

**Are you immunized?**

Probably the most important thing that you need to do in order to keep your system safe and at peak performance is making sure that you anti-virus software package installed and it is up-to-date. Unfortunately, there are viruses that come out on a regular basis and if not protected, you could be risking your system data and system performance.

If you are not running a current subscription to your anti-virus software or not running anti-virus software at all, we would strongly recommend that you upgrade your package and get back on the wagon again. While not all viruses are malicious, many of them will compromise your email lists and other system data. The two leading anti-virus packages that we would recommend are:

- [McAfee](#)
- [Symantec](#)

**Is Windows Updated?**

One of the simplest things that you can do to keep your system performance in check is to maintain operating system updates. Microsoft® releases operating system patches to address security issues and performance issues. Both patches are important for you to maintain.

Most new systems that you purchase will automatically be configured for automatic updates from Microsoft®. It is a good idea not to change this unless you have specific requirements that prohibit you from updating the operating system.

Older versions of Microsoft® Windows®, however, will not always have the automatic updates installed. You will need to make sure that your system is being updated. The link to check for the most current updates for your system is:

<http://www.windowsupdate.com>

**Are you being spied upon?**

One of the most irritating issues that users face today with their systems is Spyware. If you are not familiar, Spyware is a term used for software that performs advertising, collection of personal information, and changes to your computer configuration. In most cases, these tasks are performed without gaining the user's consent. Spyware can have several different adverse effects on your computer:

- The general tasks on your computer take longer than usual.
- Your computer appears to experience a rise in unexpected crashes.
- Pop-up advertisements
- Your web browser opens up to a page other than the default page.

It is sometimes very difficult to know if you have been taken by Spyware. One of the best things that you can do to protect yourself is to download and install anti-spyware software on your system. There are many [useful tools that Microsoft Recommends](#). One of the tools that we use and highly recommend that you install is [Spybot Search and Destroy \(S & D\)](#). **Spybot Search and Destroy (S & D)** will effectively scan and clean

your system of unwanted spyware and will also help immunize your system and helps keep it clean going forward.

If you have not installed a defensive package to help identify and protect your system, the chances are good that you have some type of unwanted software on your system.

### **Is your system fragmented?**

Another thing that you can do to help performance on your system is to run the drive defragmenter tool. This is a standard tool that is included with all versions of Microsoft® Windows®. The utility can be found in the Accessories – System Tools menu. It would be recommended that you run this at least once every 3 to 6 months for the average home user.

### **Conclusion**

If you should have any questions or comments about this article, feel free to send them to us at [info@db-solutionsgroup.com](mailto:info@db-solutionsgroup.com). You can also email your suggestions to us at: [data\\_bits\\_suggestions](mailto:data_bits_suggestions). For immediate assistance you can reach us at 972.906.0957.