

Tip for January 2005
Courtesy of Wyvern Technology
0418 421 202
www.wyverntech.com



I hope that 2005 has been kind to you thus far. Since I have been fixing computers, I have really looked forward to going to work. Sometimes the computers can give me a headache but the lovely people I come into contact with each and every day make it all worthwhile.

Viruses: I know we have discussed this before but it is important that you make sure that you are protected. And this isn't as easy as you might think. Sometimes you have installed an antivirus program which you think is working but it actually isn't because one day your computer starts feeling ill and you discover that it is infected. In Voltaire's 'best of possible worlds' we know this shouldn't happen and it isn't much use asking me why people create viruses because I have no idea just as I have no idea why some people create and others destroy in their everyday lives.

Viruses these days take approx. 2 seconds to get to your machine and they are far more insidious than they used to be. They can come just from your logging on to a website, so you can avoid attachments and emails but the only sure way to avoid them all together is abstinence - no internet use at all.

Unfortunately viruses can also infect the very programs that have been designed to detect and destroy them. And wouldn't you try to get in first if you were the target? This situation isn't helped by faulty programming on the part of the operating system and the antivirus program creators. And buying a new computer won't help either as it is not the age of the computer that matters. Indeed the older operating systems are less likely to be targeted by viruses anyway.

How do I tell whether my antivirus program is working properly? you cry.

There is no easy answer to that problem but you should be able to check the date of the latest updates. If this is recent, then it should be working. The problem with a lot of the new programs is that they are automatic and work invisibly behind the scenes. In lots of ways, updating manually gives you a better idea of what is going on.

I don't usually use brand names but I was alerted to this anti virus program some time ago by one of my readers and I have since found it superior to all the other programs which you have to pay money for. Yes, this program is free to home users and is available at www.grisoft.com. Again don't ask me why this program is offered free but it is and a darned good program it is too.

Keep healthy and cool and keep your computer that way too.

Cheers,

Deirdree