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PC Security – Software installation

Virus protection installation

Go to the following website and download and install the following:

- AVG Free Home Edition virus protection
<http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/1/>

Spyware protection installation

Go to the following website and download and install these 2 programs:

- AdAware
<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>
- SpyBot Search and Destroy
<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/>
- MS Antispyware

Firewall protection installation

Go to the following website and download and install the following:

- ZoneAlarm firewall
http://download.zonelabs.com/bin/free/1012_zl/zlsSetup_55_062_004.exe

Google Toolbar

Go to the following website and download and install the following:

- Google Toolbar
<http://toolbar.google.com>

The following functionality will be added to your browser:

- The ability to search without actually going to the Google website first
- (More importantly) Block those annoying popup ads

The Google toolbar works very well especially if you don't want to stop using Internet Explorer. However, to further enhance your browsing experience, keep reading.

Browser

Go to the following website and download and install the following:

- Mozilla Firefox
<http://www.mozilla.com>

Firefox is a more stable browser than Internet Explorer and it gives you the ability to enjoy tabbed browsing, among other things. Tabs give you the ability to have multiple windows open in a single browser window. Firefox also blocks popups, just like the Google toolbar.

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PC Security – Regular Maintenance

Virus protection

Whether you installed AVG free home edition or you have another virus protection program is not important. They all have the ability to be scheduled to run on a regular basis. It should be scheduled to update and run at least every other day.

Spyware protection

Once the above programs are installed, AdAware and Spybot Search and Destroy, the following process needs to be done about once a week.

- Open up AdAware and click 'Check for updates now', then click 'Connect'. It will tell you if there is a newer version and download it for you. If there is not, just click the 'Finish' button. Next, click the 'Start' button, then click the 'Next' button. This will begin scanning the files on your computer. Once it is done, click 'Next' and you will see a listing of spyware files it found. Right click on any file in the list and click 'Select all objects' then click 'Next' and a box will inform you '300 objects will be removed. Continue?' It will indicate how many objects it found, 300 is just an example. Now you are back at the start again, just close the application.
- Open SpyBot and click 'Search for Updates' to check for the latest version. If there is a newer version, then it will be downloaded to replace the previous version. Next Click 'Search and Destroy' and click 'Check for problems'. The program will run for several minutes and read thru several thousand different types of spyware files and look for any matches in your computer. Once it is complete, if any were found, then verify that there is a checkmark next to all files listed and click 'Fix selected problems'. This will remove the spyware files.

WARNING: AdAware will read through all files on your computer, looking for spyware. SpyBot will read through it's own list of spyware files looking for spyware on your computer, and you can see the files it is reading as it scrolls through them. Some of the files that SpyBot reads through may be offensive and especially not for children's eyes.

It is a good idea to run AdAware and SpyBot back to back. Generally, they will both find some things.

Windows updates

Windows need to be kept up to date and Microsoft issues updates or service packs regularly. To ensure that you are getting them in a timely manner, do the following:

- Click start, control panel, (switch to classic view, if it's not already), Automatic Updates
- Be sure that the checkbox is checked where it says: Keep my computer up to date with the option to automatically download the updates and install them on the schedule that I specify

If you have read this entire document and it all makes sense, then you are well on your way to maintaining a secure PC. If, however, you have gotten this far and still have questions, please do not hesitate to call us or email us.