

# Larry's newsLETTER



## Techie Term: HDMI

HDMI stands for High-Definition Multimedia Interface. It is an interface standard used for audiovisual equipment such as high-definition television and home theater systems. It has 19 wires wrapped in a single cable wire. It is able to carry a bandwidth of 5 Gbps (gigabits per second).

### How to maintain the life of your PC.

- Regularly clean the fans with a vacuum.
- Only leave computers on when you are using them.
- During electrical storms unplug your computer.

If you experience any of the following it's important that you get your computer checked as soon as possible as to prevent data loss.

- If it seems to take forever to load windows.
- If programs within windows give you error messages.
- If your virus program has been turned off or you have a virus program you do not recognize.
- If your computer displays weird screens or has erratic mouse movements.

## It is very important to make sure your computers are kept updated! Do you have current virus and malware protection installed?

If you connect an unpatched Windows XP computer to the Internet, how long will it take before it's infected with malware or attacked by a hacker?

An anonymous reader notes a recent post on the SANS Institute's Internet Storm Center site estimating the time to infection of an unpatched Windows machine on the Internet — currently about 4 minutes. The researcher stipulated that the sub-5-minute estimate was valid for an unpatched machine in an ISP netblock with no NAT or firewall. The researcher, Lorna Hutcheson, called for others to post data on time-to-infection, and honeypot researchers in Germany did so the same day. They found longer times to infection, an average of 16 hours. Concludes the ISC's Hutchinson: *"While the survival time varies quite a bit across methods used, pretty much all agree that placing an unpatched Windows computer directly onto the Internet in the hope that it downloads the patches faster than it gets exploited are odds that you wouldn't bet on in Vegas."*

Gleaned from <http://it.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=08/07/15/0123245>

### Why we Recommend StopSign Computer Protection Service

**Custom Cleaners** - Custom cleaners may be needed to deal with a particularly resistant virus or spyware program. Custom Cleaners are also developed for brand new viruses and spyware that cannot yet be cured automatically. If StopSign finds one of these infections, you will be prompted to send your scan results and a system snapshot to their research center. Their internet security experts will develop a custom cleaner specifically designed to clean that particular infection. When your custom cleaner is ready, you'll be notified to run the cleaner. If you need any additional help, the customer support staff will work one-on-one with you to get your computer 100 percent infection free.

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**Advanced Support** - Do you have a stubborn virus, trojan or spyware infection that is especially hard to remove? Some of these malicious intruders are designed to resist removal or automatically reinstall themselves every time they are deleted. Even the best anti-virus software may need extra measures to permanently remove exceptionally stubborn infections. The StopSign Research Center will provide support to clean even the most resistant infections. Our internet security experts in the StopSign Research Center remove all traces of infections. And, their support is free as part of your membership. Research Center experts can even remotely access your computer if needed, to assist with removing stubborn infections

**Daily Virus Updates** - Immediately following a new virus or spyware outbreak, there internet security experts are working to create a cure. As soon as a cure is found, it is released as an update available for your scanner, to protect you before you are even aware of the outbreak.

With your eAcceleration Membership you always receive FREE updated virus definitions and scanner updates. With an ever-increasing number of viruses being introduced, it is crucial for you to always have up-to-date internet security for your PC. With StopSign, getting these updates is easy, because you can set your software to automatically download updates whenever you scan while online. This always ensures you the most current virus protection.

## Watch out for those low priced great deal laptops.

When purchasing any new computer make sure you look at the warranty that is offered. You should get a warranty of at least one year that is from the manufacturer and covers all parts and labor with next business day service.

## Warranties offered by big retail chains are usually not worth the money for the following reasons.

- These retail warranties cover the unit from the day you purchase it for an extended period of time. The manufacturer covers the repair costs in the first year, so it is free money for the retail outlet.
- The retail outlet will ship out your unit if it needs repair and it normally takes several weeks to be returned.
- When the unit is returned you may have lost all your valuable information as they do not back up the hard drive before sending them out.
- Many times the units are returned un-repaired only for you to have to send them out once again for repair.
- If your hard drive fails you are expected to reload the operating system. Did you make those recovery disks?
- If it appears that you dropped the computer you will most likely be denied coverage unless you have a special, more expensive insurance policy to cover this.

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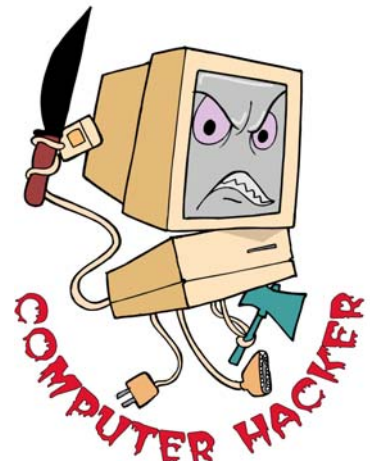
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- A lot of credit cards offer free insurance when purchasing items on the credit card.
- The cost of any future repairs can be made by a local repair shop faster 1 to 2 days verses weeks and in most cases less expensive than the cost of the warranty. Remember electronics in general always come down in price over time.

## Issues with Windows XP and Service Pack 3

The issues that Symantec's security software created with service pack 3 has been resolved. Earlier this month Symantec released a cleanup tool to address the problem. The HP problem has also been addressed and resolved with a short cut installation routine that HP uses when setting up their computers. We still recommend holding off another couple of weeks before updating. Microsoft will begin updating your computer automatically to service pack 3 some-time later this month. Make sure you have changed your computer to manual updates if you do not want to receive the latest service pack.

## So you like FREE programs and music..

### Rules to observe when installing free programs.

- Read the ULA, what are you really getting?
- DO NOT just click next over and over again. Make sure you are reading each page and are only selecting the options that you want.
- Most free programs contain spyware and they track you where ever you surf on the internet.
- A lot of free programs come with time limits for use and many allow you to use only some of the features.
- Some free programs have virus's in them - install them and you are instantly infected.
- Using Limewire, sharebear, and other programs to download "FREE" music from the internet will setup your computer to have virus's, malware, or even possibly be hi-jacked. You could also be prosecuted by the recording studios for illegal use of their copyrighted music. (In October, after a trial in Minnesota -- the first time the industry has made its case before a federal jury -- Jammie Thomas was ordered to pay \$220,000 to the big record companies. That's \$9,250 for each of 24 songs she was accused of sharing online.)

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