indicator turns on before using the keyboard.



You can check the battery indicator (  or  ) in the indicator window on the wireless keyboard for its battery power level.

If the wireless keyboard does not operate properly, the batteries may need to be replaced. If the wireless keyboard is not being used for an extended period of time, remove the batteries to avoid possible damage from battery leakage.

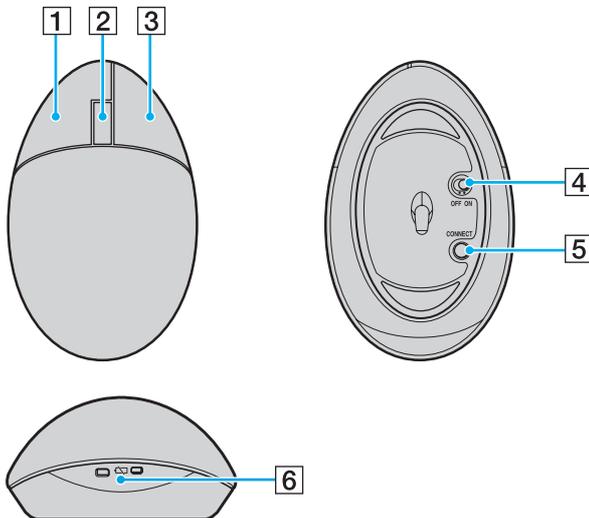
If you want to put the wireless keyboard in a more 'ergonomic' position, flip open the keyboard feet.

## Using the Mouse

A wireless mouse is supplied with your computer.

### Using the Wireless Mouse

The wireless optical mouse has no cables to plug in and uses a light-emitting diode (LED) instead of a ball.



- 1** Left button  
Click or double-click the left button to select items. To drag and drop items, hold the left button down while sliding the mouse, then release the button to drop the item.
- 2** Central wheel  
Rotate the central wheel to scroll up or down a page. Press the wheel once to lock the scroll action and control the movement by moving the entire mouse (the scroll function is available only with applications that support it).
- 3** Right button  
Press the right button once to display a context-sensitive shortcut menu (not always an active function).
- 4** Power switch  
Slide the switch to turn the mouse on and off. This will help you save battery power.
- 5** **CONNECT** button  
Press to enable communication between the computer and the wireless mouse.
- 6** Battery indicator  
Blinks when the mouse batteries are running out of power.

## Before You Use the Mouse

Two AA alkaline batteries are supplied with your computer for use in the wireless mouse. Before attempting to use the wireless mouse, you must install the batteries and establish communication between your computer and the mouse. To connect the wireless mouse, it must be located within a range of 30 cm to 1 m from the computer.

! To maintain good communication, operate the wireless mouse within the distance limitations of mouse: 10 m from your computer.

Confirm that the supplied AA batteries are properly installed.

Press the **CONNECT** button located on the back of your computer first, and then press the **CONNECT** button on the bottom of the wireless mouse.

Avoid using any wireless devices that exchange radio signals on the 2.4 GHz frequency band near the wireless mouse. These devices may cause interference, causing the mouse to stop working properly.

Use surfaces such as plain paper, card stock, or fabric that have minimal repetitive patterns.

Avoid surfaces such as mirrors, smooth glass, or magazines that have half- tone printing.

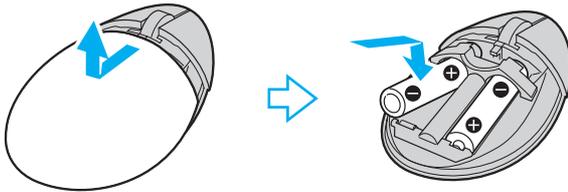
Do not place metal furniture near your computer or wireless mouse, as this may create interference, causing the mouse to stop working properly.

Do not mix old (used) and new batteries when replacing batteries in the wireless mouse. Always use the same type and manufacture of battery.

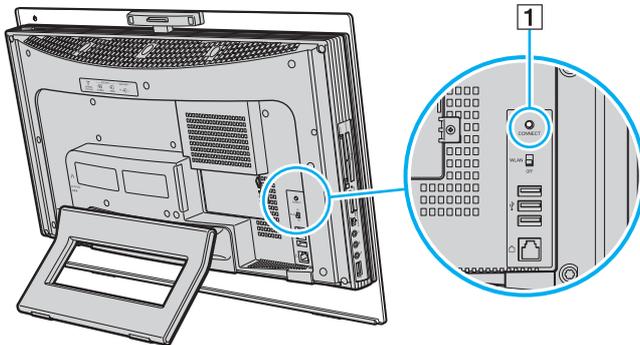
Do not mix alkaline with manganese batteries. Using incompatible batteries or mixing used, new or different types of batteries can damage the wireless mouse.

## To connect the wireless mouse

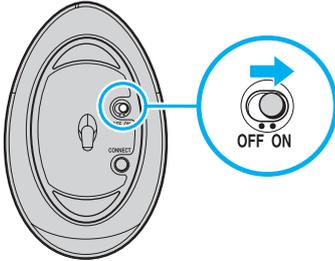
- 1 Insert the supplied two AA batteries into the wireless mouse as shown below.



- 2 Turn on the computer.
- 3 Press the **CONNECT** button (1) on the back of the computer.



- 4 Turn over the wireless mouse, slide the power switch to the **ON** position, and press the **CONNECT** button. Communication between the wireless mouse and the computer should now be established.



! Step 3 and 4 must be completed within 10 seconds of each other.



If the wireless mouse does not operate properly, the batteries may need to be replaced. If the wireless mouse is not being used for an extended period of time, remove the batteries to avoid possible damage from battery leakage.

## Adjusting the Mouse Functions

- 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
- 2 Click **Printers and Other Hardware**.
- 3 Click **Mouse**.  
The **Mouse Properties** window appears.
- 4 Change the settings.

## Using the Built-in MOTION EYE Camera

Your computer is equipped with a built-in MOTION EYE camera.

The built-in MOTION EYE camera adds video functionality to instant messaging software and video editing software, for example **Windows Messenger** and **Windows MovieMaker**.

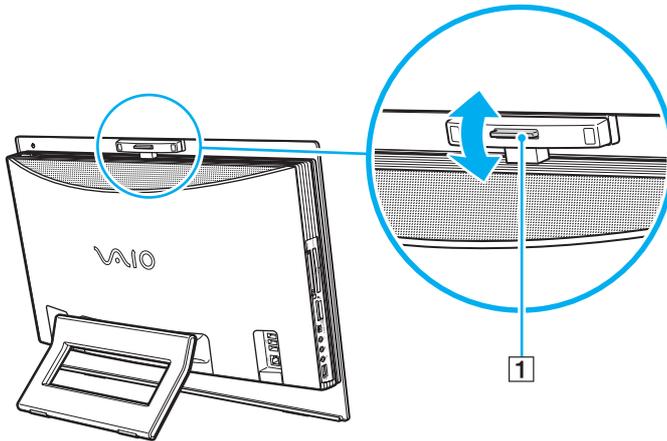
Turning on the computer activates the built-in MOTION EYE camera, so the computer is ready for a video conference using such software.

Note that launching or exiting your instant messaging or video editing software does not activate or deactivate the built-in MOTION EYE camera, respectively. Make sure that the camera is activated before using the software.



The built-in MOTION EYE camera cannot be shared by more than one software application. If another software application is using the camera, exit the application before using the built-in MOTION EYE camera.

You can change the capture angle of the built-in MOTION EYE camera with the capture angle adjuster (1) on the back of your computer. Push down or up the horizontal bar to adjust the angle upward or downward, respectively, until you see the live feed in the desired angle.



**!** The viewer window may show some noises, for example horizontal streaks, if you view a rapid-moving object. This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.

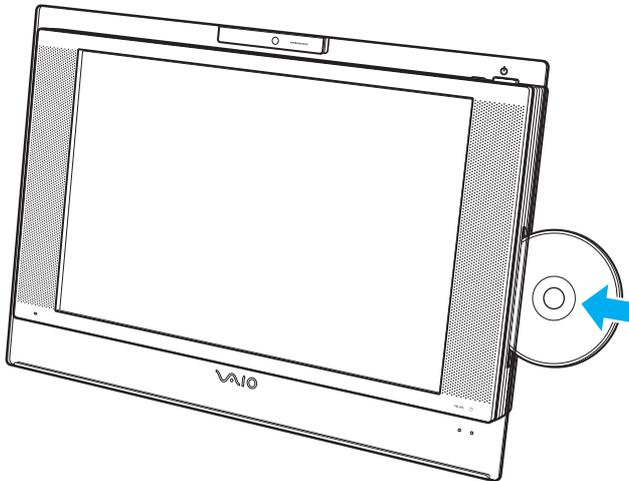
## Using the Optical Disc Drive

Your computer is equipped with an optical disc drive.

To insert a disc

**!** Be sure to attach the 8cm disc adapter to an 8cm disc before inserting the disc into the optical disc drive slot.

- 1 Turn on the computer.
- 2 With the label side facing toward you, slide a disc into the optical disc drive slot.





In Standby or Hibernate mode, inserting a disc will automatically launch Windows and may display a window for selecting your preferred software program to launch or may automatically launch a preinstalled CD/DVD program.

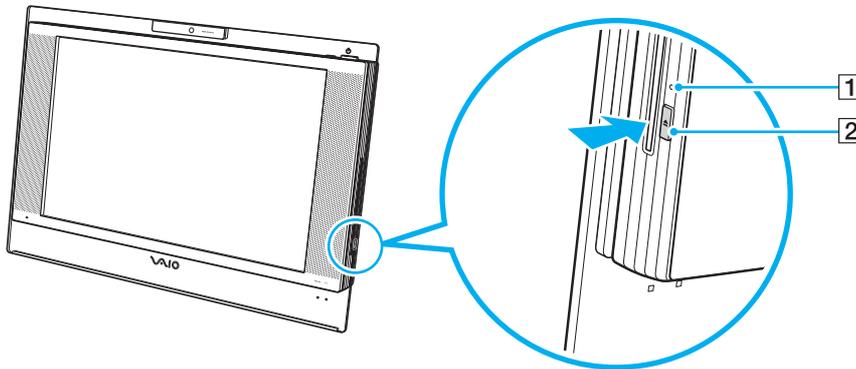
If you plan to use an external optical disc drive, connect the drive before you launch any preinstalled CD/DVD program.

## To remove a disc

! The drive eject button is disabled when your computer is turned off.

Do not remove the optical disc when your computer is in a power saving mode (Standby or Hibernate). Doing so may cause the computer to malfunction.

- 1 Check that the optical disc drive indicator (1) is off.
- 2 Press the drive eject button (2).  
The optical disc slides out.



If pressing the drive eject button does not slide the disc out of the drive, restart your computer and repeat the procedure.

## Reading and Writing CDs and DVDs

Your computer plays and records CDs and DVDs, depending on the model you purchased. Check your specifications for the type of optical disc drive installed on your model. Use the table below to see which types of media your optical disc drive supports.

PR: playable and recordable  
 P: playable but not recordable  
 -: not playable nor recordable

	CD-ROM	Video CD	Music CD	CD Extra	CD-R/RW	DVD-ROM	DVD-Video	DVD-R/RW	DVD+R/RW	DVD+R DL	DVD-R DL	DVD-RAM
DVD±RW/±R DL/RAM	P	P	P	P	PR	P	P	PR <sup>*1 *2</sup>	PR	PR <sup>*5</sup>	PR <sup>*6</sup>	PR <sup>*3 *4</sup>
DVD±RW/+R DL/RAM	P	P	P	P	PR	P	P	PR <sup>*1 *2</sup>	PR	PR <sup>*5</sup>	P	PR <sup>*3 *4</sup>
DVD±RW (Supporting DVD±R DL)	P	P	P	P	PR	P	P	PR <sup>*1 *2</sup>	PR	PR <sup>*5</sup>	PR <sup>*6</sup>	-
DVD±RW (Supporting DVD+R DL)	P	P	P	P	PR	P	P	PR <sup>*1 *2</sup>	PR	PR <sup>*5</sup>	P	-
CD-RW/DVD-ROM	P	P	P	P	PR	P	P	P	P	P	P	-
DVD-ROM	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-

<sup>\*1</sup> Supports writing data to DVD-R discs compliant with DVD-R for General Version 2.0/2.1.

<sup>\*2</sup> Supports writing data to DVD-RW discs compliant with DVD-RW Version 1.1/1.2.

<sup>\*3</sup> The DVD±RW/RAM disc drive on your computer does not support the DVD-RAM cartridge. Use non-cartridge discs or discs with removable cartridge.

<sup>\*4</sup> Writing data to single-sided DVD-RAM discs (2.6 GB) compliant with DVD-RAM Version 1.0 is not supported.  
 DVD-RAM Version 2.2/12X-SPEED DVD-RAM Revision 5.0 disc is not supported.

<sup>\*5</sup> Writing data to DVD+R DL (Double Layer) discs is available only on discs supporting DVD+R DL (Double Layer) recording.

<sup>\*6</sup> Writing data to DVD-R DL (Dual Layer) discs is available only on discs supporting DVD-R DL (Dual Layer) recording.

PR: playable and recordable  
 P: playable but not recordable  
 -: not playable nor recordable

	CD-ROM	Video CD	Music CD	CD Extra	CD-R/RW	DVD-ROM	DVD-Video	BD-ROM	DVD-R/RW	DVD+R/RW	DVD+R DL	DVD-R DL	DVD-RAM	BD-R <sup>*9</sup> /RE <sup>*10</sup>
Blu-ray Disc Drive	P	P	P	P	PR <sup>*8</sup>	P	P	P	PR <sup>*1</sup> *2	PR	PR <sup>*5</sup>	PR <sup>*6</sup>	PR <sup>*6</sup>	PR <sup>*7</sup>

<sup>\*7</sup> Supports writing data to BD-R Version 1.1 discs (single-layer discs with the capacity of 25 GB, dual-layer discs with the capacity of 50 GB) and BD-RE Version 2.1 discs (single-layer discs with the capacity of 25 GB, dual-layer discs with the capacity of 50 GB). The Blu-ray disc drive on your computer does not support BD-RE Version 1.0 discs and Blu-ray cartridge discs.

