



Anti-Virus: Only as Good as its Updates

Having anti-virus software is the first step in preventing your computer from being infected. However, there is a second and arguably more important step: Making sure your virus definitions are up to date.

When you purchase anti-virus software, you are paying for two things: the program, and a subscription to the update service. While having anti-virus software installed is a very good idea, the program can only defend against viruses it knows about.

When a new virus comes out, there is a process that happens to make sure anti-virus programs can find it. First, a security response team is alerted to the fact that a new threat has been released. They then receive, analyze, and find a

fix for it. This generally takes a few hours from when they originally are notified, but can take up to a day or two. Then they publish the updates through either downloadable updates or through their automatic update feature.



As you can imagine, if you don't update your antivirus software, then you aren't protected from new threats. This is incredibly important to know, considering that there are currently about 70,000 different known viruses, with that number growing on a weekly basis.

Most software has an automatic update feature. Norton Antivirus, for example, has LiveUpdate. You can configure this to automatically update the definitions, which will then periodically check the Symantec servers for updates. Making sure this feature is enabled is a very good, and highly recommended idea.

M&H Tech For A Day includes making sure all virus definitions are up to date and that the automatic update feature is enabled and functioning on every machine. Those who do not currently have this service are urged to consider it, or make sure their machines are properly protected. Infection can mean loss of time, data, productivity, and most importantly, money.

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Custom Databases: Making Your Life Easier

Every company has data. The data can be in the form of financial records, customer records, schedules, or many other important facts and figures. Organizing this data into something that can be quickly and easily accessed is the backbone of a good business model. Many companies have multiple database programs in which each program is responsible for one kind of data. While this kind of setup may seem to be working without issue, often times it is possible to merge multiple databases into one single database. Having a single database can save users time, makes backups easier, and makes database access simpler. One of the better products on the market for custom designed databases is Lotus Notes.

With Lotus Notes, it is possible to design databases to be web accessible. With any kind of internet access, you could gain entry to the database using a secure connection with a username and password. Working from home becomes easier, and writing notes to yourself to do things the next

day becomes a thing of the past. Checking schedules, sending and receiving emails, and viewing and editing company data becomes as effortless as getting on the internet. And since access to the database is built upon the internet protocol, any model of computer that can go online can get into the database.

M&H Consulting recommends a database solution with Lotus Notes, a program that any computer can

access. With an M&H custom database, we design the database to fit the exact needs of the client. No extra utilities that you'll never use to complicate the software, but no missing functionality that could make your job easier. This means that you can have all your data in one program that is easy to change and grows with your business. For more information on custom designed databases, or for a demonstration given in your office, please contact M&H Consulting.



"Write a letter to Santa? It's easier to just break into his computer distribution system."