

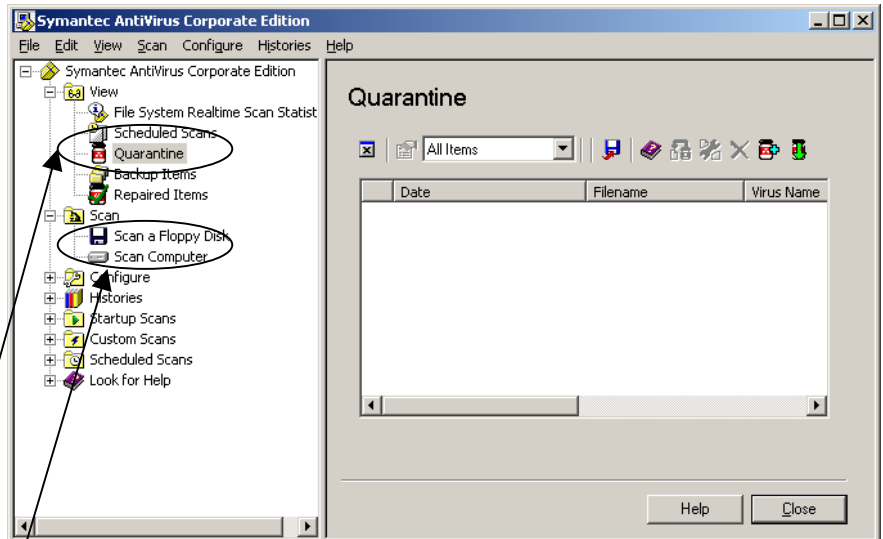


Computer Security

1. Using Antivirus Programs

Viruses and worms are programs that can infect your computer and cause it to malfunction. Anti-virus programs remove or quarantine viruses and worms to prevent damage. These programs must be updated frequently to maintain protection as new viruses appear.

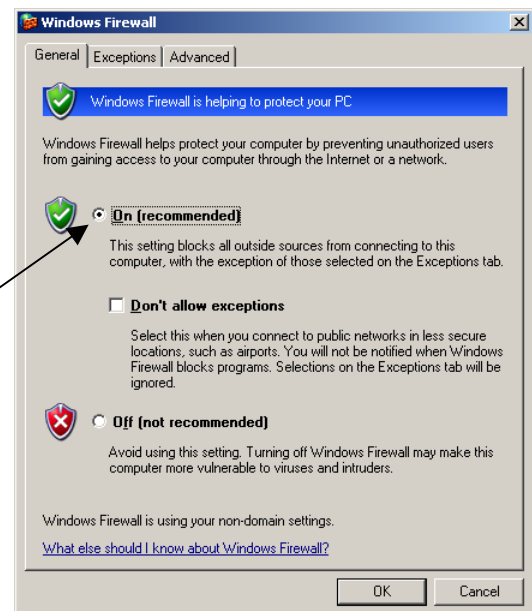
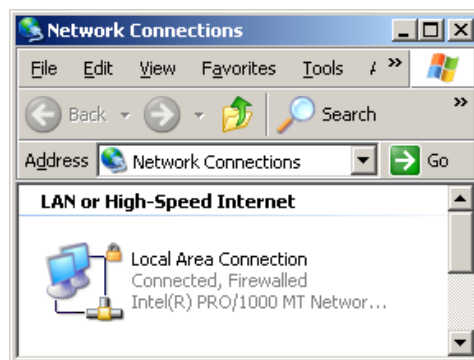
The preferred antivirus program at UCONN is Symantec Antivirus and it is free for students. Information on the latest threats can be found <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/>. Whenever a virus is found, the antivirus program will quarantine the threat as long as the virus databases is updated.



In addition, you should run a virus scan every once in a while or whenever you suspect an infection.

2. Using Firewalls

A firewall is the program that filters all the incoming and outgoing traffic in your computer and according to certain rules, it allows or prevents some actions. *Windows XP* comes with a default firewall that you could activate. In Network Connections, make a right-click in your LAN connection and go to Properties. Under the Advanced tab, you will access the firewall settings.