<sup>\*8</sup> Writing data to Ultra Speed CD-RW discs is not supported.

<sup>\*9</sup> BD-R stands for Blu-ray Disc-Recordable in Version 1.1 format.

<sup>\*10</sup> BD-RE stands for Blu-ray Disc-Rewritable in Version 2.1 format.

**!**  
 This product is designed to playback discs that conform to the Compact Disc Digital Audio standard specifications (CD Standard). A Dual Disc is a two sided disc product which mates DVD recorded material on one side with digital audio material on the other side. Please be aware that the audio side (non-DVD side) of a Dual Disc may not play on this product because it does not conform to the CD Standard.

**!**  
 Due to the multiple formats of discs now available, when buying pre-recorded or blank discs for use with a VAIO computer, be sure to read the notices on the disc packaging carefully to check both playback and recording compatibility with your computer's optical disc drives. Sony does NOT guarantee the compatibility of VAIO CD drives with discs that are not compliant with the official "CD" format standard (or "DVD" standard in relation to DVD drives). **USING NON-COMPLIANT DISCS CAN CAUSE FATAL DAMAGE TO YOUR VAIO PC OR CREATE SOFTWARE CONFLICTS AND CAUSE SYSTEM HANGING.** For inquiries about disc formats, contact the individual publisher of the pre-recorded disc or the manufacturer of the recordable disc.



Supports 8cm disc reading, but not 8cm disc writing.

## Notes on writing data to a disc

- ❑ To make data on a disc readable on the optical disc drive, you need to close the session before you eject it. To complete this process, follow the instructions included with your software.
- ❑ Only use circular discs. Do not use discs in any other shape (star, heart, card, etc.), as this may damage the optical disc drive.
- ❑ Do not strike or shake your computer while writing data to a disc.
- ❑ Deactivate the screen saver and exit anti-virus software before writing data to a disc.
- ❑ Do not use memory-resident utility software while writing data to a disc. This may cause your computer to malfunction.
- ❑ When using your software application to burn discs, make sure you exit and close all other applications.
- ❑ Never touch the surface of the disc. Fingerprints and dust on the surface of a disc may cause writing errors.
- ❑ Do not switch power modes while using the preinstalled software and while using the CD burning software.
- ❑ Never affix an adhesive label to discs. This will affect the use of the disc irreparably.
- ❑ Use only the preinstalled writing software. Use of any other software may cause module confliction and result in an error.

## Notes on playing DVDs

To achieve optimum performance when playing DVDs, you should follow these recommendations.

- ❑ Close all open applications before playing a DVD movie.
- ❑ Do not use memory-resident utility software to speed up disc access when playing a DVD. This may cause your computer to malfunction.
- ❑ Deactivate the screen saver and exit anti-virus software before playing a disc.
- ❑ Some discs recorded at 20 or 24 bits may produce noise while playing. If you have audio devices connected, this may damage your hearing and the speakers. Reduce the volume before playing a DVD.
- ❑ Do not switch to power saving modes while your computer is playing a DVD.
- ❑ Region codes indicators are labeled on the DVDs to indicate in which region and on what type of player you can play the disc. Unless a "2" (Europe belongs to region "2") or "all" (this means that you can play this DVD in most regions of the world) is labeled on your DVD disc or on the packaging, you cannot play the disc on your computer.



If you change the DVD region code while the **WinDVD** software is running, restart the software or eject the disc and re-insert it to make the new setting effective.

- ❑ Do not try to change the region code settings of the DVD drive. Any difficulties caused by changing the region code settings of the DVD drive are out of warranty.
- ❑ If Wireless LAN is activated, playing DVDs may cause some interruptions in audio and video.
- ❑ When you are playing a DVD (video or audio) and you want to remove a USB device, such as USB-compatible speakers, make sure you stop the DVD first. Removing a USB-compatible device during DVD (video or audio) playback may cause a malfunction.

## Playing CDs

To play an audio CD

- 1 Insert a disc into the optical disc drive.
- 2 If nothing appears on the desktop, then click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, and click to start the desired CD software, such as the **SonicStage** software.

If the **Audio CD** window appears, click to select an option.

## Copying Files to CDs

To copy files to a disc

! Do not strike or shake your computer while writing data to a disc.

- 1 Insert a blank disc into the optical disc drive.  
If the **CD Drive** window appears, click **Take no action** and then click **OK**.
- 2 Right-click **Start** and then click **Explore**.
- 3 In the **Folders** panel on the left, locate the file(s) or folder(s) you want to copy, right-click the file(s) or folder(s), point to **Send To**, and then click the optical disc drive\* name.
- 4 Close the window.
- 5 Click **Start** and then **My Computer**.
- 6 Click the optical disc drive icon under **Devices with Removable Storage**. A new window appears with the file(s) or folder(s) you want to copy listed under **Files Ready to Be Written to the CD**.
- 7 In the **CD Writing Tasks** box, click **Write these files to CD**.
- 8 Follow the instructions in the **CD Writing Wizard**.

\* The read/write drive letter designation may vary, depending on your system's hardware configuration.

## Playing DVDs

To play a DVD

- 1 Close all running software applications.
- 2 Insert a DVD into the optical disc drive.
- 3 If nothing appears on the desktop, then click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, and click to start the desired DVD software to play the DVD.

For instructions on how to use the software, see the help file on your DVD software.

## Copying Files to DVDs

To copy files to a disc

- 1 Insert a disc into the optical disc drive.
- 2 If nothing appears on the desktop, then click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, and click to start the DVD software you want to use.

For instructions on how to use the software, see the help file on your DVD software.

## Using the TV Function

Your computer has a TV tuner board installed along with the **Microsoft Windows XP Media Center Edition** operating system to enhance your computing experience.

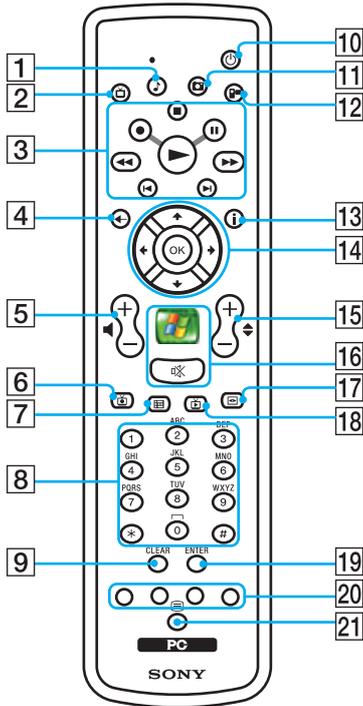
Media Center provides you with a wide range of TV, DVD, and video viewing, as well as music recording and playback.

To connect terrestrial or cable TV to your computer

- 1 Connect one end of an antenna cable (supplied) / cable-TV cable (not supplied) to the **VHF/UHF** port on the computer.
- 2 Connect the other end of the cable to your TV wall outlet/cable service access.

## Using the Remote Commander

A remote commander is supplied with your computer for using Media Center features, including TV channel selection.



- 1 My music button  
Press to view and listen to your music playlists.
- 2 My TV button  
Press to view the My TV menu.
- 3 Stop ■ button  
Press to stop media playback or TV recording session.  
Pause ■■ button  
Press to pause media playback. Press again to resume playback.  
Forward ►► button  
Press to fast-forward media at three speeds.  
Skip ►I button  
Press to move media forward, for example, one audio track, one DVD chapter, and 30 seconds of recorded TV or video.  
Replay I◀ button  
Press to move media backward, for example, one audio track, one DVD chapter, and seven seconds of TV or video.  
Rewind ◀◀ button  
Press to move media backward at two speeds.  
Record ● button  
Press to begin recording.  
Play ► button  
Press to begin media playback.
- 4 Back button  
Press to return to the previous window.

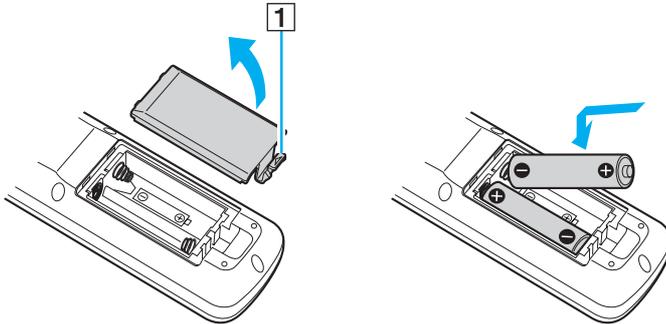
- 5** Volume buttons  
Press to increase (+) or decrease (-) the volume.
- 6** Recorded TV button  
Press to view previously recorded TV programs (In **My TV** window).
- 7** Guide button  
Press to view the TV program guide for your area.
- 8** Alphanumeric buttons  
Press to select specific channels or enter text. (Press **ENTER** or **OK** to activate the channel selection.)
- 9** **CLEAR** button  
Press to backspace and delete entered text.
- 10** Standby button  
Press to place the computer in Standby mode to reduce power consumption.
- 11** My pictures button  
Press to view pictures or a slide show.
- 12** My videos button  
Press to view videos from your video collection.
- 13** More button  
Press to view additional options that are available for Media Center features.
- 14** Directional arrow buttons  
Press the **↑**, **↓**, **←**, and **→** buttons to move the pointer on the computer screen.  
**OK** button  
Press **OK** to select the desired action or window option. When watching full-screen TV, press **OK** to return to the previous channel. Press **OK** again to switch between channels.
- 15** Channel/Page buttons  
Press to change or page up/down channels (no number input required).
- 16** Start  button  
Press to open the **Media Center Start** menu.  
Muting  button  
Press to turn off the sound. Press again to restore the sound.
- 17** DVD menu button  
Press to open the main menu on a DVD.
- 18** Live TV button  
Press to view TV programs.
- 19** **ENTER** button  
Press to activate feature or action, such as channel selection or return to previous channel. (This button's actions are similar to using the **OK** button.)
- 20** Teletext TV program mode buttons  
Red button  
Press to jump to the red shortcut link in teletext TV program mode.  
Green button  
Press to jump to the green shortcut link in teletext TV program mode.  
Yellow button  
Press to jump to the yellow shortcut link in teletext TV program mode.  
Blue button  
Press to jump to the blue shortcut link in teletext TV program mode.
- 21** Teletext TV program mode selection button  
Press to activate/deactivate teletext TV program mode.

## Before you use the remote commander

Before using the remote commander, you need to insert the supplied AA manganese batteries to enable communication between the computer and the remote commander.

### To insert batteries

- 1 Turn the remote commander over.
- 2 Press in the tab (1) and lift the battery cover up.
- 3 Insert the supplied two AA batteries into the remote commander.



- 4 Align the battery cover to the remote commander.
- 5 Press down until the cover clicks into place.



If the remote commander does not operate properly, you may need to replace the batteries. When the remote commander has not been used for an extended period of time, remove the batteries to avoid possible damage from battery leakage.

## Using PC Cards

PC Cards allow you to connect portable external devices to your computer.

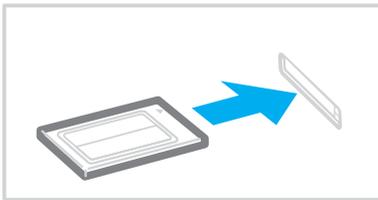
### Inserting a PC Card

! Some PC Cards or their functions may not be compatible with your computer.

You do not need to shut down your computer before inserting or removing a PC Card.

#### To insert a PC Card

- 1 Push the PC Card release button so that the release button pops out.
- 2 Push the PC Card release button a second time so that the PC Card slot protector pops out.
- 3 Gently take hold of the protector and pull it out of the slot.
- 4 Insert the PC Card into the PC Card slot with the front label facing upward.
- 5 Gently push the PC Card into the slot.  
The PC Card is automatically detected by your system.  
The **Safely Remove Hardware** icon appears on the taskbar.



! Insert the PC Card slot protector to protect against debris entering the slot when not using a PC Card. Before moving your computer, make sure to insert the PC Card slot protector into the slot.

 Some devices may not function properly if you continually switch to Normal mode from Standby mode or Hibernate mode. For some PC Cards, if you alternate between Normal mode and Standby or Hibernate mode while the card is inserted, you may find that a device connected to your system is not recognized. Restart your system to correct the problem. Restarting will restore the original state of your computer.

While the card is inserted, your computer may not enter Hibernate power management mode. It may enter Standby mode. We recommend that you remove the card before the computer enters Hibernate mode.

Make sure you use the most recent software driver provided by the PC Card manufacturer.

If an "!" mark appears on the **Device Manager** tab in the **System Properties** window, remove the software driver and then reinstall it.

Do not force a PC Card into the slot. It may damage the connector pins. If you have difficulty inserting a PC Card, check that you are inserting the PC Card in the correct direction. See the manual that came with your PC Card for more information.

## Removing a PC Card

Follow the steps below to remove the PC Card while your computer is on. If it is not removed properly, your system may not work properly.

To remove a PC Card



To remove a PC Card when your computer is off, skip steps 1 to 6.

- 1 Double-click the **Safely Remove Hardware** icon on the taskbar.  
The **Safely Remove Hardware** window appears.
- 2 Select the hardware you want to unplug.
- 3 Click **Stop**.  
The **Stop a Hardware Device** window appears.
- 4 Confirm that the device can be safely removed from the system.
- 5 Click **OK**.  
A window appears, explaining that it is safe to remove the device.
- 6 Click **Close**.
- 7 Push the PC Card release button so that the release button pops out.
- 8 Push the PC Card release button a second time so that the PC Card pops out.
- 9 Gently take hold of the Card and pull it out of the slot.
- 10 If the PC Card release button is still out, push it back in.

