

PROTECT YOUR HOME COMPUTER IN 6 STEPS



do you know if your critical assets are protected? we do.

Turn on your firewall

You would not leave your house unlocked so why take a chance with your computer? A firewall is the barrier between your computer and the Internet – it acts like a security checkpoint that information must pass through before it is allowed to enter your computer. It also helps make your computer “invisible” to online hackers, viruses and worms. Computers that come with Windows operating systems already have an in-built firewall - just turn it on.

Keep your operating system up to date

The operating system is the computer’s brain - make sure it is up to date. Hackers work tirelessly to exploit weaknesses in software and configurations. The majority of attacks penetrate successfully through vulnerabilities for which patches and updates have already been released. Remember, as a minimum, you must install critical updates. This is also an in-built automated feature that requires a one-off set up.

Install antivirus software

Computer viruses, worms and Trojan horses are program designed to damage your computer, corrupt data and control your computer. Antivirus programs scan everything that goes into your computer. Do not forget to download the latest updates for your antivirus software (this can be set up automatically). Installing an antivirus software without updating it is like buying home insurance but not making the regular payments. Reputable antivirus products are quite reasonable and there are also many open source products that can be legitimately used for free.

Install antispyware software

A spyware program is stealthy software that installs on your computer without your explicit consent. It can track your web browsing habits, send annoying advertising pop ups, change your home page and slow your computer to a crawl. More severe types can collect personal information remotely and lead to identity theft

Security is about prevention not cure. Follow the 6 simple steps below to protect your home computer from cyber attacks and data loss.

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Think, then click

A click in the wrong place can expose your computer to a damaging virus, ads you cannot get rid of – even spyware programs. Never open attachments or click on links in emails (or instant messages) from strangers. Double check with the sender (even if you know them – someone could have spoofed their email address) if the message is legitimate. If in doubt, delete the email. Never click “Agree”, “OK” or “I accept” to get rid of a pop up, even if it promises to remove spyware. Instead, click on the red cross in the right corner or press Alt and F4 on your keyboard. Only download software from web sites you trust. Web sites with “free” music and movie file sharing are notorious for including unwanted software downloads. If you are unsure about a program, get advice from a computer-savvy friend.

Back up your disk

Finally, no matter how careful you are, there are no guarantees. This is why it is important to back up files regularly before you get hit with a problem. If you are buying a new PC, consider purchasing one with a dual hard drive so that you can back up on the spare if there is a problem. Alternatively, if your hard drive is big enough, consider partitioning it, e.g. splitting it in two. External hard drives and USB sticks also make good back up devices and can be stored in another location in case the computer is irretrievably lost or damaged.

ACEHOBA specialises in IT security and offers the following services:

- Penetration Testing
- Endpoint Security
- Data Protection
- Web & Email Security
- Media Sanitisation
- Security Training