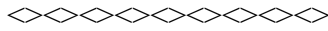




Don't forget to make a note for Wednesday November the 23rd at 9.30am Michael Davis will demonstrate the procedure to transfer Vinyl (LP records) to a CD using the computer.

All are invited to this well

presented talk and class. Visitors are welcome to this open morning session that could run close to two hours. Make a note of the date and time: it's a talk too good to miss.



Virus War

If you use the Internet or load software from downloads, and you don't have antivirus software then sooner or later your computer will become infected. Antivirus software is a gold mine for the antivirus software companies. Unlike most software programs and even Windows operating system, you pay for the product and get free up-dates or patches that maybe required after development.

Antivirus software after purchasing needs an annul renewal fee which can be as low as \$14.00 and up to \$55.00 a year.

Knowing that the computer public need this antivirus protection and charging an annul fee for the service is with out question a million dollar industry that won't go away.

Fortunately there is free antivirus software available for those not willing to pay an annul fee for a product they bought in the first place.

The big question is, 'How good is this free antivirus software'?

Some are supplied by commercial antivirus software houses for personal use. They lack some of the features of the commercial program but don't restrict the antivirus software from giving your computer full protection. One of the conditions of a Free Edition is it cannot be installed on server operating systems (such as Windows Server 2003), nor can it be used for the scanning of network drives.

Listed below are some of the better free antivirus programs available.

These are the editor's choice and are not associated with The Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc. The comments are from personal use and not of the club or its members.

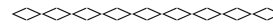


Free for personal use.
Uses the same antivirus engine as the professional version.

Free virus up-dates. Uses a data base for its virus information which makes for fast up-dates over the Internet.



Found at <http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php>



AntiVir is another commercial antivirus company that offers a free version of their software.

The conditions are similar to

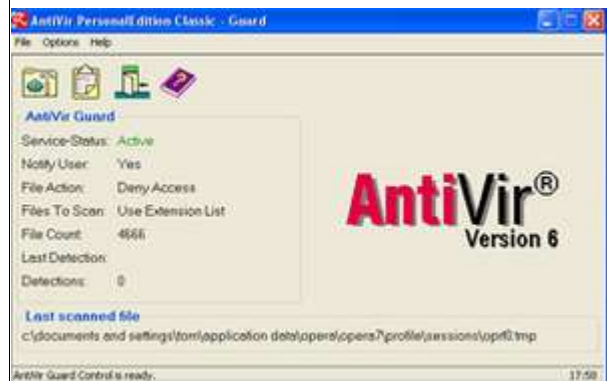
AVG antivirus. Free for personal use only.

Uses the same antivirus engine as the professional version.

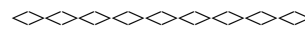
Fully automated prompt for update function.

Uses their own exclusive download server for extra protection.

Updates can be lengthy as a full antivirus engine and data base are downloaded.



Found at <http://www.free-av.com/>



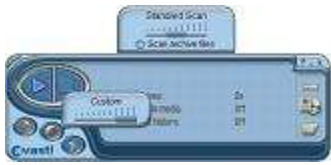
Free avast! 4 home edition.

Commercial antivirus company that offers a free version of their software.

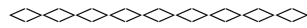
Very professional program that does a thorough scan of your computer. You need a free registration code from their web site which gives you valid use for 12 months and needs to be renewed when that time has elapsed.

The scan engine is slower than most but does a good job of finding viruses, Worms, Trojans, adware, spyware and any other types of malware.

The avast! engine also features unpacking support to scan inside compressed archives: Free virus data base up-dates.



Found at http://www.avast.com/eng/down_home.html



Who writes Viruses?

There are at least four reasons. The first is the same psychology that drives vandals and arsonists.

The second reason has to do with the thrill of watching things go wrong when others are involved.

The third reason probably involves bragging, boasting and gaining socially acceptance with their peers.

Others are motivated by financial gain.

Motivated for financial gain, they are more and more likely to be working with spammers and hackers.

