



About this newsletter

Even if you never saw yourself as a “computer person” in the past, your email, Internet, Office programs, and digital photos may now seem indispensable. In this and future newsletters, I hope to provide you with information that can protect you from the frustration of crashes, data loss, and computer infections. –James

Avoid Infection

To keep your Windows computer free of malware:

1. Keep your antivirus software up-to-date.

2. Run ATF Cleaner, monthly.*

Free from www.atribune.org
This cleans out temp files that accumulate from the Internet.
[I removed 5 gigabytes of temp files from my own computer the first time I ran ATF cleaner(!).]

3. Run MalwareBytes' Anti-Malware, monthly.*

Free from www.malwarebytes.org

*Recommended **monthly** especially for teenagers! Less frequently for you folks who don't go to "sketchy" websites.

You can find instructions for running these programs on my website:

www.viennahelp.com

Too Much Security?
If you already have AVG or other antivirus, do not install more security software from AOL, Verizon or others.

Too much security can slow down your system!

TIPS

- **Do not over fill your hard drive.** Windows and Mac need at least 15% to 20% free space. When you run out of space, the system may slow to a crawl and critical files can be over-written.
- **Run a disk error check every 6 months.** Go to My Computer, right click on the hard drive you want to test, go to Properties, Select the Tools tab. Under Error Checking, click Check Now, select "Automatically fix file system errors" and say okay. Say Yes to the next dialog box and restart your computer.
- **To Defrag or Not to Defrag?** Fragmentation was more of a problem with small hard drives. Usually if your hard drive is less than half full, you don't need to defragment. Always click the Analyze button and let Windows tell you if you should defragment your hard drive.

IMPORTANT: Before you install software

- **Be sure the software is from a legitimate source.** Check out reviews on download.com to make sure it is worthwhile and not BtrayWare, loaded with adware, or worse!
- **Read the terms, understand the checkboxes, and make sure the installer is not installing additional products.** Avoid toolbars that just add junk that runs in the background.
- **Avoid installing software from CDs for cameras or other devices.** Most cameras don't need drivers. Most of their CDs are mostly bad software, loaded with trialware and advertising.
- **To install printer software:**
 - 1) Install USB printer software before connecting printer.
 - 2) Go to manufacturer's website and download the current, bug-free versions (e.g. hp.com, lexmark.com, canon.com).
- **Avoid Registry Cleaners and other PC Tune-up software.** I've seen Windows installations corrupted by these, requiring a repair install. Note that ErrorGuard is actually a Trojan that will infect your machine.

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