

## **Home User's Security Checklist for Windows**

### **Windows**



I am not running Windows as Administrator.



I picked a good password to log in to Windows: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Windows Update**



Windows Update is set to automatically download and install updates from Microsoft.



I run Windows Update manually to download and install updates from Microsoft.

I run Windows Update every \_\_\_\_\_ days.



If I use Microsoft Office, I check Office Update for updates.

Plus, I visit Office Update every \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.



I understand that Microsoft will never send out updates and patches, or announcements about updates and patches, via email.

### **Anti-Virus**



I have anti-virus software installed and running.

My anti-virus software is made by this company: \_\_\_\_\_.

My anti-virus software's title is \_\_\_\_\_.



My anti-virus software automatically updates itself.

My anti-virus software updates itself every \_\_\_\_\_ days.

My anti-virus software updates expire on this date: \_\_\_\_\_.



My anti-virus software automatically scans my computer for viruses.

My anti-virus software scans my computer every \_\_\_\_\_ days.



My anti-virus software automatically scans my IM (instant messaging) software.



I understand that some so-called viruses are actually hoaxes and I shouldn't worry about them.

### **Registry Cleaners**



I use Microsoft's RegClean software to clean my registry.

- I use other registry cleaning software to clean my registry.
- I run registry cleaning software every \_\_\_\_\_ days.

## Internet

- I've tested my computer's connection to the Internet.

## Email

- I've configured my email program securely.
  - If I use Outlook, I've configured it securely.
  - If I use Outlook Express, I've configured it securely.
  - I keep my preview pane closed.
- I know how to use email attachments securely.
  - I have configured Windows to show all file extensions.
  - I never open attachments unless I am expecting them.
  - I never open attachments that are programs (files that end with .bat, .chm, .cmd, .com, .exe, .hta, .ocx, .pif, .scr, .shs, .vbe, .vbs, or .wsf).
- I never respond to spam, even to "unsubscribe".
- I understand that AOL, eBay, PayPal, my bank, and other Web sites related to my money will never send out requests for passwords, PINs, or other sensitive information via email.

## The Web

- I've configured my Web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, Mozilla) securely.
- I've tested my Web browser's security.
- I understand that advertisements on Web sites warning me that my computer can be hacked or fixed

should be ignored; if I am concerned, I will ask someone knowledgeable.



When I buy online, I make sure that sensitive information is entered only on secure pages (https).

### Anti-Spyware



I have anti-spyware software installed and running.

My anti-spyware software is made by this company: \_\_\_\_\_.

My anti-spyware software's title is \_\_\_\_\_.



My anti-spyware software automatically updates itself.

My anti-spyware software updates itself every \_\_\_\_\_ days.



My anti-spyware software must be manually updated.

I run my anti-spyware software every \_\_\_\_\_ days.

### Personal Firewalls



I have a personal firewall installed and running.

My personal firewall software is made by this company: \_\_\_\_\_.

My personal firewall's title is \_\_\_\_\_.



I understand when to allow software to access the Internet and when to be suspicious.



If there is a problem, I understand how to shut down all Internet activity using my personal firewall.

### Router



I have a router/firewall installed and I use it.



I changed the default password on my router/firewall, to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Additional concerns for wireless routers



I have a wireless router/firewall installed and I use it.



I've configured my wireless router/firewall to use encryption (WEP or WPA).



I'm using WEP, and my keys are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm using WPA instead of WEP, and my key is \_\_\_\_\_.

I've changed my wireless router/firewall's SSID or ESSID.

### **Miscellaneous**

I know what Mac OS X and Linux are, and I understand that these both have dramatically fewer viruses and spyware issues. I know that some people might also argue that these operating systems have a better security record than Windows, but I'll leave that to the experts to debate. Thanks for mentioning them, but I'm still going to run Windows.

- Checklist taken from SecurityFocus web site - <http://www.securityfocus.com/columnists/220>