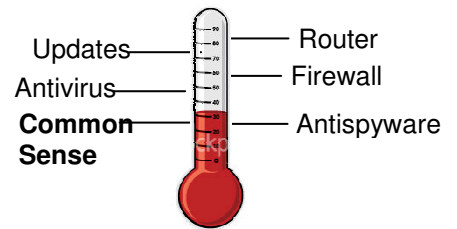


Basic Computer safety



Internet Options

Change your Homepage here

Delete temporary files to speed up computer

Delete cookies to stop some Spyware

Clear history to destroy your past steps

Updates

Your computer needs updates to keep it in working order

Set the computer to get updates by itself (*recommended*) or do it yourself

Note: Computer must **remain on** to get the updates

Viruses and Spyware

A computer virus is a piece of code that is secretly introduced into a system in order to corrupt it or destroy data.



Small software programs that takes partial control of the computer's operation without the user's consent.

Antivirus software

Antivirus software are programs for free and pay that try to protect your computer. They use a list of definitions, **updated regularly**, to find identify them and then deal with them.

Think of these programs like a baseball bat with a list. Anything on the list gets hit but that list must be current

Pay programs

Norton Antivirus and McAfee VirusScan



Free Programs
Avast and AVG



AntiSpyware Software

If you are infected you usually have multiple pieces of spyware on your machine. There are many programs that try to stop spyware but be careful many people download software that says that it works and it is spyware itself.

Spyware Blockers – try to stop the infection

SpywareBlaster



Spyware Cleaners – try to get rid of the infection

Ad-Aware

Cleans spyware from your computer

Download the program and run it to find spyware in your system

If you have critical objects quarantine them or delete them



46 Running Processes 2185 Process Modules	0 Processes Identified 0 Modules Identified 0 Registry Keys Identified 0 Registry Values Identified
2 Objects Recognized 0 Objects Ignored 2 New Critical Objects	2 Files Identified 0 Folders Identified

Random bits of help

Anti Phishing software

SpooF Stick

A simple browser add-on that helps users detect fake websites. A spoofed website is typically made to look like a well known, branded site (like ebay.com). The spoofer then tries to trick people into going to the site by sending out fake email - hoping that some users won't notice the incorrect URL and give away important information. This practice is sometimes known as "phishing".



Mozilla Firefox



Change your browser from Internet Explorer to Firefox. This helps to keep a lot of junk like popup ads and spyware down. Also it works really well. Below is their description.

Fast, full-featured Web browser that makes browsing more efficient than ever before. Firefox includes pop-up blocking; a tab-browsing mode that lets you open several pages in a single window; integrated Google searching; simplified privacy controls that let you cover your tracks more effectively.



Unused software

Many times we install something never to use it again. That software stays in the system until you remove. It would be good practice to go through your software removal program and delete the unused junk. However if you are unfamiliar with something do not delete it because it may be important.



User Accounts

Create guest account with limited access so that no one inadvertently messes up your computer. Doing this will give you piece of mind that it will be fine after

Firewall

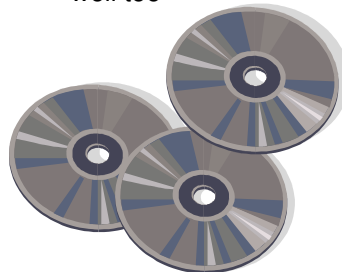
Prevents unwanted traffic from the internet getting into your computer. It can be software or hardware. There are free versions of firewalls like ZoneAlarm Firewall



Backups

Make sure to regularly save copies of important files. A computer has the potential of dying like any electronic. Burn CDs or DVDs with photos, work, music...etc.

External hard drives work well too



Common Sense

If you would not do it life outside of the computer then avoid while on the net. Many people fall for all sorts of schemes when it involves money.

- Think twice before acting.
- Just because it is free does not always mean you want it.
- Use caution when opening email and email attachments.



Surge Protector

Make sure you have a surge protector and not a power strip. SP will stop a burst of voltage from destroying your electronics while a power strip will not. Surge protectors will cost anywhere from \$20.00 to \$100.00 and usually come with some insurance. Get one with a phone in/out