ReadyNetGo .... News

February 2001   **http://www.readynetgo.net**

Tip of the Month

If giving out your email address during web transactions and email inquiries is making you feel a little insecure, here's a tip that should ease your mind and make your online presence that much more enjoyable.

Sign up for a **free email account** through any of a number of sites such as yahoo, juno, Microsoft (hotmail) or excite.

If you happen to get on a mailing list or you start receiving spam from other companies, you won't have to worry about interruptions in your primary email account.

And if the problem gets really bad, you can always delete this address and not have to worry about notifying your personal or business contacts.

Finding a free email account is easy. Here are some web links to check out:
• www.yahoo.com
• www.juno.com
• www.netaddress.com
• www.excite.com
• www.mypad.com - at this site you can choose a fun domain name from many options.

With all accounts, read the terms of service before signing up. Some companies have restrictive policies.

Happy Surfing!

Protect Yourself Against Harmful Viruses .... Before it's too Late!

Everyone who has a computer needs virus protection. Viruses, worms and Trojan horses are becoming common in the workplace and can cause financial and emotional turmoil as many have already found out. There are ways to protect your data, however, which are inexpensive, practical, and easy to install and maintain.

The top companies for virus protection software are: Computer Associates (InoculateIT), McAfee (Virus Scan), and Symantec (Norton Anti-Virus). All three list virus tips, real and hoax intrusions, and monthly anti-virus updates and fixes on their websites (listed on next page).

Each company has a different style for their website and varied pricing for their software so look at all three to find the best for you. Briefly, Computer Associates offers FREE anti-virus software to consumers (sorry businesses aren't included). All they require is some basic personal information. McAfee offers an online anti-virus and pc maintenance clinic where you can get online support and updates automatically each month through a subscription service. Symantec has a plethora of products and information for virus protection as well as pc maintenance.

Above all, user prevention goes a long way in thwarting computer viruses. Be particularly careful when downloading files from the internet, opening attachments in emails, and opening files on floppy disks.

WWW (Websites Worth Watching)

1. www.epic.org - Online privacy center
2. www.cookiecentral.com - Info on browser cookies
3. www.anonymizer.com - Anonymous web surfing & dial-up access
4. www. movies.com - News, reviews, trailers and more
5. www.workingassets.com - Service that donates revenue to nonprofits through credit card use, telephone, wireless, and internet services.

 ...Virus Protection continued

   If you aren't expecting an email attachment from a friend or colleague, it's safer not to open it (as in the I Love You virus that wreaked havoc on computer systems worldwide). Set up a schedule to download anti-virus updates each month and stick to it. Also remember to update the pre-loaded anti-virus software on your new computer. It's probably been sitting on a shelf somewhere for quite some time.

   And finally, if you back-up your data regularly, you always have the option of returning your computer to a stable state. Viruses don't necessarily mean the end anymore if you take certain precautions and plan ahead. Remember a byte of prevention is worth a gigabyte of cure !

Computer Associates -- **www.ca.com**

McAfee -- **www.mcafee.com**   or   **www.nai.com**

Symantec -- **www.symantec.com**

TIPS FOR VIRUS PREVENTION

1. Don't open any suspicious attachments in emails or files on floppy disks and immediately delete these files from your Inbox, Deleted Items Folder, and Recycle Bin.

2. Don't forward virus warnings unless you verify their existence. Go to any website listed above for current virus intrusions and hoaxes.

3. Download files over the internet only from reputable companies. Make sure anti-virus software is activated before downloading.

4. Update your software regularly with DAT files. Hundreds of viruses are detected each month. Anti-virus companies constantly update their files – SO SHOULD YOU!

5. BACK UP YOUR DATA REGULARLY!

6. Install a personal firewall to prevent unsolicited information from gaining access to your system.

7. Delete all attachments with a .vbs extension (visual basic script) or attachments with multiple extensions such as .gif.exe or .jpg.vbs.

8. If you receive an infected file, inform the sender so you can possibly prevent other infections.