

Tip for October 2008
Courtesy of Wyvern Technology
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Things that go bump in the night...

There are some real nasties out there and some that look nasty and are not so nasty.

In the first category is a program calling itself XP Antivirus 2008/2009 which purports to find lots of nasties on your computer but it itself is the real nasty. Once it has gained access to your computer, it will disable your real antivirus program and set about doing damage to your hard drive. The trouble is it looks like the real goods and you can sail along happily with it, thinking how poor your own antivirus program is not to have picked up all the problems this one seems to have found. One of our clients had to get a new hard drive as the damage done couldn't be undone, so be wary.

In the second category falls the following:

Most of you are probably aware that you don't open emails from banks and the like, since they are likely to be after your money through identity theft. You might be forgiven though when an email seems to come from a reliable source, such as Zone Alarm - a good product that provides many users with the extra security of a firewall on their machines, as well as the one in their modems.

One customer rang the other day worried that the PC was not properly protected because a test program which looks to come from Zone Alarm System CleanUp reported that the machine had many faults with security, fragmentation, file clusters, etc., and even though there was a virus checker present and working, it reported that there was not! We checked registry entries and fragmentation as well. Then we checked the internet for other people's experience with this product. The consensus was that it was just a way of advertising another PC health product, which would 'fix' the problems.

Please be careful about messages that say your computer's performance can be improved or that there are security problems to be fixed. Check on Google for what other people have found before downloading and installing.

Cheers,
Deirdree