



"Local Support • Personal Service • Since 1976" www.ccstech.net "Relax...we're on IT"

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Sat 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Sat 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

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64-bit Windows: a Time of Transitions by Karen Strickland

► Most people are aware that we are in a time of change with computers. The new Windows 7 operating system is out and in most stores this is what you get on a new computer.



What you may not know is that we are also making a transition from 32-bit computing to 64-bit. A transition like this doesn't happen very often. We have been using 32-bit computing since the days of Windows 95 and the change is probably long overdue. The 64-bit hardware has been around for a year or two but now the software is starting to catch up. There are pros and cons regarding this change that you should be aware of before you take a new system home.

Some Pros: If you are running software written for 64-bit systems, the software will run twice as fast as a 32-bit version would. You can also have more usable RAM on a 64-bit system. A 32-bit system has a limit of 4GB of usable RAM whereas the 64-bit limit is at least 128GB, depending on the version of Windows you are using.

The major Con of a 64-bit system is compatibility. You may buy a new system and then find out that the software you have always used doesn't work on the

new system. Or the printer or scanner that you got last year doesn't have 64-bit driver and therefore cannot be used on the new system. This leads to added expense when you have to replace software or hardware.

Many stores sell mostly 64-bit systems but the advertising doesn't always mention that fact. It simply says, for example, "Windows 7 Home Premium". It doesn't say anything about it being 64-bit, but if you dig a bit deeper (especially online), you find that it is actually "Windows 7 Home Premium 64-bit".

So when checking on the software and hardware that you use to see if it will work with Windows 7, make sure you also find out if it will work on a 64-bit version. That way you will know ahead of time whether you need to stay with a 32-bit system or if you can actually use a 64-bit version.

If you have questions or concerns about getting a new computer, come see us at *CCS Technologies* at either of our locations or give us a call. We can help you get exactly what you need, whether it is 32-bit or 64-bit Windows.

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Virus Alert! by Scott Toney

► Have you seen a message pop up on your screen that says something like "Your PC may be infected, CLICK HERE to clean it"? Most likely it is an attempt by a malevolent program to install Trojan horse viruses or other spyware on your computer, not anything actually trying to help you. These warnings seem very real and may scare you into clicking it. **Don't do it!**

Step one would be to try and kill that software before it does any damage. Clicking "No" in the pop up box may be just as bad as clicking yes. Instead, press ALT-F4 on your keyboard to close the program. You can also use CTL-ALT-DEL and END TASK on the offending software. Worst case, shut down your computer. Sometimes this software moves quickly and will install without any user intervention. Most of the time once a machine is infected with this type of virus, it will take some manual intervention to remove it. Many times it will require a full wipe and reinstall of Windows and your software.

You are probably wondering why your current antivirus software is not stopping these types of threats. The short answer is there are sometimes hundreds of variants of these viruses spread every day, and it takes time for the antivirus companies to develop and distribute fixes to these problems. No one antivirus program will stop everything all the time. If one did, this alert would be including it in our recommendations!

Here are some basic tips to help keep you out of trouble. Back up your important files. We are seeing more machines "wiped out" from viruses than hard

drive failures. If it is important, make a copy. **Situational Awareness:** Know what you are doing and what you have installed on your computer. For example, if you have Avast antivirus installed on your computer and you get a message saying "Antivirus 2010" wants to clean something, don't do it.

Use caution when online. If you're pretty sure you should not open that email or go to that web site, you're probably right.

Do not use P2P or "file sharing" software. There is no central control over what is shared, so it is very easy to "share" viruses this way. It is also very difficult to know if the files you have downloaded are legal to share, but that is a whole different subject.

Watch who uses your PC and how they use it. Kids' home for the holidays downloading things on your business laptop is usually not a good idea.

Keep your system up-to-date. Install Microsoft and antivirus updates whenever they are available.

Do not let your antivirus software expire!



Get help before it's too late. We can often remove virus infections if they are caught early. Don't continue to use a computer you know is infected with a virus. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

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Have you checked your backups today?
Have you verified you can restore files?

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Dual Core Notebook
now available with either
Windows 7 Professional -or-
Windows XP Professional



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3 GB DDR RAM
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DVD+-R/RW
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Intel 4500 Graphics
Intel PRO/Wireless 5100
Windows 7 Professional with
Windows XP Pro pre-installed
12 Month Mfg. Warranty
Setup and Ready to Use!

**It's Time for a
New Computer.**