

We all have a few New Year's Resolutions, so how about some for your Computer as well?

1. Keep your Computers protected against Viruses!

This cannot be stressed upon enough, regardless of the antivirus vendor; you must keep your virus files updated on a regular basis. Each week 5-15 new viruses are discovered, that's **over 260 new viruses a year!** The best way to stop them from infecting your computers is to make sure your virus definitions are up to date.

It's not enough to have an old Anti-Virus program on your PC!

Another important note to make, some viruses will disable your antivirus software. We recommend even with updated virus software you should take advantage of our Free Online Virus scan from our website www.nachnet.com.

2. Remove Spyware

Anytime you download a program you run the risk of getting spyware. Spyware are programs that get installed on your system to track what you do online. They are usually the reason you get popup ads and additional spam emails. These programs report your activity back to the company that wrote them so they can sell advertising. These programs often cause problems with your normal operation of your system. They will suck up the resources of your computer and slow down everything.

To remove them you can get free spyware removal tools online. We use Ad-Aware from Lavasoft (www.lavasoft.de).

3. Backup you Data – Regularly!

If your Hard Drive crashed and you lost all your data, would it bother you?

Of course, you have backed up your data recently - right? If you have, then this would be an inconvenience. What's that? You have never backed up your data? **Catastrophe!**

1. If you use your computer for **Business**, then you should back up all your data files **Weekly**.
2. If you use your computer for **Home** use, then you should back up all your data files **Monthly**.

Here's the easy way back up your data:

1. Write down a list of the programs you use to create data (Word, Outlook, Quicken, etc...)
2. Buy a 40 Gbyte (or larger) USB 2.0 External Hard drive. Staples sells these for \$100. If you buy one at least as large as your main hard drive, then you are sure to have enough room to back up everything!

Call Nachman Networks at 703-599-5292 and we will come and set up an automatic backup routine for you that backs up your PC on a regular schedule.

4. Keep your Windows up to date!

Microsoft is constantly releasing updates to Windows that make Windows more secure and stable. Set your PC to download Windows updates automatically, and install the updates when the notification messages are displayed in the lower right hand corner of your screen. Or, visit the Windows update site at <http://www.windowsupdate.com> monthly and install all the Windows Critical and Driver Updates.

5. Monthly Maintenance Tips

Be sure to provide your computer the tender loving care you would your car. Take some time each month to remove Temporary files, empty the recycling bin, scandisk and defrag your hard drive. Remember you rely on your computer for everything you do, take care of it, and it will take care of you.

6. If you have Cable Modem or DSL - Get a Firewall!

A Firewall will protect your PC from attacks like the MS Blaster virus attack last summer. This is especially important if you have Cable Modem or DSL! If you have a Router or a Wireless Home Network, then you already have a Firewall. If you do not have a router, then turn on the built-in Windows XP Firewall.

7. Death to Kazaa!

Now that you can buy almost any song online for 99 cents, there is no reason to use any of the evil music sharing programs like Kazaa & Morpheus that spread viruses like the plague. If you have a Teen in your house, you probably have this software on your PCs. Uninstall all file sharing programs (Kazaa, Morpheus, etc) and buy songs legally online from www.ITunes.com, www.musicnow.com, or www.musicmatch.com.

8. Find all your Software CDs .

Find all the disks for all the important programs installed on your PC (e.g. Windows, MS Office, Quicken, Internet, etc) and put them all together in one box. Keep the box in a place you will be able to find it again. (While you are at it – why not find the manuals too?) Sometimes, programs can become corrupted, and they need to be reinstalled from the CD. If you use a program, make sure you have a CD for it, don't just download it over the Internet!

9. Let your PC retire - gracefully.

If your computer is running Windows 95 or your PC's hard drive has less than 5 GB of space, then you should probably replace that computer this year. It's much easier to move your data to a new computer when the old computer is still running. The new Windows XP PC you buy today should see 7 years of home use.

*The good news? – A great new fast PC with a huge hard drive costs less than \$600!
Please contact us before you buy so we can help you pick out the right system for you.*