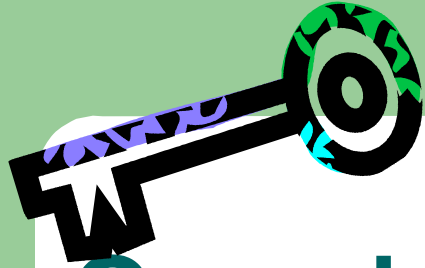


PC Security



Avoiding Catastrophic Failures



Overview

- PC Security Defined
- Backups
- Passwords
- Anti-Virus
- Anti-Spam
- Anti-Spyware
- Firewalls



PC Security is PROTECTING:

- Data from accidental or malicious loss or alteration
- User privacy
- Computers against unauthorized use or access
- Computer resources
 - Networks
 - Disk space



BACKUPS

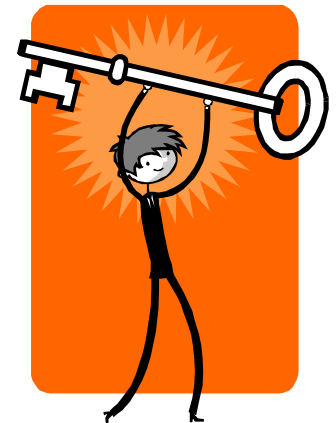
- Make a copy of everything you don't want to lose on
 - CD
 - DVD
 - Flash Memory
 - External Hard Drive
 - Disk space on the Internet
- Store backups at a different location
- Keep a log of
 - Programs you install
 - Title, version, date, keys, reference numbers, etc.
 - Backups you do
 - Date, folders included, special information or notes



PASSWORDS



- A 'secret' combination of letters, numbers and symbols that ONLY YOU know.
 - Don't use a word you could look up in the dictionary
 - Don't use names like your pet or child that people can guess
 - Don't write it down
 - Have a consistent scheme for choosing a PW since different sites have different requirements
- Try
 - A sentence: If I had ten cats, then I would go crazy. (iih10ctiwgc)
 - A string of familiar words and numbers (pondkale34)
 - Random is best but hard to remember (rgi84/bp7)
- Remember
 - Often upper and lower case are different
 - Some sites don't allow any symbols



Virus



- A virus is a self-replicating/self-reproducing-automation program that spreads by inserting copies of itself into other executable code or documents
- It is loaded onto your computer without your knowledge and runs against your wishes.
- Also includes worms, trojan horses, various other 'malware.'

(from Wikipedia)

Anti-Virus Software



- A utility that searches a hard disk for viruses and removes any that are found
- Most include an auto-update feature that downloads profiles of newly discovered viruses
- Most have a base cost plus an annual cost for updates

SPAM



- Spam, unsolicited or undesired bulk electronic messages, such as:
 - e-mail spam, unsolicited emails with advertisements
 - spamdexing, manipulating a search engine to create the illusion of more popularity of a webpage of lesser importance
 - Messaging spam - instant messenger spam
 - Forum spam - Pointless topics, advertisements

SPAM Negatives

- Lost time and productivity
- Ease of perpetrating fraud anonymously
- Need for more capacity (disk space) to hold all the junk messages



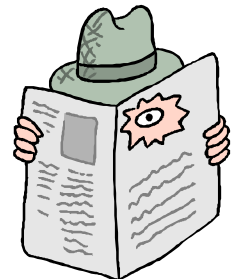
Anti-Spam Software

- Use your email's "junk mail" filter to reduce handling of spam
- You can buy software if your email's filter isn't enough
- Don't reply!
- Delete it quickly without opening it
- Desperate? Change your email address



SPYWARE IS

- Any software that covertly gathers user information through the user's Internet connection without his or her knowledge, usually for advertising purposes.
 - often bundled with freeware or shareware programs that can be downloaded from the Internet
- Monitors user activity on the Internet and transmits that information in the background to someone else.
 - Can also gather information about e-mail addresses and even passwords and credit card numbers.



COOKIES



- A kind of spyware
- Small pieces of data (not software) that track Web-browsing activity: for instance to maintain a "shopping cart" for an online store or to maintain consistent user settings on a search engine.
- Only the Web site that sets a cookie can access it.
 - For cookies associated with advertisements, the user gets redirected to a cookie-setting third-party site
 - Advertisers use cookies to track people's browsing and build up a marketing profile of the person or family using the computer.
 - You can automatically reject cookies from third-party sites
- Cookies are useful and sometimes necessary

Anti-Spyware Software

- Download and install Microsoft's Antispyware – a free product

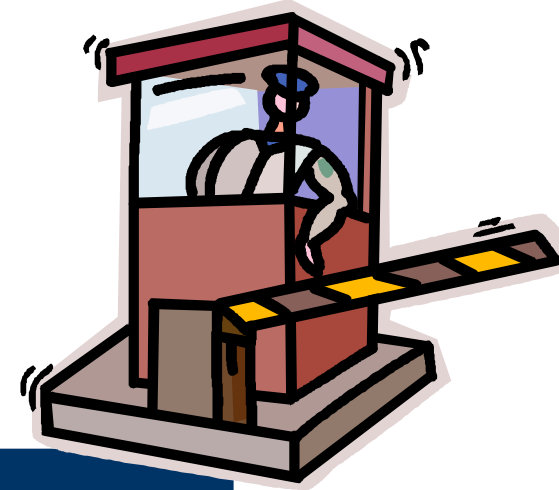
Windows® Defender (Beta 2)

OR

- get any other product you might select from a search of the Internet for products and information.



FIREWALLS DEFINED



- A system designed to prevent unauthorized access to your computer and/or network
- Protects by hiding the PC from external users and preventing unauthorized connections
- Does not protect against email viruses, spam or pop-up ads
- The first line of defense in protecting private information.



FIREWALL SOFTWARE

- Windows XP (sp2) comes with one. See <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/protect/firewall.mspix>

OR BUY ANOTHER VENDOR'S IF YOU WANT:

- more advanced control over the traffic that passes through your computer
- Blocking of outgoing traffic (that is the traffic from your computer out to the Internet)

FIREWALL VENDORS

- Some vendors offer firewall products compatible with Windows XP.
 - Computer Associates (12-month free trial)
 - F-secure (6-month free trial)
 - McAfee (90-day free trial)
 - Panda Software (90-day free trial)
 - Symantec (90-day free trial)
 - Tiny Software: Tiny Personal Firewall

AND REMEMBER

- **BACKUP**
- **BACKUP**
- **BACKUP**

THANK YOU for your participation

End of Presentation



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