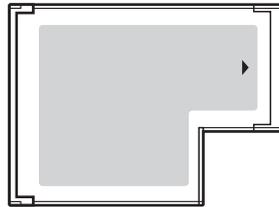
## Using the ExpressCard Module

Your computer is equipped with either a Universal ExpressCard slot\* or an ExpressCard™/34 slot\* for transferring data among digital cameras, camcorders, music players, and other audio/video devices. The former can accommodate either an ExpressCard™/34 (34 mm wide) or ExpressCard™/54 (54 mm wide) module\* as shown below; and the latter, an ExpressCard™/34 module\* only.

- ExpressCard™/34 module\*



- ExpressCard™/54 module\*



\* Hereinafter, referred to as the ExpressCard slot and the ExpressCard module.

Your computer is equipped with a Universal ExpressCard slot.

## Inserting an ExpressCard Module



Your computer is delivered with a slot protector in the ExpressCard slot. Remove the slot protector before you use the slot for the first time.

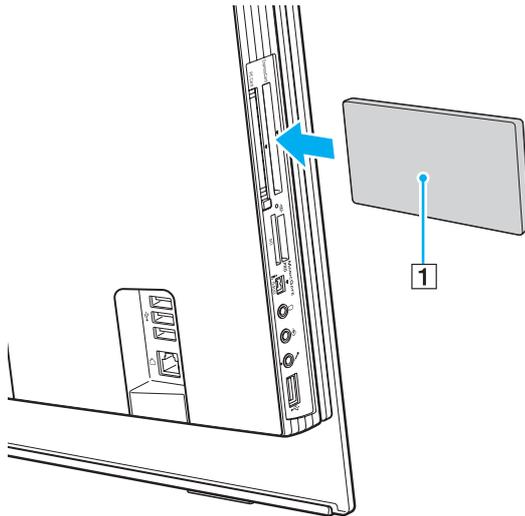
Use care when inserting or removing the ExpressCard module from the slot. Do not force it in or out of the slot.



You do not need to shut down your computer before inserting or removing the ExpressCard module.

### To insert an ExpressCard module

- 1 Push the ExpressCard slot protector to pop it out.
- 2 Gently take hold of the ExpressCard slot protector and pull it out of the slot.
- 3 Hold the ExpressCard module with the arrow facing upward and pointing toward the ExpressCard slot.
- 4 Carefully slide the ExpressCard module (1) into the slot until it clicks into place.  
Do not force it into the slot.



**!** Insert the ExpressCard slot protector to protect against debris entering the slot when not using an ExpressCard module. Before moving your computer, make sure to insert the ExpressCard slot protector into the slot.



If the module or adapter does not go into the slot easily, remove it gently and verify you are inserting it in the proper direction.

Make sure you use the most recent software driver provided by the ExpressCard module manufacturer.

## Removing an ExpressCard Module

Follow the steps below to remove the ExpressCard module while your computer is on. If it is not removed properly, your system may not work properly.

To remove an ExpressCard module



To remove an ExpressCard module when your computer is off, skip steps 1 to 6.

- 1 Double-click the **Safely Remove Hardware** icon on the taskbar.  
The **Safely Remove Hardware** window appears.
- 2 Select the hardware you want to unplug.
- 3 Click **Stop**.  
The **Stop a Hardware Device** window appears.
- 4 Confirm that the device can be safely removed from the system.
- 5 Click **OK**.  
A window appears, explaining that it is safe to remove the device.
- 6 Click **Close**.
- 7 Push in the ExpressCard module toward the computer to pop it out.
- 8 Gently take hold of the ExpressCard module and pull it out of the slot.

## Using the Memory Stick Media

Your computer supports the Memory Stick media. Memory Stick media is a compact, portable, and versatile IC recording media especially designed for exchanging and sharing digital data with compatible products, such as digital cameras, mobile phones and other devices. Because it is removable, it can be used for external data storage.

See the online **Specifications** to see which Memory Stick media types are compatible with your model and if there are any limitations.

- You can purchase Memory Stick media from the Sony Style website ([www.sonystyle-europe.com](http://www.sonystyle-europe.com)), or from your local Sony dealer.
- Detailed information about which VAIO computers are compatible with which Memory Stick media can be found at [www.vaio-link.com](http://www.vaio-link.com).



Your computer has been tested and found compatible with the Sony branded Memory Stick media with capacity of up to 4 GB that are available as of May 2006. However, not all Memory Stick media that meet the same conditions as the compatible media are guaranteed of compatibility.

Inserting a Memory Stick media with multiple conversion adapters is not guaranteed of compatibility.

MagicGate is the general name of the copyright protection technology developed by Sony. Use a Memory Stick media with the MagicGate logo to use this feature.

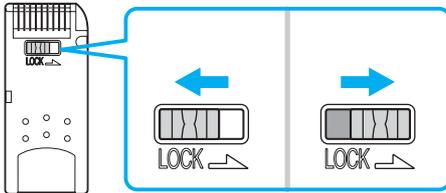
## Write-protecting a Memory Stick Media

Some versions of Memory Stick media are designed with an erasure prevention switch to protect valuable data from accidental erasure or overwriting.

Move the tab horizontally or vertically\* to set or release write-protection. When the erasure prevention switch is off, data can be saved on the Memory Stick media. When the erasure prevention switch is on, data can be read from but not saved on the Memory Stick media.



Be sure to use a fine-tipped object to move the tab on the Memory Stick Duo media.

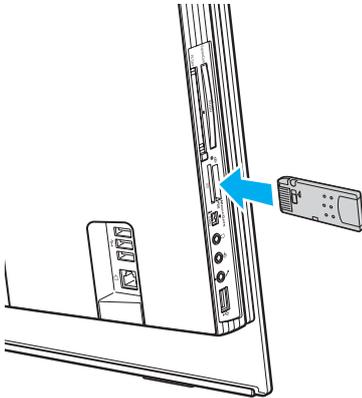


\* Some versions of Memory Stick media do not have an erasure prevention switch.

## Inserting a Memory Stick Media

To insert a Memory Stick media

- 1 Locate the Memory Stick PRO/Duo media slot ([page 18](#)).
- 2 Hold the Memory Stick media with the arrow pointing toward the Memory Stick PRO/Duo media slot.
- 3 Carefully slide the Memory Stick media into the slot until it clicks into place.  
The Memory Stick media is automatically detected by your system and appears in your **My Computer** window as a local drive, under the appropriate letter (depending on the configuration of the computer).



! Be sure to hold the Memory Stick media with the arrow pointing in the correct direction as you insert it into the slot. To avoid damaging your computer or the Memory Stick media, do not force the Memory Stick media into the slot if you cannot insert it smoothly.

Do not insert more than one Memory Stick media into the slot. Inserting the media improperly may damage your computer.



Your computer supports Memory Stick Duo media and is equipped with the Memory Stick PRO/Duo slot that is compatible with both standard- and duo-size media. For more information on the Memory Stick Duo media, visit the Memory Stick web site at <http://www.memorystick.com/en/>.

You can insert a Memory Stick Duo media directly into the slot.

## To view the contents of the Memory Stick media

- 1 Click **Start** and then **My Computer** to open the **My Computer** window.
- 2 Double-click the Memory Stick media icon  to view the list of data files saved in the Memory Stick media.

## To format a Memory Stick media

Use the **Memory Stick Formatter** software. See the help file on the **Memory Stick Formatter** software for details.



Formatting the Memory Stick media erases the entire data on the media. Avoid accidental erasure of your valuable data.

Do not remove the Memory Stick media from the slot while formatting the media. This could cause a malfunction.

Be sure to use the preinstalled **Memory Stick Formatter** software to format a Memory Stick media. In case the media is formatted with the formatting function of the Windows operating system, the media cannot be recognized by other Memory Stick devices.

## Removing a Memory Stick Media

To remove a Memory Stick media

- 1 Check that the Media Access indicator is off.
- 2 Push the Memory Stick media in toward the computer.  
The Memory Stick media ejects.
- 3 Pull the Memory Stick media out of the slot.

**!**  
Always remove the Memory Stick media gently, or it may pop out unexpectedly.

Do not remove the Memory Stick media while the Media Access indicator is turned on. If you do, you may lose data. Large volumes of data may take time to load, so be sure the indicator is off before removing the Memory Stick media.

## Using Other Memory Cards

In addition to the Memory Stick PRO/Duo media slot, your computer is equipped with an **SD** memory card slot to accommodate other memory cards. You can use this slot to transfer data among digital cameras, camcorders, music players, and other audio/video devices.

### Before You Use Memory Cards

The **SD** memory card slot on your computer supports the following memory cards:

- MultiMediaCard (MMC)
- Secure Digital (SD)

For the latest information on compatible memory cards, visit the Sony online support Web site regularly.



Always insert the correct memory card into the **SD** memory card slot.

SDHC memory cards are not supported.

Do not attempt to insert a memory card or memory card adapter of a different type into the slot. An incompatible memory card or memory card adapter may be difficult to remove from the slot and can cause damage to your computer.

Use care when inserting or removing a memory card from the slot. Do not force the memory card in or out of the slot.

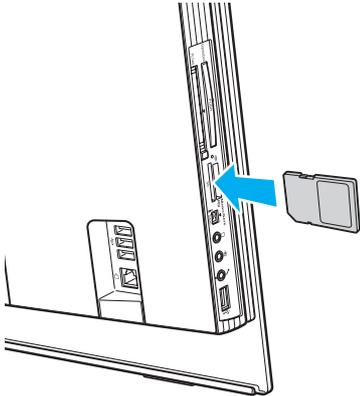
The **SD** memory card slot on your computer does not support the high-speed data transfer feature of the SD memory card.

Your computer has been tested and found compatible only with major memory card media available as of May 2006. However, not all memory card media that meet the same conditions as the compatible media are guaranteed of compatibility.

## Inserting a Memory Card

To insert a memory card

- 1 Locate the **SD** memory card slot ([page 18](#)).
- 2 Hold the memory card with the arrow pointing toward the memory card slot.



- 3 Carefully slide the memory card into the slot until it clicks into place.  
Do not force the card into the slot.



If the memory card does not go into the slot easily, remove it gently and verify you are inserting it in the proper direction.

## Removing a Memory Card



Do not remove a memory card while the Media Access indicator light is on. The card or its data may become damaged.

### To remove a memory card

- 1 Check that the Media Access indicator is off.
- 2 Firmly grasp the extended part of the memory card.
- 3 Carefully pull it out of the slot.

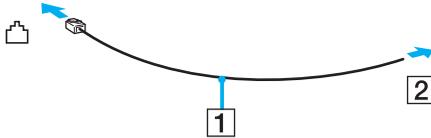
## Using the Internet

### Setting Up a Dial-up Internet Connection

Before you can connect to the Internet, you need to connect your computer to a telephone line with a telephone cable (may not supplied). Once you have set up your telephone cable connection, you're ready to connect to the Internet.

To connect a telephone cable

- 1 Plug one end of the phone cable (1) into the modem port  on the computer.
- 2 Plug the other end into the wall jack (2).



 Your computer does not work with party lines, cannot be connected to a coin-operated telephone, and may not work with multiple telephone lines or a private branch exchange (PBX). Some of these connections may result in excess electrical current and could cause a malfunction in the internal modem.

If you connect a telephone cable coming through a splitter, the modem or connected device may not work properly.

To set up a dial-up connection to the Internet

- 1 Click **Start**, point to **All Programs, Accessories, Communications**, and click **New Connection Wizard**. The **New Connection Wizard** appears.
- 2 Click **Next**. If the **Location Information** window appears, follow the on-screen instructions.
- 3 If it is not already selected, click to select **Connect to the Internet**, and click **Next**.
- 4 Follow the on-screen instructions.

## Using Wireless LAN (WLAN)

Using the Sony Wireless LAN (WLAN), all your digital devices with built-in WLAN functionality communicate freely with each other through a powerful network. A WLAN is a network in which a user can connect to a local area network (LAN) through a wireless (radio) connection. So there is no need anymore to pull cables or wires through walls and ceilings.

You can communicate without an access point, which means that you can communicate between a limited number of computers (ad-hoc). Or you can communicate through an access point, which allows you to create a full infrastructure network (infrastructure).



In some countries, using WLAN products may be restricted by the local regulations (e.g. limited number of channels). Therefore, before activating the WLAN functionality, read the **Regulations Guide** carefully.

WLAN uses the IEEE 802.11b/g standard, which specifies the used technology. The standard includes the encryption methods: Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP), which is a security protocol, Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2), and Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA). Proposed jointly by the IEEE and Wi-Fi Alliance, both WPA2 and WPA are specifications of standards based, interoperable security enhancements that increase the level of data protection and access control for existing Wi-Fi networks. WPA has been designed to be forward compatible with the IEEE 802.11i specification. It utilizes the enhanced data encryption TKIP (Temporal Key Integrity Protocol) in addition to user authentication using 802.1X and EAP (Extensible Authentication Protocol). Data encryption protects the vulnerable wireless link between clients and access points. Besides that, there are other typical LAN security mechanisms to ensure privacy, such as: password protection, end-to-end encryption, virtual private networks, and authentication. WPA2, the second generation of WPA, provides stronger data protection and network access control and is also designed to secure all versions of 802.11 devices, including 802.11b, 802.11a, and 802.11g, multi-band and multi-mode. In addition, based on the ratified IEEE 802.11i standard, WPA2 provides government grade security by implementing the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) FIPS 140-2 compliant AES encryption algorithm and 802.1X-based authentication. WPA2 is backward compatible with WPA.

Wireless LAN devices using the IEEE 802.11a standard and the ones using the IEEE 802.11b or g standard cannot communicate because the frequencies are different.

