

# Home Computer Security



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December 5, 2005

# Home Computer Security

## Introduction:

- Computer users want to prevent intruders from accessing or attacking any part of computer system,
- Intruders send virus that harm computer,
- Intruders steal information and they use the information to buy goods and services,
- Home computer is the most vulnerable,
- It is hard for law enforcement to find and stop the intruders.

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## How Do Intruders Break into Your Computer?

- Intruders send you email with a virus,
- The virus creates a hole that the intruders use to enter or access your computer,
- They often install new programs that let them continue to use your computer even though you have plugged the holes,
- In addition, virus can reach your computer through floppy disks, CD-ROMs, and downloaded files.

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## Trust:

- Intruders create a tricky address where email comes from,
- You should not trust any message from some other computers because it may have a harmful virus.

## How to Secure Your Computer?

- You should always use strong passwords and be careful when reading email,
- You can add a firewall, an anti-virus program, [patches](#), and file [encryption](#) to raise the level of security.

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## Tasks Needed to Secure Your Home Computer:

### 1- Use Anti-Virus Programs:

- The program searches for specific patterns that match a profile called a [virus signature](#),
- When they found a file that matches a signature, the anti-virus programs typically provide options to clean or destroy the file,
- When the anti-virus program vendors learn about a new virus, they provide an updated set of virus signatures,
- You should scan floppy disk, email and its attachment, and files downloaded from Internet before using,

# Tasks Needed to Secure Your Home Computer

The screenshot shows the Norton AntiVirus 2002 interface. At the top, there is a yellow header bar with the Symantec logo, 'LiveUpdate' and 'Options' buttons, and a 'Help' button. Below the header, the main window title is 'Norton AntiVirus' and the status is 'System Status: Urgent attention'. A left sidebar contains 'Status', 'Scan for Viruses', and 'Reports'. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'Security Scanning Features' and 'Virus Definition Service'. The 'Security Scanning Features' section includes a table with four rows: 'Auto-Protect' (On), 'Email Scanning' (On), 'Script Blocking' (On), and 'Full System Scan' (Not completed). The 'Virus Definition Service' section includes a table with three rows: 'Virus Definitions' (7/31/2002), 'Subscription Service' (9/5/2003), and 'Automatic LiveUpdate' (On). On the right side, there is a blue box for 'Auto-Protect' with a description and a 'More Info' link. The bottom of the window features the 'Norton AntiVirus 2002' logo.

Security Scanning Features		
	Auto-Protect	On
	Email Scanning	On
	Script Blocking	On
	Full System Scan	Not completed

Virus Definition Service		
	Virus Definitions	7/31/2002
	Subscription Service	9/5/2003
	Automatic LiveUpdate	On

# Tasks Needed to Secure Your Home Computer

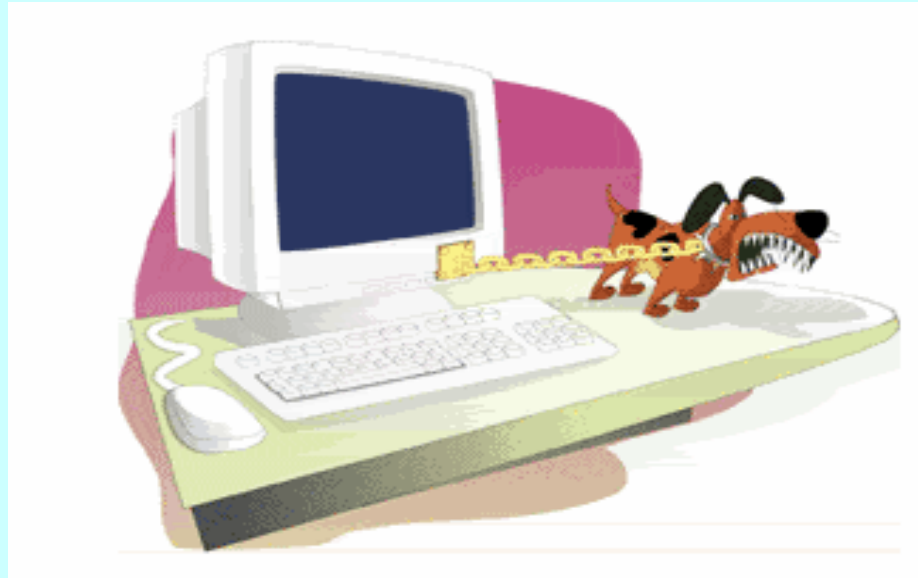
## 2- Care Reading Email with Attachment:

- You should only read a message with an attachment that passes all of these tests:
  - Is the email from someone that you know?
  - Have you received email from this sender before?
  - Were you expecting email with an attachment from this sender?
  - Does it has the subject line and the name of attachment? For example: Subject- Here you have, ;o) & attachment-AnnaKourikova.jpg.vbs.
  - Does it contain a virus?

# Tasks Needed to Secure Your Home Computer

## 3- Install and Use a Firewall Program:

- Firewall acts much like a guard,
- It looks at network traffic,
- It determines if that traffic should continue on its destination or be stopped,
- It keeps the unwanted out and permits only appropriate traffic to enter and leave the computer.



# Tasks Needed to Secure Your Home Computer

## 4- Make Backups of Important Files and Folders:

- Backups enable you to recreate or reinstall the files easily.

## 5- Use Strong Passwords:

- You should have a password that is unique and unrelated to any of your other passwords,
- You can use any combination of letters, both upper and lower case, and numbers,
- Some time, you are allowed to use punctuation marks,
- You can create a complicated password but you must be able to remember it.

# Tasks Needed to Secure Your Home Computer

## 6- Care When Downloading and Installing Program:

- You may receive program through mail and web site,
- You have to determine if the program in CD-ROM or downloaded files does not harm your computer before installing it.
  - What does the program do?
  - Can Information that author wrote about the program be trusted?
  - What files are installed and what changes are made on your system?

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## Conclusion:

- Intruders attack computers through email and files or programs downloaded from Internet, CD-ROM, or floppy disks.
- Home users should open email with attachment only if they believe there is no virus.
- Home users should use anti-virus program, firewall, and strong password, and should backup any important files.

## Works Cited:

“Home Computer Security.” US-CERT. 13 Jun 2005. 4 Dec. 2005. < [http://www.us-cert.gov/reading\\_room/HomeComputerSecurity](http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/HomeComputerSecurity) >

“Home Network Security.” CERT Coordination Center. 5 Dec. 2001. 30 Nov. 2005. <[http://www.cert.org/tech\\_tips/home\\_networks.html](http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/home_networks.html)>