Forum:Hack Forums

Thread: [Guide]Very basic guide for general security

Zurmi - *August 31, 2010, 6:54 pm*

Welcome!

Hey all, my name is Mike. Username, "Zurmi", duh.

Anyways, I'm just writing this guide for very basic computer protection for the really basic user. I wrote it in plain English and provided links so nobody should have any issues.

I have and still use all of these programs and I hope they can be of some use to you!

Welcome!

Hey all, my name is Mike. Username, "Zurmi", duh.

Anyways, I'm just writing this guide for very basic computer protection for the really basic user. I wrote it in plain English and provided links so nobody should have any issues.

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Let's get started!

Why is it "very basic" as opposed to "basic"?

Good question. This guide will only give one or two options for each type of protection. By this I mean, instead of posting all known free antivirus programs, I will only post one or two that I have used in my experiences. This will hopefully make it easier for the general computer user to get protected quicker instead of having to mill through a bunch of links and still not sure which program is a good choice for them.

Step 1 - Common Sense

Yes, this is step one, because it is really the most important. For an unrelated example in terms of computer use, if you are a crazy or reckless driver, and you're on a very heavily congested highway, then you are more likely to cause an accident or some other sort of issue. The same applies to computer security as you are essentially "behind the wheel", or keyboard in this case, of your vehicle/computer. You are in complete control of your computer and it is your choice alone as to how safe you will ultimately be. If you are visiting random websites and just downloading pornography or downloading random files that at first glance seem cool, you will just increase the likelihood of being infected or compromised. So learn good safe computer habits early on, and then you can sleep well at night knowing you, your information, and your computer will be safe whenever you use it.

Step 2 - Updates

Step two is updates. By this I mean, make sure that not only your operating system is up to date, but also make sure your programs like your web browsers are as up to date as possible. Updates

generally fixed known bugs and security issues found in the older version of the software, and only serve to help you out. If you're running Windows as your operating system, you can head to your Control Panel and make sure Automatic Updates are turned on. In Windows XP, Automatic Updates options are located in the Security Center of your Control Panel. You can also check for updates by running Internet Explorer and clicking on "Tools" or "Safety" and clicking "Windows Update". However, it is recommended you simply turn on Automatic Updates since your computer won't forget to check for updates, you may though.

Step 3 - Web Browsers

Now you may be saying, I already have Internet Explorer, what does it matter what web browser I use?

Well, it honestly makes a big deal. You see, it is simple statistics really. The majority of people in the world have Windows as their primary operating systems. Windows comes more often than not, with Internet Explorer. Hackers/crackers/malicious programmers love this because knowing that Internet Explorer is installed and used by many in the world, it gives them a larger pool to attempt to infect or whatever their intent maybe.

Therefore, to separate yourself from the majority, you can switch to a new web browser. I personally recommend Mozilla Firefox. It is easy to use, highly customizable, and comes with a slew of plugins that can further help you protect yourself. See here for Privacy and Security plugins.

Step 4 - Virus Protection/Antivirus

Now, I shouldn't really have to explain why this is important. It's in the name! This helps protects your computer from malicious programs such as Viruses, worms, trojans, etc.

Anyways, i've worked with many Antivirus programs over the years and I personally like and use Avira Antivirus. It's simple to use and it has great detection rates and doesn't affect your computers performance.

Always make sure that you never have more than one antivirus program installed on your computer at once as this can create conflicting issues and aren't fun to try and fix.

Step 5 - Firewall

Firewalls are very important for your computer safety and security. Basically, a firewall makes sure nothing gains unauthorized access to computer. For example, someone trying to hack into your computer from somewhere else is going to have a much tougher time if you have a good, solid firewall.

I personally recommend Online Armor. It's quick and easy to use and runs in the background. It also doesn't impact computer speed or performance.

Step 6 - Anti-Spyware

Ah, good ole' Anti-Spyware. This is also usually included in many antivirus programs, but is very important to also have a program dedicated simply to getting rid of and scanning for spyware. Spyware is a type of program that usually sends information back to whoever got the program onto your computer in the first place. For example, your internet history or things like that.

For this section I will provide two programs I use. Anti-Spyware is nice in that they very rarely

conflict with each other so you can have as many programs as you want. But two will suffice.

