Anti-virus and malware protection

What is a virus?
  A hidden program that can do a number of things to your computer:
  Make your computer run slowly
  Prevent your computer from booting
  Damage parts of your computer
  Steal personal details or data
  Travel from your computer to other computers
  Send out unauthorized messages from your computer

Types of Viruses
  Worms – copy themselves from one computer on a network to other computers on the network
  Trojans – perform functions, often malicious, on your computer without your knowledge
  Spyware – malware used to spy on your activities
  There is a large amount of overlap within these basic catagories

How do You Protect Yourself?
  You can disconnect your computer from the internet!
  You can unplug your computer!!
  Or you can use anti-virus software or apps.

Are you currently protected?
  Do you have an antivirus app on your computer
  Do you know if your antivirus app is currently turned on
  Do you know how to update your antivirus app
  Do you know whether your antivirus app is currently UTD

Why is updating so important?
  Software developer developes software
  Hacker finds vulnerabilities and designs exploit (virus or malware)
  Software developer updates software to plug vulnerabilities
  Hacker finds new vulnerabilities and designs new exploits
  Software developer updates software to plug new vulnerabilities
  Your only protection is to either avoid the exploit with developers updates or have antivirus app that
    blocks the exploit.

Vulnerabilities vs Exploits
  2004 - 80% of critical vulnerabilities had an exploit available within 60 days
  2009 - exploits available in as little as 10 days
  2016 – exploits are now called zero-day exploits, exploits are already available when the vulnerability is
    made public

Anti-Virus protection is built into Windows
  Windows Defender started as an anti-malware component of Microsoft Windows. It was first released as a
  free antispyware program download for Windows 2000 and Windows XP, then was shipped with Windows
  Vista and Windows 7 solely as an antispyware program. It was then replaced by Microsoft Security
  Essentials, Microsofts' antivirus program, in both Vista and Windows 7. Windows Defender was ultimately
  made into a full antivirus program, replacing Microsoft Security Essentials, and included as part
  of Windows 8 and later versions of Windows.

MS Anti-virus efficacy
Windows Defender does a good job defending your computer IF…
  Keep Windows Up To Date, both recommended AND optional updates
  Keep browser Up To Date
    Edge and IE automatically update when windows updates
    Firefox and Chrome automatically update when you start them and can also be updated manually

Engage in safe browsing
- Never open eMails from unknown senders
- Be cautious opening eMail attachments, even from known senders
- Read EVERYTHING before you download
- Never override antivirus or malware warnings unless you're <u>VERY</u> sure you know what you're doing.
- User account control message "do you want to allow the following program to make changes to your computer?" Make sure you do before you click "Yes".
- Do back-ups, better yet system images, often
  - Windows backup/image
  - Acronis
  - Macrium Free
  - EaseUs ToDo Free

Free AV Apps

If you prefer to use a different anti-virus app there are many available, including several free apps:
- BitDefender
- AVG Free
- Panda Free
- Avira Free
- Avast Free

So…What do you do if you get infected???
- You could bring your computer to your local "I can fix anything" shop! Sometimes that works out well, sometimes not.
- You can start over and buy a new computer.
- OR…Or you *could* run the computer maintenance programs recommended by the tech committee!
- Our recommended programs include:
  - An activated, up-to-date, real-time anti-virus app
  - Disk Cleanup
  - CCleaner, updated to the most recent version
  - SuperAntiSpyware, updated to the most recent version
  - Malware Bytes, updated to the most recent version
  - Glary Defrag, updated to the most recent version

Disk Cleanup – comes pre-loaded with Windows

Ccleaner, SuperAntiSpyware, Malware Bytes and Glary are all free apps downloadable from their respective developers web sites or from a variety of other reputable download sites.

These apps should be loaded onto your computer PRIOR to any infection and run, *<u>AFTER UPDATING THEM TO THE MOST RECENT VERSION</u>*, on a regular basis.