

JCB Computer Services

Computer Repair and IT Consulting
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Recommended Internet and Security Software

Most new computers come with internet software (a web browser and email client) and security software (often a free trial of McAfee or Norton). However, these pre-installed software packages are not always the safest or most effective alternative and definitely not always the best value.

JCB Computer Services has over 15 years of experience with internet software and security packages, and based on that experience, we recommend the following FREE alternatives:

WEB BROWSERS & EMAIL CLIENTS	<p>A web browser allows you to view web pages and interact on the internet. The most common browser is Microsoft Internet Explorer.</p> <p>An email client allows you to send and receive email over the internet. The most commonly used email clients are Microsoft Outlook (for business users) and/or Microsoft Outlook Express / Windows Mail (for home users).</p> <p>However, these are also the most-targeted for viruses, Trojans, and malware as well as spam and phishing attacks. JCB Computer Services recommends the following alternative:</p>
	<p>Firefox - ***** (5 stars) http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/</p> <p>Thunderbird - ***** (5 stars) http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird/</p>

PERSONAL FIREWALLS	<p>A personal firewall protects your internet connection in both inbound and outbound directions. This helps keep unwanted programs from communicating with the internet, and can help to stop hidden program installations from accessing the internet without your knowledge. They provide <u>constant protection</u> behind the scenes, but must be <u>updated manually</u> (they will generally notify you when updates are available, but you must download and install them). Only 1 personal firewall should be installed and running at any given time.</p>
	<p>ZoneAlarm Free Edition - ***** (5 stars) http://www.zonealarm.com/store/content/company/products/znaIm/freeDownload.jsp</p> <p>Comodo Personal Firewall - ***** (5 stars) http://www.personalfirewall.comodo.com/download_firewall.html</p>

ANTI-VIRUS PROGRAMS	<p>Anti-virus programs protect your computer by scanning new and existing files to prevent infection by viruses, Trojan horses, and many other types of malware. They provide <u>constant protection</u> behind the scenes, and are generally <u>updated automatically</u> daily. They can usually be configured to <u>automatically scan</u> the computer on a set schedule, but <u>manual scans</u> are also recommended at least weekly. Only 1 anti-virus program should be installed and running at any given time.</p>
	<p>AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition - ***** (5 stars) http://free.avg.com/download?prd=afe</p> <p>Avast! Anti-Virus Free Edition - ***** (5 stars) http://www.avast.com/eng/download-avast-home.html</p> <p>Comodo Anti-Virus - ***** (5 stars) http://www.personalfirewall.comodo.com/download_firewall.html</p>

SPYWARE PROTECTION

Spyware protection programs scan your computer for adware/spyware/malware and can remove any unwanted infections. Several contain some sort of automatic protection, but most also require manual scans of your computer and must be updated manually. It is often helpful and necessary to run more than 1 anti-spyware program on a computer, as one may identify infections another might miss. Currently, we run Ad-Aware, Spybot S&D, Windows Defender, and Spyware Blaster without any problems. However, be sure to check the Help with each program for possible conflicts with other anti-spyware or anti-virus software.

NOTE: Beware of unknown adware/spyware/malware programs. Often, unwanted malware programs are disguised as removal tools in order to get you to install them. Always ask someone whose technology knowledge and opinion you trust before installing them

NOTE: The **ADVANCED** tools should be used with caution and only by advanced users

Lavasoft Ad-Aware - ***** (5 stars)

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware>

Spybot Search & Destroy - ***** (5 stars)

<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/download/index.html>

Windows Defender - ***** (5 stars)

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=435bfce7-da2b-4a6a-afa4-f7f14e605a0d&displaylang=en>

Spyware Blaster - ***** (5 stars)

<http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html>

SuperAntiSpyware - **ADVANCED**

<http://www.superantispyware.com/>

MalwareBytes Anti-Malware - **ADVANCED**

<http://www.malwarebytes.org/mbam.php>

VundoFix - **ADVANCED**

<http://vundofix.atribune.org/>

HijackThis! - **VERY ADVANCED**

http://www.trendsecure.com/portal/en-US/tools/security_tools/hijackthis

More coming soon...

OTHER FREE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS AND SUITES

Desktop Productivity Suites include word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and other software. Microsoft Office is the "gold standard" of these suites, however there is an excellent FREE alternative:

OpenOffice - ***** (5 stars)

<http://www.openoffice.org/>

CD/DVD Burning Software allows you to create a music CD, back up your computer to CDs or DVDs, or just copy files to a CD or DVD to transport them from one location to another. Common commercial examples are Nero Burning ROM and Roxio Easy-CD Creator.

This software requires that you have a CD/RW and/or DVD/RW drive installed in your computer as well as CD-R or similar blank media on which to write the files.

CD Burner XP - ***** (5 stars)

<http://cdburnerxp.se/>