IEEE 802.11b: The standard speed is 11 Mbps, or about 30 to 100 times faster than a standard dial up.

IEEE 802.11a/g: The standard speed is 54 Mbps, or about 5 times faster than a Wireless LAN device using the IEEE 802.11b standard.

The 2.4 GHz bandwidth used by wireless LAN compatible devices is also used by other various devices. Although technologies to minimize interference from other devices that use the same bandwidth are employed on wireless LAN compatible devices, such interference may cause lower communication speed, narrower communication range, or broken wireless connections.

The communication speed varies depending on the distance between communication devices, existence of obstacles between such devices, the device configuration, the radio conditions, and the software in use. In addition, communications may be cut off depending on the radio conditions.

The communication range varies depending on the actual distance between communication devices, existence of obstacles between such devices, the radio conditions, the ambient environment that includes existence of walls and materials of such walls, and the software in use.

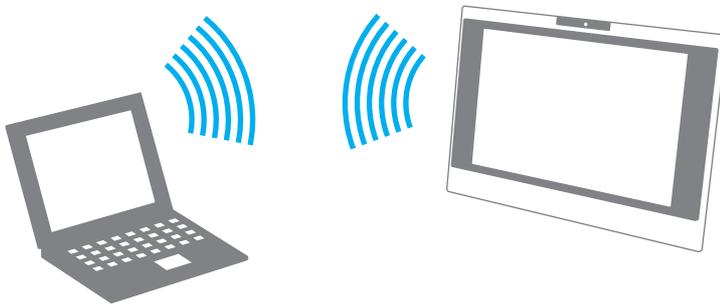
Deploying IEEE 802.11b and IEEE 802.11g products on the same wireless network may reduce the communication speed due to radio interference. Taking this into consideration, the IEEE 802.11g products are designed to reduce the communication speed to ensure communications with IEEE 802.11b products.

When the communication speed is not as fast as expected, changing the wireless channel on the access point may increase the communication speed.

## Communicating without an Access Point (Ad-hoc)

An ad-hoc network is a network in which a local network is created only by the wireless devices themselves, with no other central controller or access point. Each device communicates directly with other devices in the network. You can set up an ad-hoc network easily at home.

- If the Wireless connection is initiated by the VAIO computer, channel 11 will be selected.
- If the Wireless connection is initiated by peer Wireless LAN equipment, the Wireless LAN communication will make use of the channel selected by the peer Wireless LAN equipment.



To communicate without an access point (ad-hoc)

- 1 Turn on the **WIRELESS LAN** switch.  
The WIRELESS LAN indicator lights up.
- 2 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
- 3 Click **Network and Internet Connections**.
- 4 Click **Network Connections**.  
The **Network Connections** window appears.
- 5 Right-click **Wireless Network Connection**, then click **Properties**.  
The **Wireless Network Connection Properties** window appears.
- 6 Select the **Wireless Networks** tab.
- 7 Click the **Add...** button.  
The **Wireless network properties** window appears.
- 8 Enter a network name (SSID)<sup>\*1</sup>.  
You can choose a 32-digit alphanumeric name.
- 9 Select **Open** from the **Network Authentication** drop-down box.
- 10 Select **WEP** from the **Data Encryption** drop-down box.
- 11 Deselect the **The key is provided for me automatically** option button.  
Some information becomes visible.
- 12 Enter the network key<sup>\*1</sup>.  
The network key should be 5 or 13 alphanumeric characters or 10 or 26 hexadecimal<sup>\*2</sup> characters long. You can choose whichever you want.
- 13 Enter exactly the same network key again for confirmation.

- 14 Select the check box **This is a computer-to-computer (ad hoc) network; wireless access points are not used** at the bottom of the window.
- 15 Click **OK**.  
Your network name appears in the **Preferred networks**.
- 16 Click **Advanced**.  
The **Advanced** window appears.
- 17 Select the **Computer-to-computer (ad hoc) networks only** option button.
- 18 Click **Close**.
- 19 Click **OK**.  
The computer is ready to communicate with another computer.

- \*1 If you want to communicate between two or more computers, you need to configure all these computers in the exact same way. This means that you need to enter the same network name and the same network key on all computers as on the first computer you configure.
- \*2 Hexadecimal: a number representation using the digits 0-9, with their usual meaning, and the letters A-F (or a-f) to represent hexadecimal digits with values of (decimal) 10 to 15.



An ad-hoc network does not support WPA.

To disconnect from a computer-to-computer (ad-hoc) network

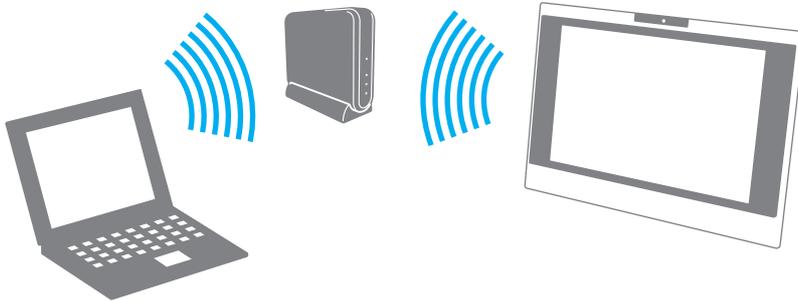
- 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
- 2 Click **Network and Internet Connections**.
- 3 Click **Network Connections**.  
The **Network Connections** window appears.
- 4 In the right panel under **LAN or High-Speed Internet**, right-click **Wireless Network Connection**.
- 5 Click **Properties**.  
The **Wireless Network Connection Properties** window appears.
- 6 On the **Wireless Networks** tab, click **Advanced**.  
The **Advanced** window appears.
- 7 Click to select **Any available network (access point preferred)**, and click **Close**.
- 8 Click **OK**.
- 9 Close the **Network Connections** window.
- 10 Turn off the **WIRELESS LAN** switch.

## Communicating with an Access Point (Infrastructure)

An infrastructure network is a network that extends an existing wired local network to wireless devices by providing an access point, for example the Sony Access Point. The access point bridges the wireless and wired LAN and acts as a central controller for the Wireless LAN. The access point coordinates transmission and reception from multiple wireless devices within a specific range.

The access point will select which channel to use on an infrastructure network.

! For details on how to select the channel that will be used by the access point, see the manual that came with your access point.



## To connect to a wireless network

- 1 Make sure an access point is set up.  
See the manual that came with your access point for more information.
- 2 Turn on the **WIRELESS LAN** switch.  
The WIRELESS LAN indicator lights up.
- 3 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
- 4 Click **Network and Internet Connections**.
- 5 Click **Network Connections**.  
The **Network Connections** window appears.
- 6 In the right panel under **LAN or High-Speed Internet**, double-click **Wireless Network Connection**.  
The **Wireless Network Connection** window appears.
- 7 Select the network you want to use.
- 8 Enter the network key.

For more information about setting up an access point, see the manual that came with your access point.

## To disconnect from a wireless network

Turn off the **WIRELESS LAN** switch.

 Turning off the wireless LAN functionality while accessing remote documents, files, or resources may result in data loss.



For WPA-PSK or WPA2-PSK authentication, you must enter a network key of 8 to 64 alphanumeric characters long.

# Using Peripheral Devices

You can add functionality to your computer by using the various ports on the computer.

- ❑ **Connecting a Universal Serial Bus (USB) Device** ([page 79](#))
- ❑ **Connecting a Printer** ([page 81](#))
- ❑ **Connecting an i.LINK Device** ([page 82](#))
- ❑ **Connecting to a Network (LAN)** ([page 84](#))

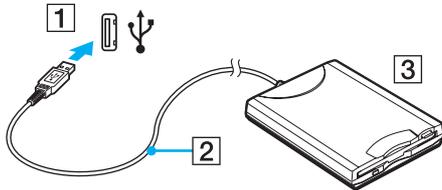
## Connecting a Universal Serial Bus (USB) Device

### Connecting a USB Floppy Disk Drive

You can purchase a USB floppy disk drive and connect it to your computer.

To connect a USB floppy disk drive

- 1 Choose the USB port (1)  you prefer to use.
- 2 Plug the USB floppy disk drive cable (2) into the USB port.  
Your USB floppy disk drive (3) is now ready for use.



**!** When using a USB floppy disk drive, do not apply force on the USB port. This may cause a malfunction.

## Disconnecting a USB floppy disk drive

You can disconnect a USB floppy disk drive when your computer is on or off. Disconnecting the drive when the computer is in a power saving mode (Standby or Hibernate) may cause the computer to malfunction.

If the computer is off, you can unplug the USB cable directly from the computer.

### To disconnect a USB floppy disk drive

- 1 Close all programs accessing the floppy disk drive.
- 2 Double-click the **Safely Remove Hardware** icon on the taskbar.  
The **Safely Remove Hardware** window appears.
- 3 Select the floppy disk drive you want to unplug.
- 4 Click **Stop**.  
The **Stop a Hardware device** window appears.
- 5 Make sure the floppy disk drive is selected, and click **OK**.  
A message appears stating it is now safe to remove the hardware device.
- 6 Click **Close** to close the **Safely Remove Hardware** window.
- 7 Disconnect the floppy disk drive from the computer.

## Connecting a Printer

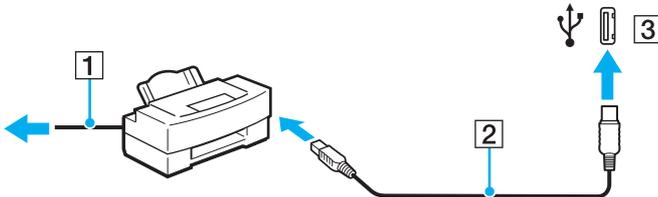
You can connect a Windows-compatible printer to your computer to print documents.

### Connecting a Printer Using the USB Port

You can connect a USB printer compatible with your version of Windows to the computer.

To connect a printer using the USB port

- 1 Plug the power cord (1) of your printer into an AC outlet.
- 2 Choose the USB port (3)  you prefer to use.
- 3 Plug one end of a USB printer cable (2) (not supplied) into the USB port and the other end to your printer.



## Connecting an i.LINK Device

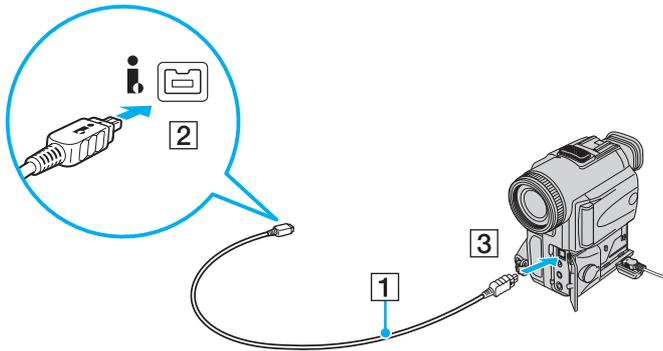
### Notes on connecting i.LINK devices

- ❑ Your computer is equipped with an i.LINK port, which you can use to connect to an i.LINK device such as a digital video camcorder or to connect two VAIO computers in order to copy, delete or edit files.
- ❑ The i.LINK port on your computer does not supply power to external devices generally powered by i.LINK ports.
- ❑ The i.LINK port supports transfer rates up to 400 Mbps; however, the actual transfer rate depends on the transfer rate of the external device.
- ❑ i.LINK cables compatible with your computer include cables with the following part numbers:  
VMC-IL4415 (a 1.5 meter cable with a 4-pin connector at each end) and VMC-IL4408 Series (a 0.8 meter cable with a 4-pin connector at each end).
- ❑ The optional i.LINK cables may not be available, depending on the country or area of your residency.
- ❑ An i.LINK connection with other compatible devices is not fully guaranteed.
- ❑ The i.LINK connection varies depending on the software applications, operating system, and i.LINK-compatible devices you use. See the manual that came with your software for more information.
- ❑ Check the working conditions and OS compatibility of i.LINK-compatible PC peripherals (for example, an HDD or a CD-RW drive) before you connect them to your computer.

## Connecting a Digital Video Camcorder

To connect a digital video camcorder

- 1 Plug one end of an i.LINK cable (1) (not supplied) into the i.LINK port (2) on the computer and the other end into the DV In/Out ports (3) on the digital video camcorder.
- 2 Launch the **DVgate Plus** software.



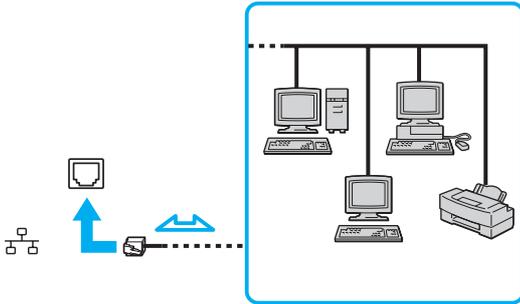
On Sony digital video cameras, ports labeled **DV Out**, **DV In/Out**, or **i.LINK** are i.LINK-compatible.

The Sony digital video camcorder shown here is an example; your digital video camcorder may need to be connected differently.

You cannot access the pictures stored on a Memory Stick media when using an i.LINK connection.

## Connecting to a Network (LAN)

You can connect your computer to 100BASE-TX/10BASE-T-type networks with an Ethernet network cable. Connect one end of a network cable (not supplied) to the network (Ethernet) port on the computer and the other end to your network. For detailed settings and devices needed to connect to the network, ask your network administrator.



Your computer can be connected to the network with the default settings.



Telephone lines cannot be connected to the network (LAN) connector on your computer.

If the network (LAN) connector is connected to the telephone lines mentioned below, high electric current to the connector may cause damage, overheating, or fire.

- Home (intercom speakerphone) or business-use telephone lines (multi-line business telephone)
- Public telephone subscriber line
- PBX (private branch exchange)



Do not plug a telephone cable into the network port.

