

firewalls and toolbars

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I have two questions. How do you know if your computer has a firewall? When do you need one and how do you get one? Also there has been a new toolbar come up this one as little "e" like the explorer sign beside each option. The options Say "modem boot" "7500 credit Line" "Free MP3 Player" "Hottest LIInks" and a search frame. How do I get this off. When I go to view and take the check off of it, it will go away but when I close my computer and turn back on then go back to Internet Explorer it shows up again. How do I keep it off? Also my xp speed is fine but my IE is very slow. why? I have DSL.

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thank you greatly tlove