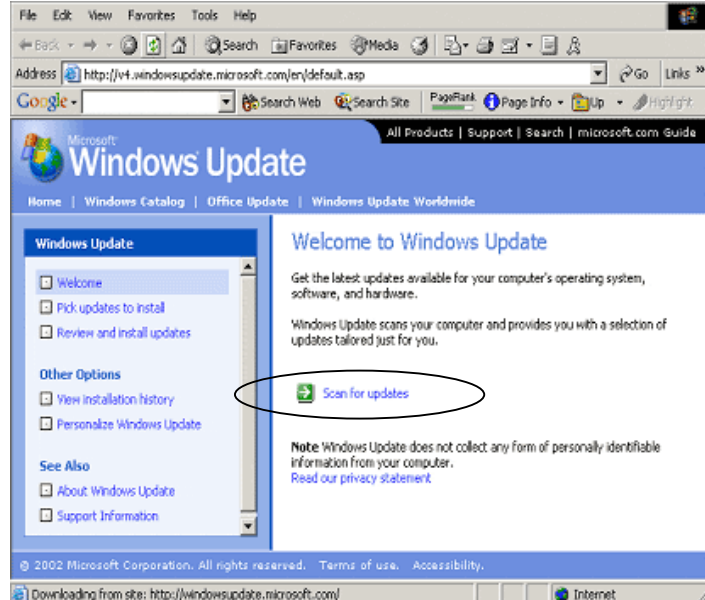
Other Windows operating systems do not include a firewall, so third-party programs such as Zone Alarm, Norton Internet Security or McAfee Security Center may need to be installed. Note that some networks may restrict access to computers with local firewalls enabled, so you may need to disable in order to get connectivity.

3. Installing Windows Updates

Microsoft releases updates and security patches for Windows that should be installed as soon as they are available. The website is

<http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com>

You can run a manual update at this site or configure your system to automatically download these updates. To set automatic Windows Updates, go to the Control Panel. It is suggested that you set the updates to be downloaded automatically, but not installed until you decide to do so.



4. Scanning for Spyware/Adware

Spyware and adware are programs installed on your system, in most cases without your knowledge, and that operate in the background. Typically, these applications will cause performance issues on your system.

Spyware programs "spy" on your internet browsing routine and other system activities and may send this information to marketing organizations, resulting in junk email and pop-up ads.

Adware includes applications such as Gator, GAIN or Bonzai Buddy. They are installed without warning and load system applications you may not need.

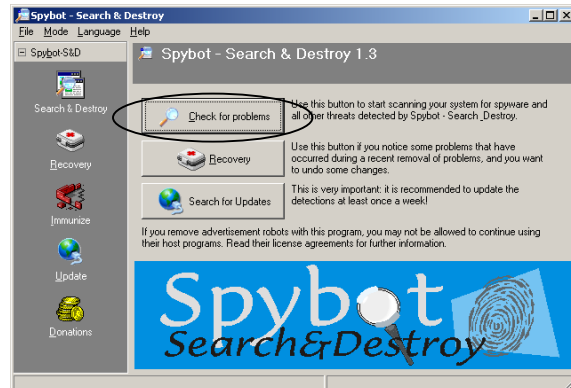
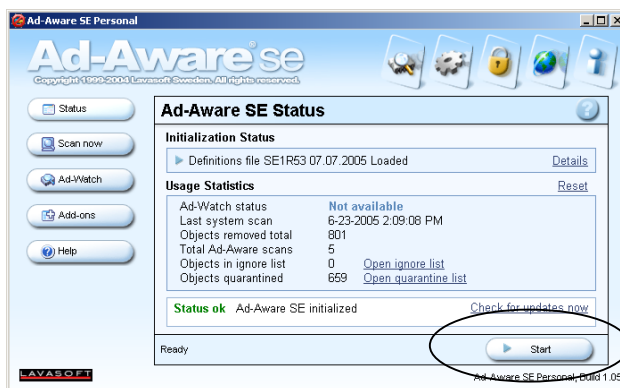
Removal Tools: The tools below are free and can be downloaded from the link specified.

Similar to Antivirus programs, these also require to be updated for better results.

Ad-Aware <http://www.lavasoft.com>

Spybots Search & Destroy <http://www.safer-networking.org>

Windows Defender <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.msp>



More info: <http://www.cert.org/homeusers/HomeComputerSecurity/>