

Category: Computer Hardware
Date: March 10, 2009
Skills required: **Anyone can do it!**

Mandatory Steps for PC Protection

- Why:** A friend recently spent \$375 to get rid of a serious virus not to mention losing her emails, photos and other irreplaceable data. She thought her computer was protected against all the Internet evils. Following the directions herein will give you the best chance of avoiding a very hateful and possibly expensive experience.
- How:** Perform a security check. This is easy! Beginning with the Start icon in the lower left corner of your computer screen and click these links in this order:

Start
Control Panel
Security (XP computer users can skip this step)
Security Center

For XP computers, you will see three categories – “Firewall”, “Automatic Updates”, and “Virus Protection (called Malware Protection on Vista computers)”. Vista computers will also have another category called “Other Security Settings” which is optional.

All of these should be “On”. If they are, no further action is required. If not, click on the button that says “Recommendations”, “Turn on Automatic Updates” or similar wording and follow the prompts. [Click here](#) to watch a Microsoft video showing this procedure on a Vista computer. The XP process is basically the same.

Special Notes:

1. Automatic Updates

Obviously, your computer will have to be running during the scheduled time. **If you don't want to leave your computer on all the time or if you have a laptop**, here is an alternative way to update your operating system:

Open a web browser
Click on “Tools”
Click on “Windows Update”
Click on “Express”
Follow the prompts

Always install the “Critical” updates. Other updates are optional.

2. Virus Protection

Antivirus programs are your most important defense against viruses, hackers and loss of identity, but they are only effective as long as their annual subscription is current. If the security check shows your antivirus subscription has expired, just renew it and make sure your antivirus program is set for automatic updates and automatic protection.

I hope this information makes your day a little brighter. Drop us a line at support@NancyPrince.com with suggestions on things you would like to learn more about.

To your success,

Techie Tom