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How to Get Rid of Computer Viruses

Computer viruses are small programs that hide inside of your computer and then replicate themselves in some fashion in order to spread to other computers. With the internet connecting so many computers to one another, and our propensity to share many of our files with other people, we unknowingly transmit to other computers viruses that have infected our own files. Depending on the design of the virus, once it reaches a computer, it can do almost anything from deleting and corrupting your files, to disabling your computers security measures to make it more vulnerable to a hacker.

If your computer is running unusually slow, complaining with lots of errors, random reboots, and blue error screens, or tons of pop-up windows – chances are good that you have picked up some spyware or a virus. In this case it's better to stop and think before acting. You should do the following in that case:

1. Stop all your work, close all your files and opened windows.
2. Run your antivirus software to make sure it is operable; do this even before updating it with the latest virus definitions.
3. Update your antivirus with the newest virus definitions and run it again.
4. If your system is still complaining, check it for spyware.

If you're getting an error when you try to open you antivirus software, it is very likely the result of a virus on your machine. There are 3 ways to deal with this:

1. Use a rescue disk. Most antivirus programs will ask you to create a 'rescue disk' during their installation, if you did this and know where you put the disk, put it into your PC and reboot. These rescue disks load the antivirus software before any other programs (including windows). If they can load before the virus, then they can find and neutralize it.
2. Carefully remove your disk drives and install them on another PC, or access them through a network, then use another system to scan the drives.
3. Use online antivirus software. Many antivirus companies provide free online tools that you can run from their web sites in these emergency situations.

Antivirus software is one of the most important things you should have on your system. Many PC's come with this software pre-installed, but you should still take a few moments to familiarize yourself with it. There are many available antivirus programs currently on the market. The best retail and free antivirus solutions are: McAfee Antivirus, Norton Antivirus, Avast Antivirus and AVG.

Prevention is better than cure and it is not applied to health alone. It is always better to prevent the enemy from attacking rather than letting the enemy attack and then fight. Upgrade your system with the latest antivirus software today.