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Techie Term:

WORM - acronym for Write Once-Read Many; an optical disk that can only be written to once (like a CD-ROM).

How To Protect Yourself From Malware

Even when you obtain a new program from a trusted source, there's always a nagging doubt whether the file is really clean.

You can use the following techniques to check files for any possible malware or Viruses. First download the file. If you have StopSign Antivirus right click on the file and left click on scan or use your antivirus to scan the program before running it.

How Does Malware Circumvent Your Antivirus

It's very possible that a file can scan clean and still be infected.

First, AV scanners can detect only the malware contained in their signature databases. If the file is infected with a new malware program yet to be listed in the database, the file won't be detected by simple scanning.

Second, merely scanning a file for malware isn't particularly effective. That's because many modern malware programs are deliberately constructed to avoid detection by antivirus scanners. There are many different techniques used by malware to avoid detection. One of the most common, polymorphism, packages the malware so that no two copies are alike. This makes detection of characteristic signatures very difficult.

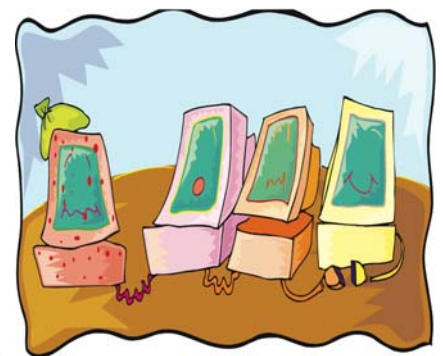
Also, once the program's installed, it may be too late. As part of its installation, the malware may very well disable your security software or otherwise render it ineffective.

Analyze file behavior, not just its signature; Use a Anti Malware Program

Anti-malware products demonstrate better detection rates if they scan programs while they're being installed. Most security programs nowadays use behavioral techniques to spot malware products that aren't listed in their signature databases. In other words, the security scan identifies malicious programs by their actions rather than solely by their signatures.

During a program's installation, its actions can be monitored and suspicious activities detected, something that a simple scan of the file won't identify.

Additionally, polymorphous and other disguised malware is easier to detect during installation. At some stage, the malware has to be loaded in memory in its uncloned form. The program can then be identified by its signature.



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Although malware detection during installation is far more effective than after-the-fact scanning, it's also riskier. Thankfully, though, there's a way of controlling this risk. Use a program such as ThreatFire to help prevent malware. When prompted to quarantine or delete do it unless you are positive about the program. Be careful where you surf too. Gaming sites, pornography and gambling sites as well as Google, Yahoo and MSN are notorious for passing malware. Malware can come via movies, music, gaming sites, file sharing sites like Limewire, Bearshare, Bit torrent, as well as infected websites.

Article provided by: By Ian "Gizmo" Richards senior editor of the Windows Secrets Newsletter

How do I get my Windows 7 computer on the network?

QUESTION:

I have a laptop computer with Windows 7 RC installed. I connected it to my home network with a wireless connection (my other two XP computers are connected, one wireless and one with Ethernet cable and they can see each other). I can get on the Internet so I know the Windows 7 computer is connected, but my XP computers can't see it and I can't get the XP computers to see the printer that's attached to the laptop. How do I get it on the network so the other computers can share files with it?

ANSWER:

The first thing to check is whether Network Discovery is turned on in your Windows 7 computer because you won't be able to see other computers on the network if it's turned off, and they won't be able to see yours. You also need to enable file and printer sharing if you want. In Control Panel, go to the Network and Sharing Center. Click Change Advanced Sharing Settings. Now click "Turn on network discovery" and "Turn on file and printer sharing." If you want others to be able to access the files in the Public folders on the Windows 7 machine, also click "Turn on sharing so anyone with network access can read and write files in the Public folders." If you don't want everyone else on the network to be able to access the public shares, turn on password protected sharing. Then you can set a password and others will have to enter it to access the public shares from one of the other computers.

When in doubt - Call

Larry The Computer Guy

We are here to help you

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How To: Using XP Features

How to remove startup programs

If your XP computer is taking way too long to boot up, it might be because you're loading too many programs at startup. Often applications that you install will take it upon themselves to add themselves to the startup list, even though you don't really want them to start automatically every time you boot the computer. Sometimes many of these apps are vendor "crapware" programs that you don't even want or use. Here's how to quickly prevent unwanted programs from starting up when you boot the system:

1. Click Start | Run
 2. In the Run box, type msconfig
 3. In the System Configuration Utility interface, click the Startup tab
 4. Uncheck the items you don't want to start when your computer starts
- Click OK and then restart the computer to make the change take effect (or just exit without restarting if you want to reboot at a later time).

Is Your Computer Reliable?

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10 causes of a broken laptop computer.

#10: I Punched The Laptop:

#9: Facebook Freak-out: My boyfriend is kissing my best friend

#8: Car Crusher: - Sliding the seat over your laptop.

#7: Temper Toss (a subset of the "Facebook freakout"):

#6: Vomit Comet

#5: Passing out drunk on your Dell laptop

#4: MacBook laptop as foot stool, or scale.

#3: Ear-buds pencils and pens left on top when closing the laptop.

#2: Your five year-old discovers gravity!

#1: Coffee or drink spills onto keyboard.

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