



Tips to avoid a Computer Virus

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1. Always use an antivirus program. Not having an antivirus program is the number one reason for getting infected. Check to make sure the antivirus on your machine has not expired. Call me at (612) 382-5832 if you would like a recommendation for a good antivirus program.
2. Make sure your firewall is turned on. Especially when searching the internet.
3. Check to see if Windows is up to date. It's important to allow automatic updates for Windows. Use a current version of Windows (XP or above). Older versions of Windows are not being updated anymore and some security issues are not addressed in older versions.
4. Use a router to provide another layer of defense against internet attacks.
5. Use caution when downloading information. Only download from reputable sites. Minimize or avoid websites that say they need you to download something in order for the site to work. In most cases it is not worth the risk.
6. Avoid using peer to peer file sharing like Limewire, Kazaa, Bearshare.
7. Use caution when visiting websites you are not familiar with. It's best to stick to reputable websites that monitor and manage viruses that protect the consumer.
8. Use encryption for your WiFi to secure your wireless network. Select a password that is not obvious, it's best to use letters, numbers and symbols.
9. Only download Adobe or Flash from the original site.
10. Attachments in emails are risky. Make sure they are from a reliable source or that it is something you are expecting to receive.
11. If you get a "pop-up" (an *unfamiliar* alert saying that you are infected and you should use their scanning program.) use task manager to close it. (Ctrl, Alt, Delete and end program). You should only proceed with the scan if it is your antivirus making the suggestion!
12. Back up your data! It's a daunting task and if you don't want to deal with it yourself there are some very affordable reputable companies that will do it for you and keep it current. It will save you money in the long run. Contact me for a good recommendation. You'll get a month of free service when you sign up. Trust me, you will thank me later. It's only a matter of time until your hard drive fails.
13. Scan your computer for viruses occasionally depending on computer usage and frequency of virus detection. If viruses are detected frequently, frequent scans should be done.

Viruses get smarter everyday and the chances of getting a virus increases with your computer use. It's almost impossible to avoid them 100%. An up-to-date antivirus program is your best defense against getting a virus. If you suspect you have a virus give me a call so we can clean it up and get your computer running efficiently again.