

Computer Security

Three keys to Trouble-Free Computing

- Windows Updates
- Up-to-date Antivirus
- Spyware Protection

Your Computer is *Your* Responsibility

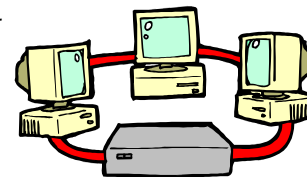
You are on a network here at Siena, and you can't just run your computer without being responsible about maintaining it. Your problems may affect many others.

Even if you're "computer illiterate," you can take the simple steps that are essential to keep running. They take only a few minutes a week, and will keep you up and running all year.

Ignore them, and your computer may not work. In addition, I&TS may shut off your Internet connection so that those who *have* maintained their computer can still get online.

And it may be quite some time before you get it back.

It's all up to you. Siena's I&TS will give advice, but it is not our job to make repairs. You need to do the simple steps required to avoid losing your connection.



Microsoft Windows Updates

This is the most important of all maintenance tasks. Windows requires regular security updates to run properly. On Windows XP, the hard part is done for you. You will occasionally see a balloon saying "New updates are ready to install." It will point to an icon.

Always click on that icon and install the new updates.

If this isn't working, or if you use an older version of Windows, go to:

[Http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com](http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com)

Have it scan your computer (you may be asked to download software; say yes). Install any updates marked as "Critical."

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Up-to-date Antivirus

Note the words "up-to-date." Antivirus software is like milk: it has an expiration date. *And milk last longer.*

Update your antivirus at least once a week.

And make sure it **is** being updated. The antivirus that comes with a new computer is only good for a few months. After that, you need to buy a subscription. If you don't want the subscription, uninstall the software and replace it with something that does work.

Spyware Protection

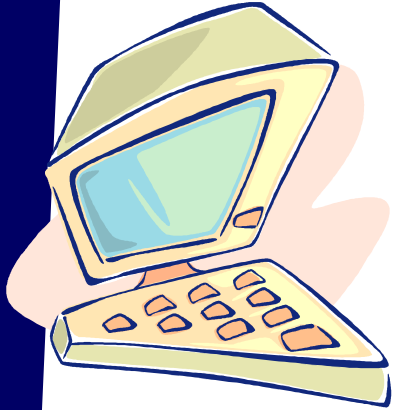
Spyware is software that is installed on your computer without your knowledge and which keeps track of your browsing. It can lead to a hijacked browser (your home page is changed and won't change back), pop-up ads, and other nasty problems that can be extremely difficult to remove.

Spyware causes more problems than

viruses, since most users are unaware of it.

Sources of spyware include file sharing programs and "free" software downloaded from the Internet. Be very careful about downloading software, especially if you haven't asked for it. The item may look like fun, but the hours you spend removing the junk it installs is not.

Note to Macintosh Users:
This information is for Windows computers. Macs (or Linux) don't have these issues.



Siena Antivirus Pages:

<http://www.siena.edu/antivirus>

Your source for virus, security, and spyware information on campus. Look for alerts, information, and cleaning instructions in case you get infected.

AVG Antivirus

Free AVG antivirus is available at <http://www.siena.edu/antivirus/avg.htm>. Install this if you have no antivirus, or your antivirus has expired.

Virus Prevention Rules

1. Keep your antivirus up to date!
2. Be suspicious of any e-mail attachment, *even if you know the sender.*
3. **Be suspicious!** Don't click on *any* program or file in e-mail unless you're 100% certain what it is.
4. Don't trust e-mails sent by an "authority." Viruses often masquerade as a trusted name. (Siena e-mails always come from a person's account.)
5. Don't click on links in Instant Messages. Many contain viruses.

"Don't click on *any* program or file in e-mail unless you're 100% certain what it is."

Spyware Protection

Spyware can be even more of a threat to your computer than viruses. You may not have a virus on your computer, but you can bet there's already spyware on it checking up on you. These programs can help prevent and fix the problem.

Spyware Blaster

Quite simply, your best spyware protection. **Every user needs to install this on their system** to prevent problems.

Ad-Aware.

Cleans Spyware from your system once you're infected.

Spybot Search and Destroy.

Similar to Ad-Aware.

Install either Ad-Aware or Spybot to clean spyware if you get infected.

These and other spyware tools can be found at <http://www.siena.edu/spyware>

Computers with viruses or spyware may have their Internet shut off to protect the integrity and performance of the student network. ***It may be a week or more before your computer can be reconnected.*** Don't let it happen to you!