Computersmith

Computer Health Checklist

Computersmith, L.L.C. suggests the following procedures for optimal system performance and data security. We offer wide range of professional computer services that include performing any or all of these recommendations.

Computer Security

- ❑ Verify that all the latest **critical Windows updates** are installed by visiting the Microsoft Windows Update website. Enable the Windows Automatic Update feature to ensure the best possible security enhancements.

- ❑ Require a **password to logon** to Windows. Good passwords are at least eight characters long and have a mixture of upper and lower case as well as numbers. To prevent lost passwords in Windows XP, create a password reset disk for each user.

- ❑ Install a widely used **AntiVirus software** program. Make sure that the update subscription is not expired and that it is configured for automatic program & virus definition updates, email scanning and frequent full system scans.

- ❑ **Disable the Guest Account** on the PC or assign it a **strong password**.

- ❑ Install a hardware (preferred) or software **firewall** to keep hackers out of your system.

- ❑ Periodically **test** your system security with an online vulnerability test.

Computer Privacy

- ❑ Install a **spyware scanner** to detect and remove spyware, adware & other malware.

- ❑ Install a **spam filter** to filter out unwanted and potentially harmful email messages.

- ❑ Install a **pop-up blocker** to stop annoying and possibly malicious Internet ads.

Network Security

- ❑ Configure cable/DSL wireless routers to use a **strong wireless encryption protocol**. An unencrypted wireless network can potentially allow anyone nearby to gain unauthorized access to network data or use the Internet connection for sending spam or other illegal actions.

- ❑ **Disable Simple File Sharing**, if not needed on the network.

Computer Performance & Housekeeping

- ❑ Remove **unnecessary programs** from the computer using Add/Remove Programs.

- ❑ Install a **spyware scanner** to remove unwanted and potentially harmful background programs.

- ❑ Perform **routine backups** of all critical files and settings. **Archive files** offsite periodically for maximum data protection.

- ❑ Run **Scheduled Disk Cleanup** and **Disk Defragmentation** frequently.