

COMPUTER PROTECTION

Now that your computer is connected to the Internet 24/7 you also have a 24/7 exposure to security risks.

A Firewall enforces an access control policy between two networks and are configured to protect against unauthenticated interactive logins from the “outside” world. They may block traffic from the outside but permit users on the inside to communicate freely with the outside. They make it difficult for “would-be hackers” from infiltrating your system easily. Firewalls can act as a phone tap and tracing tool, recording logging and auditing functions. But firewalls can’t necessarily protect against viruses.

Regularly using an Anti-Virus, Anti-Trojan and Anti Spyware programs, keeping definitions up-to-date weekly or daily (as recommended by your software provider) and using the Email Virus checker and spam-filtering services, either through your ISP or an Anti-Virus program, will prevent unauthorized interaction with your network and protect your data.

Disable file sharing where you don’t need it. Remove unnecessary protocols from the Internet interface. NEVER run .exe attachments unless you are sure about their authenticity. Data Encryption may make file management difficult but your critical documents will be unintelligible if your machine is compromised.

And last but certainly not least—BACKUPS!! CD’s, tapes, floppies and backups to other hard-drives can be life saving for your data. Set up those PC’s to do automatic backups on a daily basis, preferably to an off local system location.

When Making Backups to CD or DVD discs, keep the disc in a jewel case and mark the case with a label or marker. Recent studies have shown that marking the disc directly with permanent markers or applying glue on labels can degrade the data over time. Over a long period of time the marker or glue can bleed data from the disc.