



PC Security Cheat Sheet


CERT/CC Statistics for number of Security Incidents Reported.


Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Incidents	3,734	9,859	21,756	52,658	82,094	137,529

Note: Each Incident is a unique attack/vulnerability/virus and may involve hundreds or thousands of machines or continue for long time periods.

Virus, Trojan, Spyware, Malware, Spam, Worms, Hacks, Pop Ups, Browser Hijacks, Identity Theft, Fraud, Phishing, the list goes on & on. Learn to protect yourself or face costly repairs, downtime, data loss, account blockage, or even liability.



Microsoft

 "Service Pack 2 for Windows XP provides better protection against viruses, hackers, and worms, and includes Windows Firewall, Pop-up Blocker for Internet Explorer, and the new Windows Security Center."

Microsoft User No-Charge Support
 1-866-PCSAFETY or 1-866-727-2338

 This phone number is for virus and other security-related support. It is available 24 hours a day for the U.S. and Canada.

What you need to do... (at your own risk)

- Install a virus scanning program like Norton Antivirus®, AVG® or McAfee Antivirus® and keep the definitions updated! New virus emerge daily and if you have not downloaded fresh definitions, you are not protected. <http://www.symantec.com> or <http://www.grisoft.com>
- Keep your operating system patched and updated. Windows can be set to automatically update or you can scan and download needed patches at <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/>
- WindowsXP with Service Pack 2 has a new "Security Center" with Firewall, Privacy and update settings that you want to configure in Windows Control Panel.
- Check your Internet Explorer security and privacy settings under Tools > Internet Options. You need to disallow unsafe ActiveX Controls and 3rd party cookies. Or try an alternate browser like Mozilla Firefox from <http://www.getfirefox.com>
- Try a Pop Up Stopper like the Yahoo or Google toolbar: <http://toolbar.yahoo.com> or <http://toolbar.google.com>
- Never, ever, ever open an e-mail attachment unless you have asked for it to be sent, and scanned it before opening. When in doubt, check it with from a webmail interface.
- Install a firewall. Hardware firewall routers are the best protection for home or office networks using broadband but personal firewall software like Sygate Personal Firewall® or ZoneAlarm® might suffice for single pc's. <http://www.sygate.com>
- Install a spyware/malware finder & remover like Ad-Aware®, Spybot®, Pest-Patrol® and keep their definitions updated! <http://www.lavasoftusa.com> or <http://www.spybot.info>
- Do Not Use file sharing or music downloading programs like KaZaa, Emule, or Bit Torrent. Always virus/trojan scan any downloads. <http://tds.diamondcs.com.au>
- Use extreme caution if using instant messenger or IRC applications, especially with unpatched installs, scripting or file sharing.
- Beware of Phishing, fake emails or spoofed web sites that appear to be from Paypal, your bank, etc. who attempt to get you to enter account #'s. Never send account info via email & call your bank if you have questions.
- Never hit "Yes" to a pop-up, or allow anything you do not understand to install. Where possible, close those windows with the [X] or F4 Key.



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