

Re: HAVE A VIRUS

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2005-04/msg01021.htm

- *From:* "Shenan Stanley" <newshelper@xxxxxxxx>
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CYN wrote:

> HELLO...I HAVE A VIRUS ON MY COMPUTER (EMACHINES XP, ABOUT A YEAR
> OLD). CANNOT FIND OUT IF I HAVE ANY ANTI SPYWARE ON PC. TRIED BUT
> COULD NOT.
> PLEASE HELP. IS THERE ANY FREE ANTIVIRUS PROGRAM I CAN DOWNLOAD?
> THANK YOU

Turn off all caps.

Look through this list, if you want to get a free antivirus first – look at Tip (9).

Microsoft has these suggestions for Protecting your computer from the various "bad things" that could happen to you/it:

Protect your PC

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/protect/>

Although those tips are fantastic, there are many things you should know above and beyond what is there as well as other methods and applications you can use to protect yourself. Below I have detailed out many steps that can not only help you cleanup a problem PC but keep it clean and secure as well as running at its top performance mark.

I know this list can seem intimidating – it is quite long and a lot to take in for a novice – but I assure you that one trip through this list and you will understand your computer and the options available to you for protecting your data much better and that the next time you review these steps, the time it takes will be greatly reduced.

Let's take the cleanup of your computer step-by-step. Yes, it will take up some of your time – but consider what you use your computer for and how much you would dislike it if all of your stuff on your computer went away because you did not "feel like" performing some simple maintenance tasks – think of it like changing the oil in your car, changing the air filter on your home A/C unit, paying your bills on time, etc.

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Let's go through some maintenance first that should only have to be done once (mostly):

Tip (1):

Locate all of the software (the installation media – CDs, etc) that you have installed on your computer. Collect these CDs into a single pile and locate the original installation media (CDs, disks) in a central and safe place along with their CD keys and such. Make backups of these installation media sets using your favorite copying method (CD Burner and application, Disk copier, etc.) You'll be glad to know that if you have a CD burner, you may be able to use a free application to make a duplicate copy of your CDs. One such application is ISORecorder:

ISORecorder home page (with general instructions on use):

<http://us.creative.com/support/downloads/>

C–Media Sound Device

http://www.cmedia.com.tw/e_download_01.htm

Then install these drivers. Updated drivers are usually more stable and may provide extra benefits/features that you really wished you had before.

As for Service Pack 2 (SP2) for Windows XP, Microsoft has made this particular patch available in a number of ways. First, there is the Windows Update web page above. Then there is a direct download site and finally, you can order the FREE CD from Microsoft.

Direct Download of Service Pack 2 (SP2) for Windows XP

<http://snipurl.com/8bqy>

Order the Free Windows XP SP2 CD

<http://snipurl.com/8umo>

Tip (9):

What about the dreaded word in the computer world, VIRUS?

Well, there are many products to choose from that will help you prevent infections from these horrid little applications. Many are FREE to the home user. Which one you choose is a matter of taste, really. I wouldn't list one here I had not personally used – and they all work. Many people have emotional attachments or performance issues with one or another AntiVirus software. Try some out, read reviews and decide for yourself which you like more:

avast! (Free and up)

<http://www.avast.com/>

AVG Anti–Virus System (Free and up)

<http://www.grisoft.com/>

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AntiVir (Free and up)

<http://www.free-av.com/>

RAV AntiVirus Online Virus Scan (Free!)

<http://www.ravantivirus.com/scan/>

Symantec (Norton) AntiVirus (~\$11 and up)

http://www.symantec.com/nav/nav_9xnt/

Kaspersky Anti-Virus (~\$49.95 and up)

<http://www.kaspersky.com/products.html>

Panda Antivirus Titanium (~\$39.95 and up)

<http://www.pandasoftware.com/>

(Free Online Scanner: <http://www.pandasoftware.com/activescan/>)

McAfee VirusScan (~\$11 and up)

<http://www.mcafee.com/>

Trend Micro (~\$49.95 and up)

<http://www.trendmicro.com/en/home/us/personal.htm>

(Free Online Scanner:

http://housecall.trendmicro.com/housecall/start_corp.asp)

Untested (by me):

eTrust EZ Antivirus (\$29.95 and up)

<https://www2.my-etrust.com/commerce/buy.it.cfm>

Most of them have automatic update capabilities. You will have to look into the features of the one you choose. Whatever one you finally settle with – be SURE to keep it updated (I recommend at least daily) and perform a full scan periodically (yes, it protects you actively, but a full scan once a month at 4AM probably won't bother you.)

Tip (10):

The most rampant infestation at the current time concerns SPYWARE/ADWARE. I hate this stuff. It has no purpose. I have seen people try to justify it over and over – it's worthless. It slows down your PC, it can send your private information to people you'll never meet and did I mention, it's worthless. You need to eliminate it from your machine.

If you use P2P software, this COULD make that stop working. Find some decent software to do the same thing – what you are currently using is crap.

Anyway – the