



VERMONT COMPUTING INC

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VIRUS ATTACK?



Experts estimate that the Mydoom Worm infected approximately a quarter-million computers in a single day in January 2004. (Times Online). Back in March 1999, the Melissa Virus was so powerful that it forced Microsoft and a

number of other very large companies to completely turn off their email systems until the virus could be contained. The ILOVEYOU Virus in 2000 had a similarly devastating effect. That's pretty impressive when you consider that the Melissa and ILOVEYOU viruses are incredibly simple.

- **Viruses** - A virus is a small piece of software that piggybacks on real programs. For example, a virus might attach itself to a program such as a spreadsheet program. Each time the spreadsheet program runs, the virus runs, too, and it has the chance to reproduce (by attaching to other programs) or wreak havoc
- **E-mail viruses** - An e-mail virus moves around in email messages, and usually replicates itself by automatically mailing itself to dozens of people in the victim's e-mail address book.
- **Worms** - A worm is a small piece of software that computer networks and security holes to replicate itself. A copy of the worm scans the network for another machine that has a specific security hole. It copies itself to the new machine using the security hole, and then starts replicating from there, as well..

More: <http://computer.howstuffworks.com>

DEFENSIVE MEASURES

Norton Antivirus automatically removes Viruses, Worms, and Trojan horses at their point of entry. Norton Anti-Virus protects emails, download files, instant messaging, and more.



The number one way to stop viruses is Norton Antivirus, and that's why we sell it in store. There are other measures you can take though. First is to simply avoid programs from unknown sources (like the Internet), and instead stick with commercial software purchased on CDs. You eliminate almost all of the risks from traditional viruses if you stick to commercial software.

A file with an extension like EXE, COM or VBS is an executable, and an executable can do any sort of damage it wants. Once you run it, you have given it permission to do anything on your machine. You should never double-click on an attachment that contains an executable.

If an attachment comes in that's a Word file or (.DOC), spreadsheet (.XLS), image (.GIF and .JPG), etc., it's a data file and is less dangerous but still could do damage.

More From

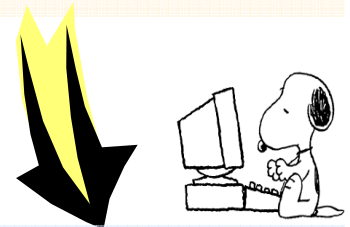
<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/virus8.htm>

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My computer needs work and I don't have the time to bring it down to the store what can I do?



Vermont Computing does offer on-site work. If you need work done at home, the hourly rate is \$60/ hr.

If you have a business that needs on-site work done, the hourly rate is \$70/hr. The hourly rate is simply doubled in the case of an emergency.

COMPUTER TALK

GIFT CERTIFICATES

In Next Months Issue:

What is internet Piracy?
 Mac or no Mac? Preference or performance?
 Know what you're looking for in a computer BEFORE you buy one!



Its time to see the doctor again. Just like you, your computer needs to see a physician every once in a while too. Our qualified computer techs at VCI will take a look at every nook and cranny of your computer and figure out what's ailing it.



To err is human--and to blame it on a computer is even more so.
 --Robert Orben

My flash drive doesn't have enough memory. Its TOO small to fit all the pictures and files that I need! I want to move my entire hard drive sometimes and I cant do that on a Flash drive, what can I do?



An external hard drive is a great tool for your scenario, all it is, is a hard drive inside a metal box with a connection that fits into the outside of your computer. Plug it in, and you have a hard drive to write, store, copy anything you want! Starting at \$140 for a 40 GB external hard drive, its not a bad deal when a 2 GB flash drive runs at about the same price!!

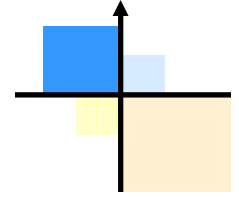
For \$45, a 1-Hour Diagnosis will tell you what the problem is, how it can be fixed, and we will give you the best advice on how to keep your computing running smooth and with the least amount of glitches.



Even before your computer NEEDS to be fixed, come get it checked up. That way we can fix any minor problems before it gets too expensive!



VCI NEWS



VERMONT COMPUTING COULD USE A HAND!



Because of the higher volume of computer requests, and services, we are expanding our staff!

Right now we are looking for a full time computer tech. Someone that will be responsible for both in shop and on-site repairs, for PCs, networks, and other home/small office type technology.

Experience is a must.

You want to join the team? Know someone who does? Give us an email with your resume attached and he will get back to you.

jobs@vermontcomputing.com

We Recycle!!

Tired of your old useless computer? Thinking about purchasing a new one? Why not try us out, we have a great line of computers! We can recycle your old computer and parts for just a minimal fee.

If you have any old empty printer cartridges or old batteries we will take those in for **free!** We have two boxes set up for that in the front of the store.