# Customizing Your VAIO Computer

This section briefly describes how to change the main settings of your computer. Among other things, you will learn how to use and customize the look of your Sony software and utilities, etc.

- ❑ **Setting the Password** ([page 86](#))
- ❑ **Setting Up Your Computer with VAIO Control Center** ([page 89](#))
- ❑ **Using the Power Saving Modes** ([page 90](#))
- ❑ **Configuring Your Modem** ([page 95](#))

## Setting the Password

Use one of the BIOS functions to set the password.

Once you have set the password, you will have to enter the password after the VAIO logo appears to start your computer. The power-on password will allow you to protect your computer from unauthorized access.

### Adding the Power-on Password

The power-on password is provided to protect your computer from unauthorized access.

There are two types of the power-on password: machine password and user password. The machine password is provided for users with administrator rights on the computer to change all the setup options on the BIOS setup screen, as well as to start the computer. The user password is provided for other ordinary users to allow for changing some of the BIOS setup options, as well as starting the computer. To set the user password, you must first set the machine password.

**!** Once you have set the power-on password, you cannot start your computer without entering the password. Make sure not to forget the password. Write down your password and keep it safe and private from other people.

If you forget the power-on password and need assistance to reset it, a password reset fee will be charged, and your computer may need to be sent in for depot service for password reset.

## To add the power-on password

- 1 Turn on the computer.
- 2 Press the **F2** key when the VAIO logo appears.  
The BIOS setup screen appears. If not, restart the computer and press the **F2** key several times when the VAIO logo appears.
- 3 Press the **←** or **→** key to select **Security** to display the **Security** tab, select **Set Machine Password**, and then press the **Enter** key.
- 4 On the password entry screen, enter the password twice and press the **Enter** key.  
The password can be up to 32 alphanumeric characters (including spaces) long.
- 5 At the confirmation prompt, press the **Enter** key.



The following is to configure your computer to prompt password entry when you turn it on or display the BIOS setup screen.

- 6 Select **Password when Power ON** under **Security**.  
Press the space bar to change the setting from **Disabled** to **Enabled**.
- 7 Press the **←** or **→** key to select **Exit**, select **Exit (Save Changes)** or **Exit Setup**, and then press the **Enter** key.  
On the **Setup Confirmation** screen, make sure that **Yes** is selected and then press the **Enter** key.

## Changing/Removing the Power-on Password

To change or remove the power-on password

- 1 Turn on the computer.
- 2 Press the **F2** key when the VAIO logo appears.  
The BIOS setup screen appears. If not, restart the computer and press the **F2** key several times when the VAIO logo appears.
- 3 Enter the current password for **Enter Password** and press the **Enter** key.
- 4 Press the **←** or **→** key to select **Security** to display the **Security** tab, select **Set Machine Password**, and then press the **Enter** key.
- 5 On the password entry screen, enter the current password once and a new password twice, and then press the **Enter** key.  
To remove the password, leave the **Enter New Password** and **Confirm New Password** fields blank and press the **Enter** key.  
When confirmation to save the changes is prompted, press the **Enter** key.
- 6 Press the **←** or **→** key to select **Exit**, select **Exit (Save Changes)** or **Exit Setup**, and then press the **Enter** key.  
On the **Setup Confirmation** screen, confirm that **Yes** is selected and then press the **Enter** key.

## Setting Up Your Computer with VAIO Control Center

The **VAIO Control Center** utility allows you to consult system information and specify preferences for system behavior.

To use VAIO Control Center

- 1 Click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, and click **VAIO Control Center**.  
The **VAIO Control Center** window appears.
- 2 Select the desired control item and change the settings.
- 3 Once finished, click **OK**.  
The setting of the desired item has been changed.



For more information about each option, click **Help** on the **VAIO Control Center** window to display the help file.

Some of the control items will not be visible if you open **VAIO Control Center** as a limited user.

## Using the Power Saving Modes

In addition to the normal operating mode, which allows you to turn off specific devices, your computer has two distinct power saving modes: Standby and Hibernate.

To set the timer for the computer to automatically enter Standby or Hibernate mode after a certain period of time, click **Start** and **Control Panel**. Click **Performance and Maintenance** and **Power Options**, and then change the settings under **Power Schemes**.

### Using Normal Mode

This is the normal state of the computer when it is in use. The green power indicator light is on in this mode. To save power while not working, you can turn off a specific device such as the LCD screen or the hard disk.

## Using Standby Mode

Standby mode turns off the LCD screen and places the hard disk and the CPU into a low power consumption mode. The orange power light is on in this mode.

To activate Standby mode

- 1 Click **Start** and then **Turn Off Computer**.
- 2 Click **Stand By**.



Alternatively, you can press the Standby button on the wireless keyboard or the remote commander to place your computer into Standby mode.

To return to Normal mode

Press the power button on your computer or the Standby button on the remote commander.



If you press the power button for more than four seconds, your computer will turn off automatically. You will lose any unsaved data.



In Standby mode, inserting a disc will automatically launch Windows and may display a window for selecting your preferred software program to launch or may automatically launch a preinstalled CD/DVD program.

Your computer comes out of Standby mode quicker than out of Hibernate mode.

Standby mode uses more power than Hibernate mode.

If the computer is not used for more than 25 minutes, it will enter Standby mode. To avoid this, you can change the Standby mode settings.

To change the Standby mode settings

- 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
- 2 Click **Performance and Maintenance**.
- 3 Click **Power Options**.  
The **Power Options Properties** window appears.
- 4 Select the **Power Schemes** tab.
- 5 Change the **System Standby** settings.

## Using Hibernate Mode

In Hibernate mode, the state of the system is saved on the hard disk and power is turned off. The power indicator light is off in this mode.

To activate Hibernate mode

Press the power button.

The **Hibernating** screen appears and the computer enters Hibernate mode.

Alternatively,

- 1 Click **Start** and then **Turn Off Computer**.
- 2 Click **Hibernate**.

To return to Normal mode

Press the power button.

The computer returns to its previous state.

! If you press the power button for more than four seconds, your computer will turn off automatically.



If you do not use your computer for a long period of time, place the computer into Hibernate mode. This power saving mode saves you the time of shutting down or resuming.

In Hibernate mode, inserting a disc will automatically launch Windows and may display a window for selecting your preferred software program to launch or may automatically launch a preinstalled CD/DVD program.

Hibernate mode requires more time than Standby mode to be activated.

It takes more time to return to Normal mode from Hibernate mode than from Standby mode.

Hibernate mode uses less power than Standby mode.



Do not move your computer before its power indicator light turns off.

## Configuring Your Modem

Before you can start using your internal modem (not all modems are built-in), or each time you use your modem while traveling, make sure that the country of the active location defined in the **Phone and Modem Options** dialog box matches the country you are dialing from.

To change your modem country settings

- 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
- 2 Click **Printers and Other Hardware**.
- 3 Double-click **Phone and Modem Options**.  
The **Phone and Modem Options** window appears.  
If you do not see the **Phone and Modem Options** window, click **Switch to Classic View** on the left side.
- 4 Select your location on the **Dialing Rules** tab.
- 5 Click the **Edit** button to change the current configuration.  
The **Edit Location** window appears.  
Or  
Click the **New** button to configure your modem.  
The **New Location** window appears.
- 6 Check the country/region settings, and make sure it matches the place you are dialing from.  
  
Pulse dial may not be supported in some counties and/or regions.
- 7 If you modified your location settings, click **Apply**, and then **OK**.  
The **Phone and Modem Options** window appears.
- 8 Check that your modem is listed in the **Modems** tab.  
If your modem is not listed, click **Add** and follow the wizard.

- 9 Click **Apply/OK**. Your modem is configured.



Before applying new country settings, please make sure your phone cable is disconnected from your computer.

## Upgrading Your VAIO Computer

Your computer and memory modules use high precision components and electronic connectors technology. To avoid the invalidation of your guarantee due to mishandling, we recommend that:

- You contact your dealer to install a new memory module.
- You do not install it yourself, if you are not familiar with upgrading memory on a computer.
- You do not touch the connectors or open the memory module compartment cover.

For the type of module and amount of memory installed on your model, refer to the online **Specifications**.

Contact VAIO-Link if you need assistance.

## Adding and Removing Memory

If you want to expand the functionality of your computer, you can increase the memory by installing optional memory modules. Before you upgrade your computer's memory, read the notes and procedures in the following pages. The number of available slots depends on the configuration of your model.

### Notes on adding/removing memory modules

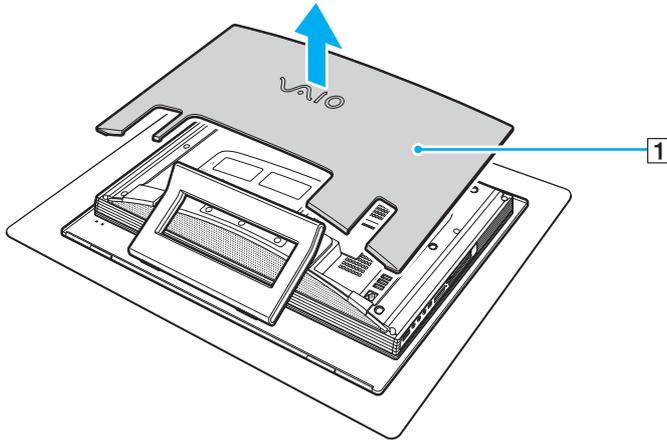
- ❑ Be careful when changing memory. Improper installation of memory modules may cause damage to your system. This damage may void your manufacturer's warranty.
- ❑ Only use memory modules that are compatible with your computer. If a memory module is not detected by the computer or Windows becomes unstable, contact your sales dealer or the manufacturer of your memory module.
- ❑ Electrostatic discharge can damage electronic components. Before touching a memory module, ensure the following:
  - ❑ The procedures described in this document assume familiarity with the general terminology associated with personal computers and with the safety practices and regulatory compliance required for using and modifying electronic equipment.
  - ❑ Turn off your computer and disconnect the system from its power source (that is, AC adapter) and from any telecommunication links, networks, or modems before you open the computer. Failure to do so may result in personal injury or equipment damage.
  - ❑ Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) can damage memory modules and other components. Install the memory module only at an ESD workstation. If such a station is not available, do not work in a carpeted area, and do not handle materials that produce or hold static electricity (cellophane wrappers, for example). Ground yourself by maintaining contact with an unpainted metal portion of the chassis while performing the procedure.
  - ❑ Do not open the memory module package before you are ready to change the module. The package protects the module from ESD.

- Use the special bag delivered with the memory module or wrap the module in aluminum foil to protect it from electrostatic discharge.
- Introducing any liquids, foreign substances, or objects into the memory module slots or other internal components of your computer will result in damage to the computer and any repair costs will not be covered by the warranty.
- Do not place the memory module in a location subject to:
  - Heat sources such as radiators or air ducts
  - Direct sunlight
  - Excessive dust
  - Mechanical vibration or shock
  - Strong magnets or speakers that are not magnetically shielded
  - Ambient temperature of more than 35°C or less than 5°C
  - High humidity
- Handle the memory module with care. To avoid injuries to your hands and fingers, do not touch the edges of the components and circuit boards inside your computer.

## Removing and Installing a Memory Module

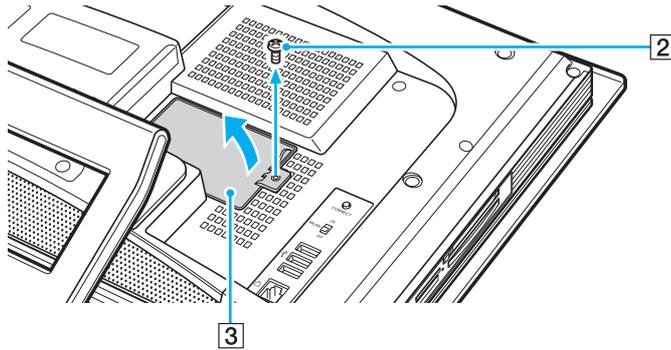
To change or add a memory module

- 1 Shut down the computer and turn off all peripheral devices.
- 2 Remove the back panel cover (1), unplug the computer, and then disconnect all peripheral devices.



- 3 Wait until the computer cools down.
- 4 Remove the back panel cover (1).

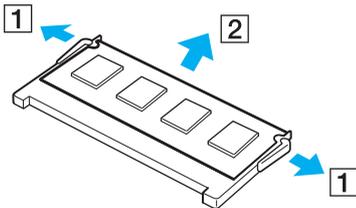
- 5 Unscrew the screw (2) and remove the memory module compartment cover (3).



- 6 Touch a metal object (such as the chassis frame) to discharge static electricity.

- 7 Remove the memory module:

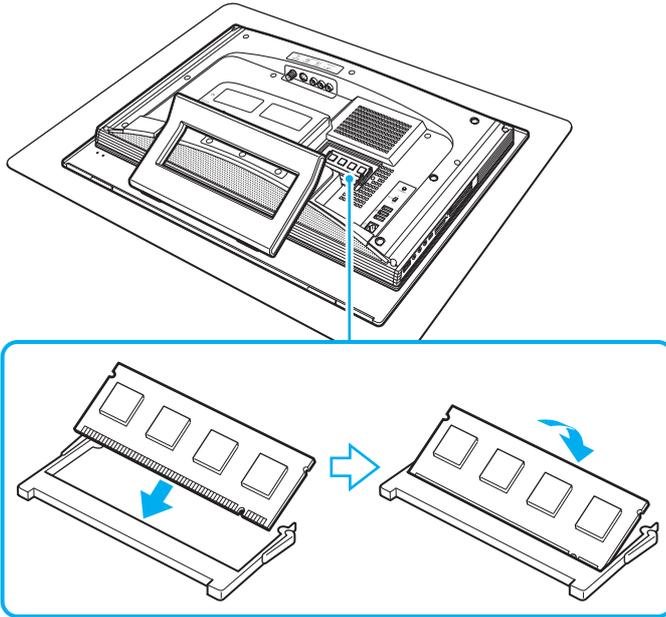
- Pull the latches in the direction of the arrows (1).  
The memory module is released.



