



DTI eSecurity News - And you thought security would be hard...

Some easy security tips and tricks

Keeping up with security measures for daily computing task can sometimes seem overwhelming. However, it is better to take a little time to adopt good and secure habits, rather than find out the hard way why security is so important. The four simple tips listed below can help make your computing experience more safe and secure.



When you leave your computer unattended, lock the computer from use, or physically lock the room the computer is in to prevent use while you are away. You can lock most Windows computers by simultaneously pressing the Windows logo key + “L”. Even if you are away only for a few minutes, that allows ample opportunity for unauthorized users to destroy data (intentionally or unintentionally) or obtain information they are not authorized to have.



Consider disconnecting your home computer from the internet when not in use. Broadband internet connections such as cable, FiOS, and DSL allow “always on” internet connections. While this may be convenient, it allows malicious users round the clock access, if the connection is not secured properly. Also, consider attaching a simple light timer to your conventional or wireless router, and configure it to automatically turn the router on and off, based on your schedule. This provides the most secure and convenient way to enjoy the benefits these devices have to offer.



Malicious attacks and unauthorized users are not the only concern when protecting against data loss. Power surges and blackouts can also cause disaster. Always connect your computer to power strips that are rated to handle the amount of power your computer requires, and ensure it offers surge protection. Many of the power product manufacturers will offer connected equipment warranties to cover your equipment, if their product fails to protect it during a power surge. Experts recommend you look for a suppressor that offers:



- **Response Time < 5 nanoseconds** (*the time it takes for the suppressor to react to a surge*)
- **Joules Rating > 400** (*how much electricity the suppressor can absorb before it blows*)
- **Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listing as a Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor** (*look for a sticker on the power strip*)
- **An indicator light that shows protection is active or inactive** (*because if the suppressor burns out, it will still function as a power strip, without protection*).

Power protection products are also available as Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS). These feature a large capacity battery and communicate with your computer when there is a power failure. They can be configured to intervene and provide power to your computer, for the duration of the failure, and automatically shutdown your PC when the battery becomes low on power.



Backup your important projects to other storage devices, such as CDs or DVDs, external hard drives, or USB thumb drives. Keep the storage device in a safe, secure location. This way you will always have an extra copy, if any of the devices fail or an accident occurs.

Questions or comments?  
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