

Brian's PC Support Newsletter

February 2011

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Message from Brian:

The intention of this bi-monthly Newsletter to address the following topics:

1. *Security Program updates*
2. *Latest Threats*
3. *New free programs you may find useful*
4. *Q & A that you may find helpful*

If you feel there is a topic I could address on a future newsletter, please drop me a line with your suggestion!

Security Program Updates

Below please find the latest versions of the various FREE programs I use (**and suggest you use!**) to keep my systems safe.

AVG Free	10.0.1204
Malwarebytes	1.50.1.1100
Spybot	1.6.2.46

Most programs have a "Help" and/or "About" tab that will show you what version you currently have installed on your system. If the version on your system doesn't match these numbers – NOW is the time to do some updates.

You can find the current links for all of these programs [here](#).

If link doesn't connect you automatically, visit www.brianspcsupport.ca/Computer%20Links.html

Latest Threats

I'm happy to let you know that I have not seen any new tricks by viruses lately.

The best warning of a virus or spyware is when you notice your computer acting up. Keep in mind, however, that Windows will act up if you haven't shut your system down in over 24hrs - a simple reboot will fix this problem.

If your computer seems to freeze, the best way to check this is to hit the NumLock or CapsLock key to see if the light toggles on and off. As long as the light toggles on and off, your computer is just busy.

If you do suspect your system is infected, running the security programs installed on your system should resolve the issue. Be sure to check for updates prior to running the programs, and continue running each program until zero threats are found.

If you are still having issues after taking these steps, please let me know.

Free Programs

(paste the link(s) below into your browser to download)

FENCES

If you are losing the battle over your workspace to desktop icons, a secret weapon is one click away. "Fences" quickly and easily organizes icons into separate windows on your desktop, either automatically or manually!

http://download.cnet.com/Fences/3000-2072_4-10909535.html



About "Fences" - Labelling the boxes helps keep programs, photos, files, and Web links together, or you can choose to group by project rather than by file type. Whatever the logic, you'll be able to drag and drop fences (and the shortcuts within them) anywhere on your desktop.

Additionally the program allows you to drag and drop shortcuts anywhere, and resize the fence. A scroll bar pops up so you can find your icons in fences that you've resized, and in addition to sorting shortcuts, you can cleverly hide them completely by double-tapping the desktop; double-tapping again resurfaces them. Customization tools can change the color scheme or take snapshots of your layout at any time, in case you'd like to switch among them without completely redoing your arrangement.

My thoughts - I've installed and am currently using this program, but I wish that creating a new fence was smoother, and took fewer steps. I'd also like to see it so that you could create rules for certain files types to automatically download into specific fences. Perhaps that will be adjusted in a future premium version. In the meantime, I do recommend Fences to anyone looking for a fast, fresh solution to persistent desktop clutter.



Questions & Answers

Please send questions my way. If you are looking for an answer, chances are someone else would like to know as well! I will compile Q&A's and incorporate them in to future newsletters.

Now YOU can help me!

Recently I've had a few people inquire about learning more to solve their own computer issues. This has always been something I've considered teaching to small groups in short courses. It would involve hands on lessons, question and answer periods, in a relaxed environment. Classes would be 4 students or less.

Please let me know if you would be interested in any/all of the following, or alternatively, please let me know what YOU would be interested in learning!

1. Virus Removal
 - Why a virus can be hard to remove
 - How to find where the virus is
 - Why a virus continues to return after being removed

2. System wipe-out and factory restore
 - How to use restore disks or a restore partition
 - How to save your pictures and files you still need
 - How to transfer your favourite web page addresses and your contacts

3. Parts of a computer (how to upgrade your system)
 - Identify the components inside your computer tower
 - Explain options with each components
 - Illustrate steps involved in upgrading your system to current technology
 - How to troubleshoot component problems