- Make sure that the memory module tilts up and then pull it out in the direction of the arrow (2).

- 8 Remove the new memory module from its packaging.

- 9 Slide the memory module into the memory module slot and push it in until it clicks into place.



! Do not touch any other components on the motherboard.

- 10 Replace the memory module compartment cover and tighten the screw.
- 11 Plug the computer, connect all peripheral devices, replace the back panel cover, and then turn on the computer.

## Viewing the Amount of Memory

To view the amount of memory

- 1 Turn on the computer.
- 2 Click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, and click **VAIO Control Center**.
- 3 Double-click the **System Information** folder in the **VAIO Control Center** window.
- 4 Double-click the **System Information** icon in the **System Information** folder.  
You can view the amount of system memory. If the additional memory does not appear, repeat the whole procedure and restart the computer.

# Precautions

This section describes safety guidelines and precautions to help you protect your computer from potential damage.

- ❑ **On Handling the LCD Screen** ([page 105](#))
- ❑ **On Using the Power Source** ([page 106](#))
- ❑ **On Handling Your Computer** ([page 107](#))
- ❑ **On Using the Built-in MOTION EYE Camera** ([page 109](#))
- ❑ **On Handling Floppy Disks** ([page 109](#))
- ❑ **On Handling Discs** ([page 110](#))
- ❑ **On Using Headphones** ([page 111](#))
- ❑ **On Handling Memory Stick Media** ([page 112](#))
- ❑ **On Handling the Hard Disk** ([page 113](#))

## On Handling the LCD Screen

- ❑ Do not leave the LCD screen facing the sun. This could damage the LCD screen. Be careful when using your computer near a window.
- ❑ Do not scratch the LCD screen or exert pressure on it. This could cause a malfunction.
- ❑ Using your computer in low temperature conditions may produce a residual image on the LCD screen. This is not a malfunction. When the computer returns to normal temperature, the screen returns to normal.
- ❑ A residual image may appear on the LCD screen if the same image is displayed for a long period of time. The residual image disappears in a while. You can use a screen saver to prevent residual images.
- ❑ The LCD screen becomes warm during operation. This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.
- ❑ The LCD screen is manufactured using high-precision technology. You may, however, see tiny black points and/or bright points (red, blue, or green) that continuously appear on the LCD screen. This is a normal result of the manufacturing process and does not indicate a malfunction.
- ❑ Avoid rubbing the LCD screen. This could damage the screen. Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the LCD screen.

## On Using the Power Source

- ❑ See the online **Specifications** to check the power operation of your model.
- ❑ Do not share the AC outlet with other power-consuming equipment, such as a photocopier or shredder.
- ❑ You can purchase a power strip with a surge protector. This device prevents damage to your computer caused by sudden power surges, in an electrical storm, for example.
- ❑ Do not place heavy objects on the power cord.
- ❑ To disconnect the cord, pull it out by the plug. Never pull the cord itself.
- ❑ Unplug your computer from the AC outlet if you are not planning to use the computer for a long period of time.
- ❑ Make sure that the AC outlet is easily accessible.
- ❑ When the AC adapter is not used, unplug it from the AC outlet.
- ❑ Use the AC adapter supplied with your computer or genuine Sony products. Do not use any other AC adapter as it may cause a malfunction.

## On Handling Your Computer

- ❑ Clean the cabinet with a soft cloth, which is dry or lightly moistened with a mild detergent solution. Do not use any type of abrasive pad, scouring powder, or solvent such as alcohol or benzene, as these may damage the finish of your computer.
- ❑ If you drop a solid object or any liquid onto your computer, shut down the computer and then unplug it. You may want to have the computer checked by qualified personnel before operating it again.
- ❑ Do not drop your computer or place any objects on top of the computer.
- ❑ Do not place your computer in a location subject to:
  - ❑ Heat sources, such as radiators or air ducts
  - ❑ Direct sunlight
  - ❑ Excessive dust
  - ❑ Moisture or rain
  - ❑ Mechanical vibration or shock
  - ❑ Strong magnets or speakers that are not magnetically shielded
  - ❑ Ambient temperature of more than 35°C or less than 5°C
  - ❑ High humidity
- ❑ Do not place electronic equipment near your computer. The electromagnetic field of the computer may cause a malfunction.
- ❑ Provide adequate air circulation to prevent internal heat from building up. Do not place your computer on porous surfaces such as rugs or blankets, or near material such as curtains or draperies that may block its air vents.
- ❑ Your computer uses high-frequency radio signals and may cause interference to radio or TV reception. If this occurs, relocate the computer a suitable distance away from the set.

- ❑ Use only specified peripheral equipment and interface cables; otherwise, problems may occur.
- ❑ Do not use cut or damaged connection cables.
- ❑ If your computer is brought directly from a cold location to a warm one, moisture may condense inside the computer. In this case, allow at least one hour before turning on the computer. If any problems occur, unplug the computer and contact VAIO-Link.
- ❑ Make sure you disconnect the power cord before cleaning your computer.
- ❑ To avoid losing data if your computer is damaged, back up your data regularly.
- ❑ Do not grasp the prop-up stand to lift your computer as it may damage the stand.
- ❑ To lift or move your computer, grasp the bottom corners of the main unit, not of the LCD screen, with both hands from behind the computer to avoid any damage to the LCD screen. There is a risk of scratching the LCD screen, for example with your waist belt buckle, if you hold your computer from its front.

## On Using the Built-in MOTION EYE Camera

- ❑ Do not touch the front mirror plate over the lens of the built-in MOTION EYE camera, as it may make scratches on the plate and such scratches will appear on the captured images.
- ❑ Do not let the direct sunlight get into the scope of the built-in MOTION EYE camera regardless of your computer's power state, as it may cause a malfunction of the camera.
- ❑ The built-in MOTION EYE camera is disabled while videos or still images are imported from an i.LINK-compatible device connected to the i.LINK port.
- ❑ Clean the front mirror plate over the lens of the built-in MOTION EYE camera with a blower brush or a soft brush. If the lens is extremely dirty, wipe it off with a soft dry cloth. Do not rub the plate, as it is force-sensitive.

## On Handling Floppy Disks

- ❑ Do not open the shutter manually or touch the surface of the floppy disk.
- ❑ Keep floppy disks away from magnets.
- ❑ Keep floppy disks away from direct sunlight and other sources of heat.
- ❑ Keep floppy disks away from any liquid. Do not let them get wet. When you are not using your floppy disk, always remove it from the floppy disk drive and use a storage case.
- ❑ If the floppy disk comes with an adhesive label, make sure that the label is properly affixed. If the edge of the label is curled up, the label may stick to the inside of the floppy disk drive and cause a malfunction or damage your floppy disk.

## On Handling Discs

- ❑ Do not touch the surface of the disc.
- ❑ Do not drop or bend the disc.
- ❑ Fingerprints and dust on the surface of a disc may cause read errors. Always hold the disc by its edges and central hole, as shown below:



- ❑ Proper care of the disc is essential to its continuous reliability. Do not use solvents (such as benzine, thinner, alcohol, commercially available cleaners, or anti-static spray) which may cause damage to the disc.
- ❑ For normal cleaning, hold the disc by its edge and use a soft cloth to wipe the surface from the center out.
- ❑ If the disc is badly soiled, moisten a soft cloth with water, wring it out well, and use it to wipe the surface of the disc from the center out. Wipe off any remaining moisture with a dry soft cloth.
- ❑ Never affix an adhesive label on discs. This will affect the use of the disc irreparably.

- ❑ An 8cm disc adapter exclusively designed for your model is provided for use of 8cm discs on your computer.



- ❑ Be sure to attach the adapter to an 8cm disc before using it on your computer. Not using the supplied adapter or using a similar kind of the adapter with the disc may cause a disc recognition error or result in a stuck disc, a damaged disc, or a malfunction of your computer.
- ❑ Remove the adapter from an 8cm disc when not using the disc. Keeping the adapter attached may deform the disc.
- ❑ Do not leave the adapter in a place subject to high temperatures to avoid deformation. Use of the deformed adapter with an 8cm disc may cause a disc recognition error or result in a stuck disc, a damaged disc, or a malfunction of your computer.
- ❑ Not all types of the 8cm disc can fit into the adapter.

## On Using Headphones

**Preventing hearing damage** – Avoid using headphones at high volume. Hearing experts advise against continuous, loud and extended play. If you experience a ringing in your ears, reduce the volume or discontinue use.

## On Handling Memory Stick Media

- ❑ Do not use the media in a location subject to static electricity or electrical noise.
- ❑ Do not touch the Memory Stick media connector with your finger or metallic objects.
- ❑ Use only the adhesive label supplied with the Memory Stick media as a label.
- ❑ Do not bend, drop, or apply strong shock to the Memory Stick media.
- ❑ Do not disassemble or modify Memory Stick media.
- ❑ Do not let Memory Stick media get wet.
- ❑ Do not use or store Memory Stick media in a location subject to:
  - ❑ Extremely high temperatures, such as in a car parked in the sun
  - ❑ Direct sunlight
  - ❑ High humidity
  - ❑ Corrosive substances
- ❑ Use the storage case supplied with the Memory Stick media.
- ❑ Be sure to make a backup copy of your valuable data.
- ❑ Keep the Memory Stick media out of reach of children. There is a risk of swallowing the media.
- ❑ Note the following when using the Memory Stick Duo media:
  - ❑ Be sure to insert a Memory Stick Duo media into the Memory Stick Duo adapter before inserting the adapter into the slot. Inserting the empty adapter into the slot may cause a malfunction.
  - ❑ Do not use a fine-tipped pen to write on the label adhered to the Memory Stick Duo media. Exerting pressure on the media may damage internal components.

## On Handling the Hard Disk

The hard disk has a high storage density and reads or writes data in a short time. However, it can be easily damaged by mechanical vibration, shock, or dust.

Although the hard disk has the internal safety device to prevent losing data due to mechanical vibration, shock or dust, you should be careful when handling your computer.

### To avoid damaging your hard disk

- Do not subject your computer to sudden movements.
- Keep your computer away from magnets.
- Do not place your computer in a location subject to mechanical vibration or in an unstable position.
- Do not move your computer while the power is on.
- Do not turn off the power or restart your computer while reading or writing data to the hard disk.
- Do not use your computer in a place subject to extreme changes in temperature.



If the hard disk is damaged, the data cannot be restored.

# Troubleshooting

This section describes how to solve common problems you might encounter when using your computer. Many problems have simple solutions. Try these suggestions before contacting VAIO-Link.

- ❑ **Computer** ([page 115](#))
- ❑ **System Security** ([page 122](#))
- ❑ **Built-in MOTION EYE Camera** ([page 124](#))
- ❑ **Internet** ([page 127](#))
- ❑ **Networking** ([page 129](#))
- ❑ **CDs and DVDs** ([page 132](#))
- ❑ **Display** ([page 136](#))
- ❑ **Printing** ([page 137](#))
- ❑ **Microphone** ([page 138](#))
- ❑ **Mouse** ([page 139](#))
- ❑ **Speakers** ([page 140](#))
- ❑ **Keyboard** ([page 141](#))
- ❑ **Floppy Disks** ([page 142](#))
- ❑ **PC Cards** ([page 143](#))
- ❑ **Audio/Video** ([page 144](#))
- ❑ **Memory Stick Media** ([page 145](#))
- ❑ **Peripherals** ([page 146](#))

## Computer

### What should I do if my computer does not start?

- Make sure your computer is securely plugged into a power source and turned on. Make sure the power indicator shows the power is on.
- Make sure the optical disc drive is empty.
- If your computer is plugged into a power strip or uninterruptible power supply (UPS), make sure the power strip or UPS is plugged into a power source and turned on.
- Make sure the brightness and contrast controls are adjusted correctly.
- Disconnect the AC adapter. Wait three to five minutes. Reattach the AC adapter and press the power button to turn on your computer.
- Condensation may cause your computer to malfunction. If this occurs, do not use the computer for at least one hour.
- Remove any extra memory modules you may have inserted since purchase.
- Check that you are using the supplied Sony AC adapter. For your safety, use only genuine Sony AC adapter, which is supplied by Sony for your VAIO computer.
- Make sure your computer is not in Standby mode by pressing the power button.

## What should I do if a BIOS error appears when I turn on my computer?

If the message "Press <F1> to resume, <F2> to setup" appears at the bottom of your computer screen, follow these steps:

- 1 Press the **F2** key.  
The BIOS setup screen appears.
- 2 Set the date (month/day/year). Press the **Enter** key.
- 3 Press the **↓** key to select **System Time**, and then set the time (hour: minute: second). Press the **Enter** key.
- 4 Press the **→** key to select the **Exit** tab, and then press the **F9** key.  
The message **Load default configuration now?** appears.
- 5 Select **Yes**, and press the **Enter** key.
- 6 Select **Exit (Save Changes)** or **Exit Setup**, and press the **Enter** key.  
The message **Save configuration changes and exit now?** appears.
- 7 Select **Yes**, and press the **Enter** key.  
Your computer restarts.

If this occurs frequently, contact VAIO-Link.

## What should I do if the power indicator (Green) lights but my computer screen stays blank?

- ❑ If the orange **MONITOR OFF** indicator is on, press the **MONITOR OFF** button.
- ❑ Otherwise, follow these steps:
  - 1 Press and hold the power button for more than four seconds to check that the power indicator goes out. Then turn on your computer again.
  - 2 If your computer screen still stays blank, unplug the AC adapter and leave the computer for about five minutes. Then plug in the AC adapter and turn on the computer again.

