

Advice on Taming Unruly Computers

Weekly Maintenance A Must

A listener to our weekly radio help show wrote in asking how often he should do maintenance on his computer. This is a question we get often.

If you use your computer daily, then you should set about twenty-minutes each week to do your maintenance. Make it a regular time such as Friday morning. Of course, if you only use your computer one or twice a week, then doing the maintenance monthly is your best option possibly the first week of each month.

There are basically three steps to a regular maintenance program when using Microsoft Windows XP.

Step 1: Make sure that your antivirus program has updated with the latest virus definitions. If you don't have an antivirus program, get one. If you can't afford one, install the AVG free one. You can get it at our website. We recommend AVG as one of the best programs to protect your computer. The free is good, but the professional one is best and we are licensed distributors for AVG.

Step 2: Run at least two anti-spyware programs. We recommend Ad-aware and Spyware Doctor. Ad-aware is free, but Spyware Doctor has a fee. Another free one is Spybot. You can get these programs at our website if you need them.

Make sure each anti-spyware program has been updated with the latest definitions. Once the update has been done, do a scan. After the scan finishes, follow the prompts to remove the spyware programs from the computer. Do this with each anti-spyware program; at least two programs. By doing this, these unwanted spyware programs will not build up and slow down your computer and possibly corrupt your operating system.

Step 3: Check to see if there are any Windows updates that need to be installed. Doing a Windows update ensures your operating system is secure and the known bugs fixed. Bugs are errors that may cause problems. It is always a good idea to check for updates with all programs that you use. Keeping programs updated is as important as keeping the operating system updated. Most programs have choice under Help to check for updates.

These three steps will take no longer than 30 minutes to complete and is time well worth spending because it keeps your computer running in a reliable and secure manner.

Allen is one of JASAsolutions' Computer Tamers heard every Wednesday after the 5 o'clock news on WILI AM 14 and you can learn more about getting your unruly computer under control by visiting www.TheComputerTamers.com and explore the free information compiled there for you. Be sure to visit the

Computer Tamers Store at River Plaza, Bridge Street, Willimantic to learn more about buying a new computer.