HOW TO...
Stop your mouse waking Windows

Putting your PC into Standby mode saves power and money. Julian Prokaza shows how to ensure it doesn't wake too soon

If you're the least bit interested in cutting your computer's power consumption, one very simple step you can take is to set Windows to slip into Standby mode after a spell of inactivity.

Standby mode uses only a trickle of electricity, but leaves Windows in a state where it can still spring into life and be ready for use in moments. Microsoft has even made Standby the default power-down state in Windows Vista – selecting Shutdown from the Start menu actually puts a PC in a 'hybrid sleep' mode rather than shutting everything down.

Pressing a key or moving the mouse is usually all it takes to wake Windows from Standby mode, but this presents a problem. Not every re-positioning of your pointing device is an indication that you're ready to start using your PC. After all, you may have simply knocked the desk or moved the mouse to make room for a cup of coffee, and are happy to leave Windows in its less wakeful state. Fortunately, there is a simple solution that works in both Windows XP and Windows Vista.

1 Open the Mouse Settings option in the Windows Control Panel. How you do this depends on whether you're using Widows XP or Windows Vista, and on how your Start menu is configured. With

Windows XP in standard mode, go to Start, Control Panel and double-click the Mouse icon. In Classic Start menu mode, go to Start, Settings, Control Panel, Mouse In Windows Vista (normal mode), go to Start, Control Panel then click Mouse under the Hardware and Sound icon. In Classic Start menu mode, go to Start, Settings, Control Panel, Mouse.

2 When the dialog box appears, click the Hardware tab. Look under Devices for the entry for your mouse. This is usually listed as HID-compliant mouse. If there are two likely entries, look for the one prefixed with your mouse manufacturer's name.

3 Click to select your mouse and then click the Properties button at the bottom-right of the dialog box to open a new dialog box.

4 When the Properties dialog box appears, click the Hardware tab (if there's no Hardware tab, go back to Step 2 and check that you selected the correct mouse). You'll see an option for 'Allow the device to wake the computer'. Untick the box and click OK to close all the dialog boxes. The mouse will now no longer bring your computer out of Standby mode, no matter how vigorously you move it. **CS**