## What should I do if my computer or software stops responding?

- ❑ It is best to turn off your computer using the **Turn Off Computer** option on the Microsoft Windows **Start** menu, located on the taskbar. Using other methods, including those listed below, may result in loss of unsaved data.
- ❑ Click **Start**, point to **Turn Off Computer**, and then click **Turn Off**.
- ❑ If your computer does not turn off, press the **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** keys simultaneously. When the **Windows Task Manager** window appears, click **Turn Off** from the **Shut Down** menu.  
When the **Windows Security** window appears, click **Shut Down**.
- ❑ If your computer still does not turn off, press and hold the power button until the computer turns off.
- ❑ If your computer stops responding while playing a CD or DVD, press the **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** keys simultaneously. You can turn off the computer from **Windows Task Manager**.

! Pressing the **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** keys simultaneously or turning off your computer with the power button may cause loss of data.

- ❑ Remove the AC adapter.
- ❑ Try reinstalling the software.
- ❑ Contact the software publisher or designated provider for technical support.

## Why doesn't my computer enter Standby or Hibernate mode?

Your computer may become unstable if the operating mode is changed before the computer completely enters Standby or Hibernate.

To restore your computer to normal operating stability

- 1 Close all open programs.
- 2 Click **Start, Turn Off Computer**, and then **Restart**.
- 3 If your computer does not restart, press the **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** keys simultaneously.  
In the **Windows Task Manager** window, select **Restart** from the **Shut Down** menu to restart the computer.
- 4 If this procedure does not work, press and hold the power button until the computer turns off.

## What should I do if Windows does not start, showing a message, when I start my computer?

If you enter a wrong power-on password three times consecutively, the **Enter Onetime Password** message appears and Windows will not start. Press the power button for more than four seconds to check that the power indicator goes off. Wait for 10 or 15 seconds, then restart your computer and enter the correct password. When entering the password, check that the Num lock indicator and Caps lock indicator on the wireless keyboard are off. If any are lit, press the **Num Lk** key or the **Caps Lock** key to turn off the indicator before entering the password.

## What should I do if my game software does not work or it keeps crashing?

- Check the web site of the game if there are any patches or updates to download.
- Make sure you have installed the latest video driver.
- On some VAIO models, the graphics memory is shared with the system. The optimal graphic performance in this case is not guaranteed.

## What should I do if I cannot remember the BIOS password?

If you have forgotten the BIOS password, contact VAIO-Link to reset it. A reset fee will be charged.

## Why does it take time before my computer starts?

If Norton Internet Security's Personal Firewall is active, it may take some time before the desktop screen appears due to network security checkups.

## Why doesn't my computer screen turn off when the time selected for the automatic turn-off action has passed?

The originally selected VAIO's screen saver disables the timer setting, which you can select using the Windows power options, for your computer screen to turn off.

Change the originally selected VAIO's screen saver.

## What should I do if I cannot boot my computer from the USB floppy disk drive connected to the computer?

To boot your computer from the USB floppy disk drive, you need to change the boot device.

Turn on your computer and press the **F11** key when the VAIO logo appears.

## How can I change the volume of the startup sound?

To change the startup sound volume

- 1 Press the **F2** key.  
The BIOS setup screen appears.
- 2 Press the **←** or **→** key to select **Advanced**.
- 3 Press the **↑** or **↓** key to select **Speaker Volume** and press the **Enter** key.
- 4 Press the **↑** or **↓** key to select the speaker volume at startup and press the **Enter** key.
- 5 Press the **←** or **→** key to select **Exit**, select **Exit (Save Changes)** or **Exit Setup**, and then press the **Enter** key.  
The message **Save configuration changes and exit now?** appears.
- 6 Select **Yes** and press the **Enter** key.  
Your computer restarts and you will hear the startup sound at the specified volume level.



You can also show/hide the VAIO animation logo at startup. On the screen that is displayed after step 2 above, select **VAIO Animation Logo** or **Show VAIO Animation Logo** and press the **Enter** key to proceed with the setting. Hiding the VAIO animation logo will also turn off the startup sound.

## System Security

This section provides information about keeping your computer operating smoothly and protecting against potential threats to the computer's security.

### How can I protect my computer against security threats, such as viruses?

The Microsoft Windows operating system is preinstalled on your computer. The best way to protect your computer against security threats, such as viruses, is to download and install the latest Windows updates regularly.

You can get important Windows updates by doing the following:

! Your computer must be connected to the Internet before you can receive updates.

- 1 Connect to the Internet.
- 2 Click the **Automatic Updates** icon on the taskbar.
- 3 Follow the on-screen instructions to set up automatic or scheduled updates.

## How do I keep my antivirus software updated?

You can keep the **Norton Internet Security** software program current with the latest updates from Symantec Corporation.

To download and install the latest security update

- 1 Double-click the **Norton Internet Security** icon on the taskbar. If you have not previously registered the antivirus software, a series of information wizards appears.
  - 1 Follow the on-screen instructions to complete each wizard.
  - 2 Double-click the **Norton Internet Security** icon again.  
The **Norton Internet Security** window appears.  
If you have previously registered this antivirus software, the **Norton Internet Security** window automatically appears.
- 2 Follow the on-screen instructions to select and download updates.

## Built-in MOTION EYE Camera

### Why does the viewer window show no images or poor-quality images?

- The built-in MOTION EYE camera cannot be shared by more than one software application. If another software application is using the camera, exit the application before using the built-in MOTION EYE camera.
- The video memory of your computer may have become insufficient for displaying images from the built-in MOTION EYE camera. Lowering the resolution or reducing the colors of the LCD screen might help.
- The viewer window may show some noises, for example horizontal streaks, if you view a rapid-moving object. This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.
- If the problem persists, restart your computer.

### Why are captured images poor in quality?

- The images captured under the fluorescent lamp may show reflection of the light.
- A dark portion in captured images may appear as a noise.
- If the front mirror plate over the lens is dirty, you cannot take a clear shot. Clean the lens. See **On Using the Built-in MOTION EYE Camera (page 109)**.

### Why do captured images contain dropped frames and audio interruptions?

- The effect settings on your software application may have caused dropped frames. See the help file on your software application for more information.
- There may be more software applications running than your computer can handle. Exit the applications that you are not currently using.
- The power management function of your computer may have been activated. Check the CPU performance.

## Why do the images captured by the built-in MOTION EYE camera flicker?

This problem occurs when you use the camera under fluorescent lights due to the mismatch between lighting output frequency and shutter speed.

To reduce flicker noise, change the pointing direction of the camera or the brightness of camera images. In some software applications, you can set an appropriate value to one of the camera properties (e.g. **LightSource**, **Flickness**, etc.) to eliminate flicker noise.

## Why is the video input from the built-in MOTION EYE camera suspended for a few seconds?

The video input may be suspended for a few seconds if

- a shortcut key with the **Fn** key is used.
- the CPU load increases.

This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.

## Why can't I use the built-in MOTION EYE camera?

- ❑ The built-in MOTION EYE camera cannot be shared by more than one software application. If another software application is using the camera, exit the application before using the built-in MOTION EYE camera.
- ❑ If the problem persists, you must reinstall the driver software for the camera. Follow these steps:
  - 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
  - 2 Click the **Performance and Maintenance** icon.
  - 3 Click the **System** icon.
  - 4 Click **Device Manager** on the **Hardware** tab.
  - 5 Double-click **Imaging devices**.
  - 6 Right-click **Sony Visual Communication Camera VGP-VCC1** and click **Update Driver**.

## What should I do if my computer becomes unstable when it enters Standby or Hibernate mode while the built-in MOTION EYE camera is in use?

- ❑ Do not place your computer into Standby or Hibernate mode while you are using the built-in MOTION EYE camera.
- ❑ If your computer automatically enters Standby or Hibernate mode, change the corresponding power saving mode setting. For changing the setting, see **Using the Power Saving Modes (page 90)**.

## Internet

### What should I do if my modem does not work?

- Make sure the telephone cable is securely plugged into the modem port on your computer and the wall jack.
- Make sure the telephone cable is working. Plug the cable into an ordinary telephone and listen for a dial tone.
- Make sure the telephone number the program is dialing is correct.
- Make sure the software you are using is compatible with your computer's modem. (All preinstalled Sony programs are compatible.)
- Make sure the modem is the only device connected to your telephone line.
- Follow these steps to check the settings:
  - 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
  - 2 Click **Printers and Other Hardware**.
  - 3 Click **Phone and Modem Options**.
  - 4 On the **Modems** tab, check that your modem is listed.
  - 5 On the **Dialing Rules** tab, check the location information is correct.

## Why is my modem connection slow?

Your computer is equipped with a V.92/ V.90 compatible modem. Many factors may influence modem connection speed, including telephone line noise or compatibility with telephone equipment, such as fax machines or other modems. If you think your modem is not connecting properly to other PC-based modems, fax machines, or your Internet Service Provider (ISP), do any of the following:

- Ask your telephone company to verify your telephone line is free of any line noise.
- If your problem is fax-related, make sure there are no problems with the fax machine you are calling and that it is compatible with fax modems.
- If you are having a problem connecting with your ISP, make sure the ISP is not experiencing technical problems.
- If you have a second telephone line, try connecting the modem to that line.

## Networking

### What should I do if my computer cannot connect to a wireless LAN access point?

- Connection availability is affected by distance and obstructions. You may need to move your computer away from obstructions or closer to any access point you may be using.
- Make sure the **WIRELESS LAN** switch is on and the WIRELESS LAN indicator is lit on your computer.
- Make sure power to the access point is on.
- Follow these steps to check the settings:
  - 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
  - 2 Click **Network and Internet Connections**.
  - 3 Click **Network Connections**.
  - 4 Right-click **Wireless Network Connection**.
  - 5 Click **Properties**.
  - 6 Click the **Wireless Networks** tab.
  - 7 Click **View Wireless Networks** to see that your access point is selected.
- Make sure the encryption key is correct.

### What should I do if I cannot access the Internet?

- Check the access point settings. See the manual that came with your access point for more information.
- Make sure your computer and the access point are connected to one another.
- Move your computer away from obstructions or closer to any access point you may be using.
- Make sure your computer is properly configured for Internet access.

## Why is the data transfer speed slow?

- ❑ The wireless LAN data transfer speed is affected by distance and obstructions between devices and access points. Other factors include device configurations, radio conditions, and software compatibility. To maximize the data transfer speed, move your computer away from obstructions or closer to any access point you may be using.
- ❑ If you are using a wireless LAN access point, the device may be temporarily overloaded depending on how many other devices are communicating via the access point.
- ❑ If your access point interferes with other access points, change the access point channel. See the manual that came with your access point for more information.

## How do I avoid data transfer interruptions?

- ❑ When your computer is connected to an access point, data transfer interruptions may occur when using large files or if the computer is in close proximity to microwaves and cordless telephones.
- ❑ Move your computer closer to the access point.
- ❑ Make sure the access point connection is intact.
- ❑ Change the access point channel. See the manual that came with your access point for more information.

## What are channels?

- ❑ Wireless LAN communication occurs on divided frequency bands known as channels. Third-party wireless LAN access point channels may be preset to different channels from Sony devices.
- ❑ If you are using a wireless LAN access point, see connectivity information contained in the manual that came with your access point.

## Why does the network connection stop when I change the encryption key?

Two computers with built-in wireless LAN may lose a peer-to-peer network connection if the encryption key is changed. You can either change the encryption key back to the original profile or re-enter the key on both computers so the key matches.

## CDs and DVDs

### Why does my computer freeze when I try to read a disc?

The disc that your computer is trying to read may be dirty or damaged. Follow these steps:

- 1 Restart the computer by clicking **Start, Turn Off Computer,** and **Restart.**
- 2 Eject the disc from the optical disc drive.
- 3 Examine the disc for dirt or damage. If the disc is dirty, see **On Handling Discs (page 110)** for instructions on how to clean it.

### What should I do if the disc does not slide out?

- Make sure your computer is on.
- Press the drive eject button.
- If the disc drive eject button does not work, click **Start** and then **My Computer**. Right-click the optical disc drive icon, and select **Eject** from the shortcut menu.
- Try restarting your computer.

## What should I do if I cannot play a CD or DVD properly on my computer?

- ❑ Make sure the disc was inserted into the optical disc drive with the label side facing toward you.
- ❑ Make sure the necessary program(s) is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ❑ If a CD or DVD is dirty or damaged, your computer will stop responding. Follow these steps:
  - 1 Restart the computer by pressing the **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** keys, and selecting **Restart** from the **Shut Down** menu of the **Windows Task Manager** window.
  - 2 Remove the CD or DVD from the optical disc drive.
  - 3 Check the disc for dirt or damage. If you need to clean the disc, see **On Handling Discs (page 110)** for instructions.
- ❑ If you are playing a CD or DVD and cannot hear sound, do any of the following:
  - ❑ Double-click the **Volume** icon on the taskbar, and click to cancel the **Master Volume Mute All** and **Wave Mute** check boxes.
  - ❑ Check the volume setting in the audio mixer.
  - ❑ If you are using external speakers, check the volume settings on the speakers and the connections between the speakers and your computer.
  - ❑ Make sure the CD audio feature is enabled and the correct driver software is installed. Follow these steps:
    - 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
    - 2 Click **Performance and Maintenance**.
    - 3 Click **System**.  
The **System Properties** window appears.
    - 4 Select the **Hardware** tab, and click **Device Manager** in the **Device Manager** box.  
A window with a listing of your computer's hardware devices appears.  
If an "X" or an exclamation point appears on the listed device, you may need to enable the device or reinstall the drivers.