The first program is a prevention one called SpywareBlaster. This program prevents things like harmful cookies from being download and instead, blocks them so you don't have to worry. The updates are usually for it's database which will put in more known harmful cookies and other things to block.

The second program is used for scanning, and it's called MalwareBytes. This program is talked about a lot here, simply because it's the best in my opinion. It's thorough and fast. Used in combination with SpywareBlaster, you probably won't run into any problems.

Step 7 - CCleaner

It's not a necessity program, but CCleaner is definitely a good program to have. It cleans out your computer and also your registry. It gets rid of your browsing history too. Overall, it helps speed up your computer, and who doesn't want that?

Closing

First off, I would like to thank you for reading all of this!

Just know that the above are programs I have used and I find to work quite well together. You can use whatever program you want, it's all up to you, but I have had great success with the programs above.

Also, I really hope you have learned something out of this. With everything in the world being moved into the world of computers, it is vital for you to have as much protection as possible. Hackers will evolved, and so will safety from the hackers which is why common sense will always be your first step in computer safety.

I would just like to completely close by saying to make sure you update all of the individual programs as often as possible to ensure everything is running smoothly.

Once again thanks for reading guys and girls!

Good luck!

Legal Stuff

I am not responsible for any damage to your computer. The above programs are not mine, or have any connection to me. I have simply used them and have not had any issues with them, and offer them to other computer users for basic level protection.

If you are going to copy this, please cite me.

Silver - *August 31, 2010, 6:59 pm*
Good guide, Zurmi. Explains a solid amount of things for basic security. It's very information and easy to understand.

Good job!

We both have a similar guide. ?

Zurmi - *August 31, 2010, 7:01 pm*
Thanks a lot Silver!

That really means something to me. I absolutely love Computer Security and the fields around it. Not sure why, just knowing that I do a part in helping others makes me happy.

And that's funny! The more the merrier I suppose!

Thanks again!

Silver - *August 31, 2010, 7:05 pm*
(Aug 31, 2010 07:01 PM)Zurmi Wrote: *[CITE]* Thanks a lot Silver!

That really means something to me. I absolutely love Computer Security and the fields around it. Not sure why, just knowing that I do a part in helping others makes me happy.

And that's funny! The more the merrier I suppose!

Thanks again!
No problem, you seem to know a good amount about security, malware removal, and white hatting, which is good, and I've only seen a few posts from you.

Keep up the good work. ?

Zurmi - *August 31, 2010, 7:08 pm*
Thanks!

It's a hobby I suppose, computer security.

I've learned as much as I can and am currently taking a college course titled "Computer Investigation Techniques" which will further expand my knowledge.

Once again, thanks, and thanks for helping people with their Hijack this logs!

I had Hijack this a looong time ago and had no idea what to do with it. Now I do.

Elite Hacker 69 - *August 31, 2010, 7:52 pm*
Good guide, however it's hard to read a bit ?

I hate reading things that are rarely spaced out, and the links should stick out more. You should color code the links so people know to click them ? Also make the titles of different sections [size = medium] or anything bigger ?

Zurmi - *August 31, 2010, 7:57 pm*
I'll do that right now Reality!

Thanks for the input!

~Tom~ - *August 31, 2010, 7:59 pm*
A great guide, I like it.

As Reality said, I'd probably just change the formatting slightly and it would look excellent. Well done.

Zurmi - *August 31, 2010, 8:13 pm*
Thanks alot ~Tom~!

I just updated it all. Let me know how it looks.

Elite Hacker 69 - *August 31, 2010, 8:14 pm*
Looks better now ?

I personally like when links look like this:

example

BB Code:
Code [url=][/url]
Looks better now ?

I personally like when links look like this:

example

BB Code:
Code [url=][/url]

Zurmi - *August 31, 2010, 8:16 pm*
Thanks Reality!

I just chose red because I figured that would pop out the most.

Elite Hacker 69 - *August 31, 2010, 8:32 pm*
Yeah I'm probably picky though.

It just strains my picky eyes, probably no one else ?

Zurmi - *August 31, 2010, 8:36 pm*
Ah, sorry about that.

As long as people can read it!

`/r/anSKE - *September 1, 2010, 12:44 am*
Nice guide, was a good read mate. ?

