



Custom Internet

PC System Security

How to reduce the risks

The security of the internet and corporate systems is vitally important and makes the news headlines when major breaches and thefts of personal information occur. However, security is just as important for the home and small business PC user. Here is a list of the main things to consider for both your online and local activity.

1. Backups : Make sure you have a backup copy of everything and refresh this frequently.
2. Passwords : weak or missing passwords are a prime source of security breaches. A good strong password should be at least 8 characters long and contain a mixture of letters (upper and lower case), numbers and special characters (e.g. \$, & ? ...). Have different passwords for everything.
3. Anti-Virus and Malware : Install a good anti-virus program and firewall and keep them up to date.
4. Email : don't open emails for which you cannot verify the sender, and especially avoid attachments. Look out for messages where the stated sender's name is familiar, but their address is not correct. If in any doubt, delete it.
5. Downloaded files : be sure that you trust the source of anything that you download from the internet.
6. System Software : Do keep your machine fully up to date with all the latest security patches.
7. PC users should not have any more privilege than necessary. All user accounts should be password protected and with screen locks turned on. The more public your machine is – both in terms of physical and network access, the more important these protections are.
8. On laptops, avoid use of the 'Remember Password' feature – if the machine is stolen, the thief will have access all your online accounts and services.

How we can help

At Custom Internet, we have the experience to assist you with both personal and business security issues, PC setup, anti-virus installation and backup systems. Do call if you require assistance.

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