

Computer Security – A Basic Overview for The Every-Day PC User

What Does It Cover

Computer Security today covers virtually all functions that a PC is part of., such as

- Purchasing goods or services on-line
- Financial transactions such as accessing you Bank Account
- Theft of personal information including identity fraud
- Access to the internet by adults or children
- and more.

How Does It Work

The technologies involved (and some are very complex) generally try to make the unwanted actions such as theft or access to/from the internet so difficult that it is not worth the trouble. This does not mean that all threats are eliminated, although many solutions are very good so long as certain rules are followed. These rules usually mean that you the user have to consistently do something, such as follow recommended practices, keep software up to date and so on. The solution is therefore about reducing the **RISK** and has two main parts:

Technology + You

What Do You Need To Know

- Solutions - You need to know what PC computer security solution(s) could apply to you
- Limitations - You should be aware of the limitations that might apply
- Practice - How to put the security in place and keep it current
- Problems - What to do when you suspect a problem has occurred

What Decisions Do You Need To Make

- You need to make the conscious decision to INVEST in security. This does involve some cost and some of you time. You may be able to reduce the cost by doing more yourself.
- You need to decide what **RISKS** you will try to eliminate or reduce. You may be able to satisfy yourself that your solution covers everything you need to
- If all risks can't be reduced sufficiently, you need to decide what to concentrate on and what needs to be “managed”. This is techno-speak for keeping a very watchful eye on the situation.

Where to Next

- Find sources of information that raise your level of understanding
- Find answers to the questions you may have
- Plan what you are going to do
- Put it into practice, including involving those around you who have access to the PC
- Keep it current

Don't be put off, do it piece by piece – make a start today