Zurmi - *September 1, 2010, 9:19 am*
Hey thanks Helious!

Just updated the colors again. They'll stay this time, much easier to read now.

Elite Hacker 69 - *September 1, 2010, 1:37 pm*
I like the way those colors look ?

Silver - *September 1, 2010, 1:39 pm*
Looks very good, Zurmi. Especially after you changed the heading. :Smile:

Zurmi - *September 1, 2010, 4:17 pm*

Thanks to both.

Figured it would look better and be easier to read, and it was.

Go figure.

Z4ch- - *October 6, 2010, 7:01 pm*
Thanks if you dont mind i saved this in a Txt document on my PC,
can i share it with other people? i have credits put in place.

T3h Hack3r - *October 6, 2010, 7:07 pm*
Nice guide Zurmi, I can see you put a bit of time into this, should be an excellent resource for all types of audiences.

Zurmi - *October 6, 2010, 7:11 pm*
Z4ch,

I don't mind, just tell me where you post it and make sure you give appropriate credits to me.

T3h Hack3r,

Thanks! I wanted to make it easy to understand for everyone.

Regards,
Zurmi

Zurmi - *October 8, 2010, 5:25 pm*
(Oct 8, 2010 04:27 AM)elio fier Wrote: *[CITE]* lesson for pishing plese i am a little boy
I'm a White Hat. I am not going to teach you how to phish. It's also against the rules at Hackforums. It's the first disallowed blackhat activity in this list.

Regards,
Zurmi

Kyuubi - *October 8, 2010, 5:44 pm*
Covers a lot of security basics, good job.

Zurmi - *October 8, 2010, 7:01 pm*
Hi Kyuubi,

Thanks for the kind words. It's basic so that even the most inept computer user can just know the basics of how to protect themselves.

Regards,
Zurmi

Kyuubi - *October 8, 2010, 8:45 pm*
Online Armour is a pretty good suggestion. I'd personally go with Comodo's Firewall but that's for more experienced computer users. I can see why you didn't recommend it, Online Armour is much more easier to use.

Zurmi - *October 11, 2010, 2:30 pm*
Very astute observation there Kyuubi. I personally use Online Armor even though i'm an experience

computer user. I just like the layout better. However, Comodo is definitely an awesome program as well. I just suggested Online Armor because I've had more experience with it then I have with Comodo.

Regards,
Zurmi

-mothered- - *October 11, 2010, 7:18 pm*
Very well written from start to finish, that's easy to follow and comprehend.
Good work mate.

Zurmi - *October 11, 2010, 8:04 pm*
Hey there mothered,

Thanks for the kind words. I am actually interested in creating a new guide/tutorial, but not sure what. This guide was more or less aimed at less experience computer users, yet anyone can use it, hence why it is easy to comprehend.

Thanks again,
Zurmi

slaphappyprince - *October 11, 2010, 8:41 pm*
I want to take Step 1 and staple it to every customers computer before I give it back tot them

Zurmi - *October 13, 2010, 8:21 pm*
(Oct 11, 2010 08:41 PM)slaphappyprince Wrote: *[CITE]* I want to take Step 1 and staple it to every customers computer before I give it back tot them
Make a text file and put it on their desktop titled 'Read before Computer Use

That may work I suppose.

Regards,
Zurmi

Charmz - *October 19, 2010, 11:08 am*
This picture is awesome: [img]http://i54.[censored].com/2rh7582.jpg[/img]

Otherwise, good tutorial.

Zurmi - *October 20, 2010, 8:29 pm*
(Oct 19, 2010 11:08 AM)Charmz Wrote: *[CITE]* This picture is awesome: [img]http://i54.[censored].com/2rh7582.jpg[/img]

Otherwise, good tutorial.
Thanks Charmz, I came up with the idea, and had someone from the graphics section do it up for me. I wish I was Leet or Uber because it would be my avatar then.

Thanks for the feedback.

Regards,
Zurmi

HookProcess - *October 21, 2010, 5:08 am*

Just letting you know I enjoyed reading your guide, nice job!

Zurmi - *October 21, 2010, 8:28 am*

Hey HookProcess,

Thanks for the feedback. I hope you learned something and can apply it!

Regards,
Zurmi