

Presentation on Free Ways to Protect Your Computer

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There are many free ways to protect your computer, however this demonstration will be limited to three free programs which SenCom recommends. The programs are **WOT** (Web of Trust), **Malwarebytes Anti-Malware**, and **AVG Free**. We will demonstrate how to install each using the Firefox browser. Your download and installation procedure will vary depending on your operating system and the web browser you use.

One way to find each of these programs (and others) is to go to SenCom's web site: <http://www.kcseior.net>. On the right side of our Home page look under GEEK FREE BLOG (Joe Collison's blog) and click on FREE! (Or NOT). Scroll down past the 2nd paragraph and click on <http://download.cnet.com/topics/freeware> to open CNet.com. At the top of the page in the Search Download box type the name of the free software you are looking for, such as WOT. Then you can click on the green Download Now button and follow the instructions.

Or, on the SenCom web site click on the Tab "Getting Help", and look for this presentation in .pdf format. It will be posted a few days following this presentation. SenCom teaches how to download and install programs in the Computer Maintenance class and the Internet Basic class.

WOT (Web of Trust) is an add-on for your internet browser. When you do a Google search or other search on the internet WOT will rate the resulting web sites according to a scale of Save (a green light) or not Safe (a red light) and a couple of rating shades in between (such as orange for caution, and black for not rated). Let's install WOT first.

- Open your browser; on the menu bar click on Tools; in Firefox click on Ad-Ons, and Get Add-ons; to find this add-on type wot in the search box. Assuming it is not already installed on your Firefox you should see: WOT 20131118.1-signed (or later version) and a button to the right that you click on to Install. Alternatively you can do a google search for web of trust and pick the www.mywot.com web site to download and install it or chose the site for your browser, such as Chrome or Firefox.

Malwarebytes is a highly rated and recommended program to provide real-time malware protection and removal. It is not a virus protection program so you can and should use it in addition to your virus protection software. There is a free version and a paid version and we recommend you start with the free version, but be careful not to start with the 14-Day Free Trial version. If you decide later to use the paid version the free version provides an option for upgrading and activating the paid version.

- In your browser do a google search for Malwarebytes. One of the top listed search results that is not an Ad should be: <https://www.malwarebytes.org> or [Malwarebytes | Free Anti-Malware & Internet Security Software](#) . You can read about the software and options, or scroll down the page and play the introduction video. To get the free version just click on the "Free Version Download". You should get a pop-up window where you should choose to save the file in your Downloads folder. After a second or two when the download is complete go to your Downloads folder using Windows Explorer and double click on the file that should look like: mbam-setup-2.1.6.1022.exe or a later version. Go through the install process, reading each screen and as a general rule do not allow any optional software to be installed. Once Malwarebytes is installed, with an icon on your desktop, you will need to double click the Malwarebytes icon to run the program and choose (click on) Scan Now.

AVG Free is a free antivirus program. It may or may not be the "best free" antivirus program on any given day and depending who did the rating and how they tested it, but it is one of the top free recommended programs and SenCom has recommended it for years. AVG Free is recommended if you don't already have a virus protection program that you like and if you want "free" protection. If you have another antivirus program

installed on your computer you should not install any other antivirus program, like AVG Free, on top of what you already have. If you choose to install AVG Free you should uninstall the other program first. Before installing AVG Free or any other free program be sure to read a full description and/or a review of it so you know what the program does or does not do. Free software antivirus programs are often limited to a few functions – and especially are limited if there is also a paid version of the software available.

- Open your browser and do a google search for free pc protection. Look down the results list and find: [AVG FREE 2015 | Free Antivirus & Malware Protection](#) and click on it to go the AVG Free home web site. You can click on the FREE Download button and scroll down a few lines until you see the comparison of 4 options; free, paid option, free trial of the paid option and the more advanced Internet Security 2015 suit. Clicking on the green FREE Download button will allow you to download the free program to your Downloads folder. Note that this will take you to the download.CNet.com web site where you again have to click on the green Download Not button. You then open Windows Explore, go to the Downloads folder and double click on the file: avg_free_stb_all_5961p1_177.exe or later version. Go through the install process, reading each screen, and as a general rule do not allow any optional software to be installed. When the install is complete you should have an AVG icon on your desktop and you are ready to run the program for a virus scan. You should run the virus scan program frequently; perhaps at least once a week.

Other free downloads to consider:

If you are inclined to try other free software or just want to use recommended free programs there are several good ones available and some are recommended on the SenCom web site: <http://www.kcsenior.net>.

My favorites are:

- **Revo Uninstaller**. This is a program that allows you to uninstall software programs that you do not want to keep. It is especially useful if you try free software and need to uninstall the ones you don't want to keep.
- **CCleaner**. CCleaner is as very useful free program to clean the "crap" that is left behind by other program, such as temporary file, log files, and your browser's history file – i.e., stuff you don't need that is cluttering up and slowing down your computer. We recommend that beginners only run the default Cleaner menu option. You can uncheck any item on the Windows or Applications list that you don't want Cleaner to delete. With the default option selected less any item you unchecked, first click on Analyze. The program then show what it has found that can be deleted. You then have to click on Run Cleaner to erase the junk and crap files. It does not delete any of your personal files or uninstall any program files.
- **Adblock Plus** is a browser ad-on that blocks pop-up ads while you are browsing. You find it and install it the same way we did with WOT above.

It is recommended that you use the CNet download web site to find these programs, perhaps except Adblock Plus that your web browser will find. Click on: <http://download.cnet.com/windows/>

By using CNet web site you can read their reviews and ratings of the software.