Newsletter News!

In the coming months we will have Tutorials in the Tech Column of this newsletter. Many of our customers have lots of questions regarding how to use certain programs from the web, now we have made it a part of the newsletter to inform you how to use them. This months tutorial is on Spybot Search and Destroy, a very useful product that gets rid of dangerous programs on your computer. Best of all its Free.

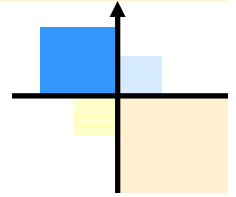
In order to install this program:

1. Go to "http://www.safer-networking.org/" and click on your language.
2. Click on the Download button on the left of the window.
3. Scroll down and click the "Download Here" button, follow the on-screen instructions on downloading to your computer.

Tutorial on the next page.



TECH NEWS



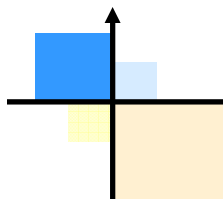
Spybot: S&D Tutorial

Spybot - Search and Destroy:

1. Double-Click the Spybot: Search & Destroy Icon on your desktop.
2. Run through the installation process.
3. Run Spybot– Search and Destroy.
4. Make sure you're connected to the internet and In the main window of Spybot click "Search for Updates"
5. Spybot will automatically check for the most recent updates. When this is done, click the checkbox next to each available update.
6. In the top portion of the update window you will find 5 buttons: The one that's important here is the one directly to the right of "Search for Updates". If this button is entitled anything other than "Safer Networking #1 (Europe)," click on it and change it to "Safer Networking #1 (Europe)." This tells Spybot which internet server to download its updates from. Safer Networking #1 is usually the most reliable.
7. Once the server is selected click the "Download Updates" button, the updates will download and install themselves automatically. If the updates are successful, a green checkmark will be placed next to each update. If a red X is displayed then the update was not installed successfully and you should try to download it from a different server.
8. Occasionally Spybot has a bug where right after you update, it will not scan properly. To remedy this, close spybot and restart it from the spyware protection folder on your desktop.
9. Now that the scan is done, you are presented with a list of suspicious objects. Make sure each one is checked off, then click the "Fix Selected Problems" button next to the "Check for Problems" button. The program will then ask if you're sure you want to remove the objects, click Yes and spybot will try and remove everything on the list. If it runs into problems it will ask if you want to schedule a scan for the next system restart. Click Yes. Then just like AdAware, the scan will start automatically on the next system restart.
10. The last thing to do with Spybot is to immunize your system. This will prevent invasions of all known spyware and adware. Look to the left side of the spybot window. There should be a series of 5 or more buttons. Click on the one titled "Immunize"
11. As soon as you click the Immunize button spybot will perform a quick check if additional protection is possible. It will then show a warning saying there are XXX bad products already blocked and XXX additional protections are possible. Click OK
12. Next look to the top of the Immunize window and there will be another button labeled "Immunize." (It has a green + icon) Click that button, and a few seconds later the immunization will complete.

That's it!





SPRINT/NEXTEL NEWS

\$33 RATE PLAN!!



Free i710



Free i730

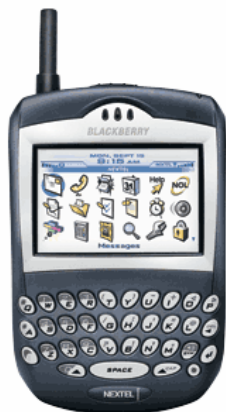
Right now is the time to pick up a new Nextel i710 for free, with 800 minutes, free nights and weekends unlimited direct connect with any other Nextel user, for the cheapest monthly rate EVER offered by NEXTEL .

Seriously! Only \$32.99 a month with a brand new i710 or i736 for free!!

NEXTEL

DID YOU KNOW?

Nextel has GPS enabled phones. If you are looking for a way to keep track of your employees, or your kids, Nextel has your answer. Even if you are just someone that likes to know where you stand at all times, Nextel offers GPS to guide you. Many phones com equipped with Latitude and longitude bearings, and some of the higher end models even offer maps! There are also Java applications available for you hiking enthusiasts.



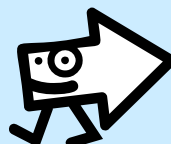
BLACKBERRY 7520

The Blackberry has become one of the most effective business tools in the history of Global Communications. Because of its very many useful features such as its "Qwerty" keyboard, and that it is still a cell phone, it is a must-have for any business person that needs to be on the top of his or her game at all times.

Nextels' Hottest

The i836 is one of the sweetest looking phones offered by Nextel. Just to give you an idea of its look, the curvy design of this phone was inspired by an Italian race-car. The i836 is an instant classic and weighing in at only 4.0 ounces it wont exactly weigh you down.

...and by the way this is Jeremy's favorite phone!



The i836

