
How to . . .

Protect Your Computer Against Viruses

Here are a few primary indicators that your system might be infected by a virus:

- Runs consistently slower than normal
- Stops responding or locks up often
- Crashes and restarts every few minutes
- Restarts on its own and then fails to run normally
- Applications don't work properly
- Disks or disk drives are inaccessible
- Printing doesn't work correctly
- You see unusual error messages
- You see distorted menus and dialog boxes

Signs of Spyware:

- You see pop-up ads (usually adult content) as soon as you turn on your computer or when you're not even browsing the Web.
- Your browser home page has changed or additional toolbars have been added that you don't want or need. Even when you change these settings or remove the toolbar, they return each time you restart your computer.
- You notice a sudden increase in the number of times a certain program crashes, or your computer is slower than normal at performing routine tasks.

Protect Your Computer:

- Turn on Windows Automatic Updates
- Use an Internet Firewall
- Subscribe to industry standard antivirus software and keep it current
- Never open e-mail attachments from someone you don't know
- Avoid opening e-mail attachments from someone you know, unless you know exactly what the attachment is

Nothing can guarantee the security of your computer 100 percent. Because no security method is guaranteed, it's important to BACK UP CRITICAL FILES on a regular basis -- before you encounter a virus.