

How To Stop Computer Viruses in Their Tracks

I am sorry to say I have good news and bad news....Give me the good news I hear you say? Your computer can be protected from intrusion and viruses in a majority of cases. Now for the bad news – it doesn't matter how up to date your virus checking software is, there is always a chance a new virus can slip in through the cracks. So how can you minimise the possibility of this happening? Being aware and understanding the importance of Virus Checking Software is the best place to start.

As more and more people use email and the internet every day to communicate with each other it becomes necessary to have virus checking software to protect you, your computer and its valuable information from the unscrupulous people in the world.

When you first purchase a computer it should come with Virus Checking software installed. BEWARE! Virus checking software is great, however when installed on new computers, vendors generally only provide the software for a short period from when you first start using the computer.

In order to ensure continued protection against new viruses which are written daily, you need to subscribe to a virus checking service.

The organisations that provide virus checking software are many and varied. Some common ones are VET Anti Virus, Norton Anti Virus and Systematic. They are all really similar and you may choose a particular brand on recommendation from friends or family. All that matters is that you register it and ask for regular updates by email or mail whatever you prefer. Software loaded on your computer generally comes with registration forms. Complete these and mail them off to the software vendor ASAP. This then ensures they will keep you informed of new virus updates.

Once registered, you will receive a reminder when your subscription is due for renewal. In order to ensure your data is protected, you need to maintain the currency of the subscription and regularly update your software by right clicking on the icon in the system tray and choosing to update on line, or by asking your provider to supply the updates in disk format for regular loading on your computer. Which ever way you choose doesn't matter, but if you don't do it your system is unprotected!

Think of virus checking software as insurance for your computer. Would you spend \$300K + on your home and not insure it? Then why spend money on your computer and not protect the valuable information you store on it?

Good virus checking practices along with back up procedures are two of the most important things small business or home users of computers neglect to do – that is, until it is too late.

Take the time to make sure you and your computer are protected and your time can be spent on working on what is important to you!

Donna Hanson specialises in computer and technology related education for home, business and corporate computer users. Her company Prime Solutions Training & Consulting provides customised computer training solutions, and resources to assist in helping users understand and increase their knowledge of computer related technology. Donna is also available to provide keynote presentations or act as an MC for your next conference or event.

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