

Setting up a secure reliable system

After reading all the article on the INTERNET and seeing all the news about viruses, Trojans, spyware, and adware it's a wonder anyone can run anything except scanners on there system. I have seen customers computers that are constantly running ten different threat scanners all at the same time. And worst of all each scanner cost over thirty Dollars and some even need to be renewed annually. So what is the right answer. The best way to set up a system to make it secure. And not break the bank trying to do it.

While this subject is somewhat of a debate lately I offer this FREE solution to all who will listen. My only proof is the healthy running system I am currently running to write this column.

While everyone claims to have the new sliced bread when it comes to system protection. The wise person looks for the best of all worlds.

1. Low or no cost to setup and maintain
2. Low or no system resources taken up to hinder daily performance
3. Easy setup and easy upgrades
4. Wide Spectrum of security

The plan I propose below is the one I use and it offers the following security and benefits.

- Total cost of FREE with no annual renewal costs
- Sealing of windows xp security holes
- Disabling of unneeded services
- Virus protection
- Adware protection
- spyware protection
- Trojan protection
- Worm protection
- System temp and extraneous file removal
- Extremely small system resources usage

All this and more

Take these steps to set up this type of secure system.

1. Update drivers

Using your device manager in windows update all the drivers.

*Note be sure you are on the Internet and allow the system to check windows update for the newest drivers. Go through the entire list to be sure all is as it should be.

2. Update Windows

Use that annoying windows update utility and be sure you have all the updates available. Be sure to get all the optional as well as the required updates as many times these updates hold the key to making a program work that normally wouldn't. Saving you time and energy later.

3. Update Applications

Go through your system (it helps to use the add/remove programs utility to see what's installed) update all major programs such as Office, and all accounting software. This helps your system work more smoothly, often adds usability and features, and helps seal security flaws

4. Magic Dragon

MicroCrafters offers a program designed to take the headache out of periodic maintenance. But it does a lot more than that. Potion shuts down running services that aren't need by your system blocking unwanted intrusions, Cleans out temporary files and uninstallation files left behind by windows and other updates, also clears out cookies, stops key loggers, and removes unwanted windows programs such as windows messenger (known famously for its security issues). (this is not the same thing as msn messenger)

Magic Dragon is available at <http://microcrafters.net> for under FREE

Also Magic Dragon doesn't use any system resources unless it I running so it won't slow your system down

5. AVG virus protection

Download and install AVG free Virus protection software. While they offer a larger paid version. The free version works great for personal computers and allows for free updates anytime.

Protects against viruses, Trojans, worms, and some ad/spyware.

Has active monitor that takes up little system resources.

6. Ad-Aware scanner

Download and install ad-aware free edition. Again while paid versions are available the average person doesn't need more than this software offers.

Doesn't use any system resources when not scanning.

7. CodeStuff Starter

Download and install codestuff starter. This program lists all programs that start each time your system starts and allows you to stop them. Also it lists the processes running to allow diagnostics of bad software running behind the scenes. Use Google.com to look up processes and starter programs before you delete any. This is very important as you should never delete something if you don't know what it does.

8. Google.com

Google is your best customer support. You can look up most any problem and find a solution.

In conclusion with these few and inexpensive programs you will have all the tools you need to keep your pc secure and clean. Providing fast service for years to come. You may doubt it's this easy with all the publicity floating around but I assure you my system is secure and the little bit of money you spend is worth it especially in comparison to the price you could pay.