The money is coming from the spammers and there is evidence that they are starting to employ the best virus writers to help them in their campaign to obtain Email addresses to send out Spam.

Then there are the hoax viruses that usually arrive in the form of an email, they contain bogus warnings usually intent only on frightening or misleading users.

They are usually written by someone who wants to boast on how far the hoax went on the internet.

But still you can't take the chance. Check this Symantec site out : <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

The site list hoax virus warnings and when they were posted.

Remember that virus writers can use known hoaxes to their advantage. For example, AOL4FREE began as a hoax virus warning. Then somebody distributed a destructive trojan attached to the original hoax virus.

Warning! The lessons are clear:

Never open an email **attachment** unless you know what it is--even if it's from someone you know and trust.

Visit <http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/default.asp> for a list of the latest viruses.

Realtime virus statistics on which viruses are the most active in the world. The information comes from reporters around the world, running F-Secure Anti-Virus to protect their systems.

This web site shows the information.

<http://www.f-secure.com/virus-info/statistics/>

Code Glossary

Cookies

Tracking cookies track your web browsing habits. They can collect information about pages and advertisements you have seen or any other activity during browsing.

Spyware of type Malware

A program which performs such actions as creating unsolicited pop-ups, hijacks home/search pages or redirects browsing results.

Worm

A worm is a program that can replicate itself by sending copies in e-mail messages or over a network.

Trojan

A program with hidden destructive functionality.

Virus

A computer program that replicates by attaching itself to another object.

Malware

A common name for all kinds of unwanted software such as viruses, worms, trojans and jokes.

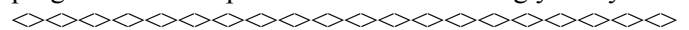
Polymorphic virus

A virus which changes itself (mutates) as it passes through host files, making disinfection a serious challenge.

Stealth virus

A virus that hides itself by intercepting disk access requests. When an anti-virus program tries to read files or boot sectors to find the virus, the stealth virus feeds the anti-virus program a clean image of file or boot sector.

The last two viruses are a real challenge for the antivirus software to detect. So make sure you have a virus program active to prevent the virus entering your system.



The antivirus software programs mentioned have been run and evaluated on the editor's computer.

The comments are from the editor's use and evaluation of the programs and are not associated with The Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc.

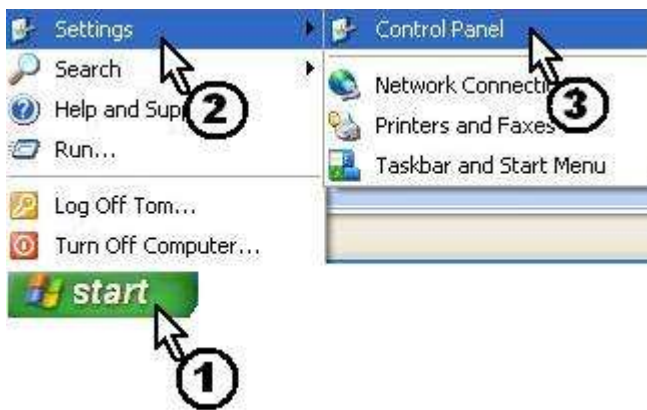
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Coffee Break

Question on Software or Operating system

With the release of Windows XP, Microsoft decided that users of their operating system could report all errors or software hang-ups to their programmers at Microsoft. XP operating system error reporting would continue to nag the user to make the report. The user is used as an unpaid tester of their software, a Beta tester with the pretence that errors would be fixed. You can switch of this default setting using the steps below.



Using the steps shown on the left

[start] [settings] [Control Panel]
open the Control Panel window by left clicking on Control Panel.



Double click System icon to open the Systems Properties option menu.

In the System Properties option menu Click the **Advanced tab** as shown then the
Error Reporting Button.



In the Error Reporting options Click the**Disable error reporting** radio button then Click OK and close down menus.



Task completed.