- 5 Double-click the optical disc drive device to open the submenu.
  - 6 Double-click the listed drive, and select the **Properties** tab.
  - 7 Click to select the **Enable digital CD audio for this CD-ROM device** check box, if it is not selected. You can confirm the driver software by selecting the **Driver** tab, and clicking **Driver Details**.
  - 8 Click **OK** to close the window.
- Make sure an adhesive label is not affixed to a CD or DVD. Adhesive labels can come off while the disc is in the optical disc drive and damage the drive or cause it to malfunction.
  - If a region code warning appears, the disc may be incompatible with the optical disc drive. Check the DVD package to make sure the region code is compatible with the optical disc drive.
  - If you notice condensation on your computer, do not use the computer for at least one hour. Condensation can cause the computer to malfunction.
  - Make sure your computer is running on AC power supply and try the disc again.

## What should I do if I cannot write data to CD media?

- Do not launch any software application or allow any to launch automatically, not even a screen saver.
- Do not use the keyboard.
- Do not use a CD-R/RW disc that has an adhesive label affixed to it. This could cause a write error or other damage.

## What should I do if I cannot write data to DVD media?

- Make sure you are using the correct DVD recordable media.
- Check which DVD recordable format is compatible with your computer's built-in DVD recorder. Note the possibility that some brands of DVD recordable media do not work.

## What should I do if I cannot write data to DVD-RAM media using Windows functions?

Follow these steps to change the settings:

- 1 Click **Start** and then **My Computer**.
- 2 Right-click the optical disc drive icon and select **Properties**.
- 3 Click the **Recording** tab.
- 4 Click to cancel the **Enable CD recording on this drive** check box.
- 5 Click **OK**.

! Canceling the **Enable CD recording on this drive** check box disables writing data to CD-R and CD-RW discs. To write data to such discs, make sure to select this check box.

You cannot add data to DVD-RAM discs with data already written by the **Roxio DigitalMedia** software due to difference in disc formatting. Attempt to add data to such a disc will re-format the disc, resulting in loss of the entire written data.

## Display

### Why did my computer screen go blank?

- ❑ Your computer screen may go blank if the computer has entered a power saving mode (Standby or Hibernate). If the computer is in Standby mode, press the power button on the computer or the Standby button on the wireless keyboard to activate the computer screen. See **Using the Power Saving Modes (page 90)** for more information.
- ❑ Make sure your computer is securely plugged into a power source and turned on. Make sure the power indicator shows the power is on.
- ❑ The LCD backlight of your computer may have been turned off. Press the **MONITOR OFF** button.

### What should I do if my computer screen is dark?

Press the **Fn+F6** keys to brighten your computer screen.

## Printing

### What should I do if I cannot print a document?

- ❑ Make sure your printer is on, and the printer cable is securely connected to the ports on the printer and computer.
- ❑ Make sure your printer is compatible with the Windows operating system installed on your computer.
- ❑ You may need to install the printer driver software before you use your printer. See the manual that came with your printer for more information.
- ❑ If your printer is not functioning after your computer resumes from a power saving mode (Standby or Hibernate), then restart the computer.
- ❑ If the bidirectional communication functions are provided with your printer, disabling the functions on your computer may enable printing. Follow these steps:
  - 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
  - 2 Click **Printers and Other Hardware**.
  - 3 Click **Printers and Faxes**.
  - 4 Right-click the printer icon and select **Properties**.
  - 5 Click the **Ports** tab.
  - 6 Click to cancel the **Enable bidirectional support** check box.
  - 7 Click **OK**.

This change to the settings disables the bidirectional communication functions of the printer, such as data transfer, status monitoring, and remote panel.

## Microphone

### What should I do if my microphone does not work?

- ❑ If you are using an external microphone, make sure the microphone is turned on and is properly plugged into the microphone jack on your computer.
- ❑ The muting button on the wireless keyboard may have been pressed. Press the button once again.
- ❑ The volume may have been turned off with one of the volume control buttons on the wireless keyboard. Press the other to turn up the volume loud enough to hear sound.

## Mouse

### What should I do if my computer does not recognize my mouse?

- Make sure the power switch on the bottom of the wireless mouse is in the **ON** position.
- Make sure another mouse is not connected.
- Make sure the supplied AA batteries are properly installed.
- Press the **CONNECT** button on your computer and then the wireless mouse to re-establish the connection between the two devices.

### What should I do if the pointer does not move when I use my mouse?

- If you are playing a disc, press the **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** keys simultaneously to stop playback and restart your computer.
- If the pointer still does not move, do any of the following:
  - Press the **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** keys simultaneously.  
In the **Windows Task Manager** window, select **Restart** from the **Shut Down** menu to restart your computer.
  - Press and hold the power button for more than four seconds. When your computer turns off, wait for 10 to 15 seconds and then press the power button again to restart the computer.
- Avoid using any wireless devices that exchange radio signals on the 2.4 GHz frequency band near your wireless mouse. These devices may cause interference, causing your mouse to stop working properly.
- Do not place metal furniture near your computer or wireless mouse, as this may create interference, causing your mouse to stop working properly.

## Speakers

### What should I do if I cannot hear sound from my speakers?

- ❑ If you are using a program that has its own volume control, make sure the volume control is properly set. See the program's help file for more information.
- ❑ Make sure the speaker volume is turned up loud enough and the audio option is enabled.
- ❑ The speaker volume may have been turned off. Press the **MONITOR OFF** button on the front of your computer or press the muting button on the wireless keyboard.
- ❑ The muting button on the wireless keyboard may have been pressed. Press the button once again.
- ❑ The volume may have been turned off with one of the volume control buttons on the wireless keyboard. Press the other to turn up the volume loud enough to hear sound.
- ❑ Check the volume controls in Windows.

## Keyboard

### What should I do if the keyboard configuration is wrong?

- ❑ The language layout of the wireless keyboard is labeled on the packaging box. If you choose a different regional keyboard when you complete the Windows setup, the key configuration will be mismatched.
- ❑ To change the keyboard configuration, follow these steps:
  - 1 Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**
  - 2 Click **Date, Time, Language and Regional Options**, and click **Regional and Language Options**.
  - 3 Change the settings as desired.

### What should I do if my computer does not recognize my keyboard?

- ❑ Make sure the **POWER** switch at the top of the wireless keyboard is in the **ON** position.
- ❑ Make sure the supplied AA batteries are properly installed.
- ❑ Press the **CONNECT** button on your computer and then the wireless keyboard to re-establish the connection between the two devices.

### What should I do if I cannot enter characters with the keyboard?

- ❑ If you cannot use the numeric keypad, the **Num Lk** key may not be activated. Check if the Num lock indicator is off. If the Num lock indicator is off, press the **Num Lk** key to turn it on before entering numerals.
- ❑ Avoid using any wireless devices that exchange radio signals on the 2.4 GHz frequency band near the wireless keyboard. These devices may cause interference, causing the keyboard to stop working properly.
- ❑ Do not place metal furniture near your computer or wireless keyboard, as this may create interference, causing the keyboard to stop working properly.

## Floppy Disks

### Why doesn't the Safely Remove Hardware icon appear on the taskbar when the drive is connected?

Your computer does not recognize the floppy disk drive. First, make sure the USB cable is properly connected to the USB port. If you need to secure the connection, wait a few moments for the computer to recognize the drive. If the icon still does not appear, follow these steps:

- 1 Close all programs that are accessing the floppy disk drive.
- 2 Wait for the LED indicator on the floppy disk drive to turn off.
- 3 Push the eject button to remove the disk, and disconnect the USB floppy disk drive from your computer.
- 4 Reconnect the floppy disk drive by inserting the USB connector (with the USB icon facing upward) into the USB port.
- 5 Restart the computer by clicking **Start, Turn Off Computer**, and then **Restart**.

### What should I do if I cannot write data to a floppy disk?

- Make sure the floppy disk is properly inserted in the drive.
- If the disk is inserted properly and you are still unable to write data to it, the disk may be full or write-protected. You can either use a floppy disk that is not write-protected or disable the write-protect feature.

## PC Cards

### What should I do if my PC Card does not work?

- ❑ Make sure the PC Card is inserted properly. See **Inserting a PC Card (page 54)** for more information.
- ❑ Make sure the PC Card is compatible with the Microsoft Windows operating system installed on your computer.
- ❑ See the manual that came with your PC Card for more information. You may need to install driver software if you are not using a Sony PC Card.

### Why doesn't my computer recognize attached devices?

For some PC Cards, if you alternate between Normal mode and Standby or Hibernate mode while the card is inserted into the PC Card slot, your computer may not recognize the PC Card or the connected device. Restart the computer.

### Why can't I insert my PC Card?

- ❑ Make sure you are inserting the card correctly. See **Inserting a PC Card (page 54)** for more information.
- ❑ You may not be able to use some PC Cards or some functions of the PC Card on your computer. See the manual that came with your PC Card for more information.

## Audio/Video

### What should I do if I cannot use my DV camcorder?

If the message appears to indicate DV equipment seems to be disconnected or turned off, the i.LINK cable may not be securely plugged into the ports on your computer or camcorder. Unplug the connectors, and plug them in again. See **Connecting an i.LINK Device (page 82)** for more information.



i.LINK is a trademark of Sony used only to designate that a product contains an IEEE 1394 connection. The procedure to establish an i.LINK connection may vary, depending on a software application, an operating system, and a compatible i.LINK device. Not all products with an i.LINK connection can communicate with each other. See the manual that came with your compatible i.LINK device for more information on operating conditions and proper connection. Before connecting compatible i.LINK PC peripherals to your system, such as a CD-RW or hard disk drive, confirm their operating system compatibility and required operating conditions.

## Memory Stick Media

### What should I do if I cannot open my image files?

You may need to reformat your Memory Stick media.

Formatting Memory Stick media erases all data, including music data previously saved on it. Before you reformat Memory Stick media, back up important data and confirm that the media does not contain files you want to keep.

- 1 Copy the data from the Memory Stick media onto your computer's hard disk to save data or images.
- 2 Format the Memory Stick media using the **Memory Stick Formatter** software preinstalled on your computer. For instructions about formatting a Memory Stick media, see the help file on the **Memory Stick Formatter** software.

### Why can't I save music files onto my Memory Stick media?

Copyright protected music cannot be checked out to any Memory Stick media other than MagicGate Memory Stick media.

! Use of recorded music requires permission from the copyright holders.

Sony is not responsible for music files that cannot be recorded from a CD or downloaded from other sources.

### Can I copy images from a digital camera using Memory Stick media?

Yes, and you can view video clips that you have recorded with Memory Stick media-compatible digital cameras.

## Peripherals

### What should I do if I cannot connect a USB device?

- ❑ If applicable, check the USB device is turned on and using its own power supply. For example, if you are using a digital camera, check the battery is charged. If you are using a printer, check the power cable is connected properly to the AC outlet.
- ❑ Try using a different USB port on your computer. The driver could be installed to the specific port you used the first time you connected the device.
- ❑ See the manual that came with your USB device for more information. You may need to install software before you connect the device.
- ❑ Try connecting a simple, low-powered device such as a mouse to test if the port is working at all.
- ❑ USB hubs may prevent a device from working because of the distribution of power. We recommend you connect the device directly to your computer without a hub.

# Support Options

The section contains information on where to go for answers to questions about your computer.

## Sony Support Information

See the following sources for answers in the sequence listed below.

See **Documentation (page 7)** for details on the printed and non-printed documentation supplied with your computer, as well as further sources of reference.

- Go to the help files that accompany your software for instructions on using the software.
- Use the search functionality in **Help and Support Center** by pressing the Microsoft Windows key  and the **F1** key.
- VAIO-Link web site:** if you have any problem with the computer, you can access the VAIO-Link web site for troubleshooting. Go to <http://www.vaio-link.com>.
- e- Support:** This interactive part of our web site <http://www.vaio-link.com> allows you to get in contact with our dedicated support team over the internet. Using a personalized account, you can log your technical queries with ease.
- VAIO-Link help lines:** Before contacting VAIO-Link by telephone, try to solve the problem by reading the printed and non-printed documentation.
- Visit the other Sony web sites:
  - [www.club-vaio.com](http://www.club-vaio.com) if you want to know more about VAIO and become part of the growing VAIO community.
  - [www.sonystyle-europe.com](http://www.sonystyle-europe.com) for online purchases.
  - [www.sony.net](http://www.sony.net) for other Sony products.



You need to set up an Internet connection before you can access the online features described here.

## e-Support

### What is e-Support?

You have searched our user guides and web site ([www.vaio-link.com](http://www.vaio-link.com)) but have not found an answer to your question/issue? e-Support is the ideal solution for you!

Our e-Support Web Portal is an interactive web site on which you can submit any technical query you may have regarding your computer and receive answers from our dedicated support team.

Every submitted query will result in a unique 'case number' to ensure smooth communication between yourself and the e-Support Team.

### Who can use e-Support?

All registered VAIO customers are entitled to unlimited access to the VAIO-Link e-Support Web Portal.

### How can I access the e-Support portal?

When you register your computer, you will automatically receive an email with the link to the e-Support Web Portal, your Customer ID and some basic explanation a few hours later.

All you need to do is activate your account by clicking on the provided link in the email.

You are now ready to create your first case!

You can access the e-Support Web Portal from any computer with an active Internet connection.

A complete help file is available on the e-Support Web Portal to help you use our e-Support Service.

### Can I submit questions in my native language?

Since you are interacting with our e-Support Team through a portal, which connects you directly to our central database, e-Support will only accept and deal with queries submitted in English, French or German.

## Can I submit my questions at any time?

Yes, you can submit your questions 24/7, but please keep in mind that our e-Support Team can only treat your queries from Monday till Friday between 8am and 6pm.

## Is there a cost involved for using e-Support?

No, this is a complete free of charge service offered to all registered VAIO customers!

## How do I know when the e-Support Team has handled my query/case?

As soon as your case has been dealt with by our e-Support Team, you will receive an email, notifying you that your case has been updated.

## Trademarks

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