



# Basic Computer Maintenance

Chatham University Information  
Technology Team

# How do you treat your car?

- You probably do at least the following:
  - Oil changes, air filter changes, antifreeze fills etc.
- Why not treat your computer the same way? After all, it is an appliance (and costs as much as a used car).

# Basic Terms

- Worms
- Trojans
- Viruses
- SpyWare
- AdWare
- OS
- LAN
- Network
- Cache
- IE (Internet Explorer)
- Browser

# Virus vs. Worm

- A virus stays on your computer and your computer only.
- Worms crawl through networks.
- Unlike a worm, a virus cannot infect other computers without assistance. It is spread via trading programs with others (file sharing programs, email).

# Spyware vs. Adware

- Symptoms: Sluggish Pc, Increased pop-ups, homepage changes, strange search results.
- Both are data miners, meaning they are looking for information. Both cause the above symptoms.
- Can lead to identity theft.
- 9 out of 10 pc's are infected.
- Good place to look for info?

<http://www.webroot.com/spywareinformation>

# Spyware Removal

- You can try to do it manually- but is often very difficult.
- Often it can disrupt major computer processes.
- You can check out the following free programs:
  - AdAware
  - SpySweeper (both versions, free&pay)
  - NOTE: Please be careful when downloading these tools, some programs claim to remove spyware, but instead, come with their own spyware embedded.

# Top Spyware Threats

- PurityScan
- N-Case
- Gator
- CoolWebSearch
- Tansponder
- ISTbar/AUpdate
- KeenValue
- Internet Optimizer (bargain buddy)
- Perfect Keylogger
- TIBS Dialer
- For more information on these, visit:
  - <http://www.webrot.com/spywareinformation/spywaretopthreats/>



Antivirus

VERY VERY IMPORTANT

# Antivirus Programs

- Norton and McAfee come with many new computers for trial periods.
- After your “trial period” it will prompt you to buy the program. What you are paying for is to stay updated on virus definitions (meaning the # of viruses your antivirus is able to detect). If you don't stay up-to-date, then your ability to ward off viruses and remove them becomes limited.

# Antivirus Programs contd...

- Free programs exist:
- [Avast! Antivirus](#)
- [BitDefender](#)
- [Antivir](#)
- Chatham University requires any student with a computer on campus have updated and functioning virus protection on their computers.

# Basic “Uncluttering” Steps

- Every web page you visit leaves its mark. Go to Control Panel → Internet Options → Then delete cookies, Temporary Internet Files, and History. This will keep your machine “fresh”.

# In Conclusion...

- Be on the look out for unexpected attachments and pop-ups.
- Stay away from sites that always require you to download something.
- Have virus protection and a good Spyware detector program.