

## Home Computer Security

One of the best (and easiest) ways to provide a high level of security on your computer is to maintain active and up-to-date antivirus protection provided by a reputable vendor. Then ensure that real-time scanning and regularly scheduled scans of your computer is happening.

Update your software frequently to ensure you have the latest security patches. This includes your computer's operating system and other installed software (e.g., web browsers, Adobe Flash Player®, Adobe Reader®, Java®, Microsoft Office®, etc.).

Automate software updates, when the software supports it, to ensure it's not overlooked. If you suspect your computer is infected with malware, discontinue using it for banking, shopping, or other activities involving sensitive information. Use security software and/or professional help to find and remove malware.

Use firewalls on your local network to add another layer of protection for all the devices that connect through the firewall (e.g., PCs, smart phones, and tablets). Require a [password](#) to gain access. Log off or lock your computer when not in use.

Use a cable lock to physically secure a laptop when the device is stored in an untrusted location.

### The Dangers of Portable Drives

Flash drives provide a great benefit for transporting pictures, videos and other files. However, when they come from other computers - even from trusted people - they can contain viruses and malware.

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