



The Latest News from More Power Computers

Computer Security

- > Spyware
- > Malware
- > Adware
- > Ransomware
- > What can we do about it?

How Can You Avoid Malicious Software?

While there's nothing that will keep you 100% protected, there are things you can do that will decrease the odds of an infection.

- ◆ Have only one good anti-virus program and keep it



up to date. Do not have more than one, as the two will work against each other and corrupt your data and operating system. Do not let your subscription lapse. Many of these programs have an automatic renewal process to make it easy to renew. If you decide to change anti-virus programs follow directions on how to remove the old one com-

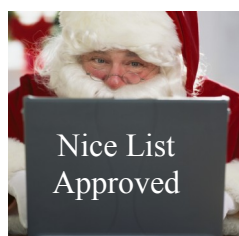
- ◆ Have one or two good anti-spyware programs. Unlike anti-virus programs, you can have more than one anti-spyware program. Some will have automatic updates, while others require you to manually update them each time. Either way, make sure yours is up-to-date and run it.
- ◆ Think twice before downloading anything. Exercise caution with free utilities, screensavers, games, etc., as these are often guilty of depositing spyware or malware on your PC. Do some background research into the company and software you're considering installing. If everything appears to be legitimate then, just to be safe, make sure your anti-virus and anti-spyware programs are up-to-date and install the software. This way, if there is malicious software in the program, you are more likely to catch it and clean it off your system before it can do too much damage. Peer-to-peer websites, such as Limewire, use a program that allows users to download music, movies, etc., from other users, but this also opens the door to viruses and other malware.
- ◆ Download the latest security patches and service updates from Microsoft using automatic updates or download them manually. This will help keep your PC safe from security threats and keep your system running at the optimal level.
- ◆ Scan e-mail attachments before you open them to make sure they are safe and don't contain a virus. Your anti-virus software may allow you to automatically scan e-mail attachments before you open them.

Got Malware? What You Can Do To Recover From An Infection.

If you've backed up your data, then the computer hard drive can be wiped clean using the original Microsoft disk(s) to reload the operating system it is licensed to have on it. Other software will also need to be reloaded. You can then transfer data from your back-up media to your hard drive. You could do this yourself, or if you choose More Power Computers could do this but there would be a cost for labor. However, even if you have not backed up your data it may still be possible to recover some or all

of your documents and photos if they have not been corrupted. Shut down the computer to prevent further data corruption, bring the tower into More Power Computers with the software box that came with it at the time of purchase, and we can salvage those files if they are not already corrupted. MPC can save your data to our server, wipe and reload the software that's authorized to be on the computer, and then transfer your data back onto your computer. The data files would be stored in a folder on your com-

puter and you could move the individual files wherever you want. Please note that data saved to our server is removed when the computer is returned to you.



Inside this issue:

Avoid Malware	1
Got it? Get rid of it!	1
Prepare for Malware	2



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Prepare for Malware!

Back up your data! If a virus or other malware corrupts your data, such as a family photos or business records, it may not be possible to recover them unless you have backed them up onto something else. Backing up data protects against software issues, but it also means if the hard disk drive fails your backup still has your data. Hard drives are easily replaced; data is not!

Most PCs have CD or DVD writers that can be used to store data long-term. Also, flash drives are great for temporarily storing small amounts of data that you need now but may want to write over later. External hard drives are a great back-up solution, and some come with software to make it easier or even automatic to back-up your data, address book, pictures, calendar, and all those things important to you.

