

CTIS Connection

Information Technology Services at Purdue University Calumet

Always Be Protected!

This is the second in a series about Internet Security directly from the Federal Trade Commission.

- Do you shop online?
- Do you view personal bank or credit card information online?
- Do you “surf the net”?
- Do you use e-mail or instant messenger?

If you answered yes to at least one of the above questions, your computer is at risk of being infected with a virus, spyware, or malware. These programs are all described as being unwanted software that is installed on your computer through deception.

In simpler terms, spyware is a type of program that watches what users do with their computer and then sends that information over the internet. Spyware can collect many different types of information about a user. More benign programs can attempt to track what types of websites a user visits and send this information to an advertisement agency. More malicious versions can try to record what a user types to try to intercept passwords or credit card numbers. Yet other versions simply launch popup advertisements.

There are steps you can take to protect yourself and your computer.

- Antivirus software should be set to automatically update each week. The Windows operating system also can be set to automatically check for patches and download them to your computer. Get a free copy of McAfee in Gyte 133, Powers 218, or the Computer Lab in Powers 115.
- Do not open files sent to you by strangers, or click on hyperlinks or download programs from people you don't know.
- Use a firewall program, especially if your computer is connected to the Internet 24 hours a day.
- Use a secure browser.
- Try not to store financial information on your laptop unless absolutely necessary.
- Look for website privacy policies.
- Before you dispose of a computer, delete all the personal information stored on it.

www.calumet.purdue.edu/ctis

Your feedback on our services is always welcome. Please send your comments to Customer Service Center at csc@calumet.purdue.edu.