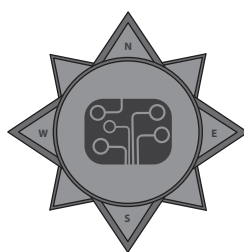# COMPUTER SECURITY

When you go online, there are untold entities that will try to attack your computer one way or another. Going online without protection would be like a knight charging into battle with nothing but sunscreen. Thankfully, there are some simple things you can do to offer general protection. And let me make it clear, this is not a PC problem; Mac's are now susceptible to security issues. The opportunities for attack are increasing every day.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE
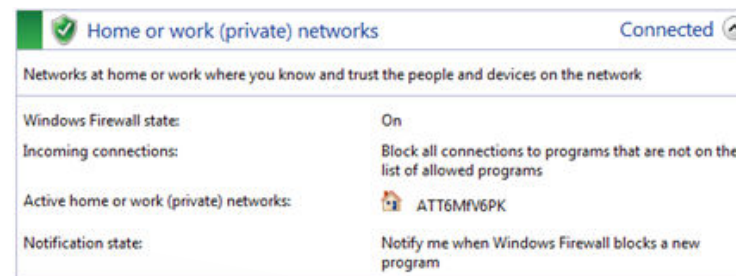
SKILL TREK
FIELD GUIDE FOR LIFE

EARN THIS NUGGET

* Research methods of protecting home computers including firewall, antivirus, anti-spyware, and browser settings.
* Create a couple of complex passwords that you can easily remember.
* Review your browser security and privacy setting. Consider the pros and cons of increasing these settings.
* Present your parents with a bulletproof computer protection strategy.

1. You want a firewall. Your firewall is your castle guard that only let's people (programs) in that are on the list. Computers come with a firewall as a standard feature. Frankly, they have a vested interest to secure you. Their reputation and sales are affected by it.

Home or work (private) networks	Connected ⌃
Networks at home or work where you know and trust the people and devices on the network	
Windows Firewall state:	On
Incoming connections:	Block all connections to programs that are not on the list of allowed programs
Active home or work (private) networks:	ATT6MfV6PK
Notification state:	Notify me when Windows Firewall blocks a new program

2. Antivirus software. Chances are, especially if you have a PC, your computer came with a limited time use antivirus software. There are a number of highly rated free virus protection programs out there. Do your research. Every techy has a different opinion, but you want something for sure.

3. Anti-spyware software can be installed. This will combat software that can infect your computer to harvest your personal information and send it to a third party. A good spyware software and antivirus will auto-update to give you the latest protection.

4. Complex and secure passwords are a must. A hacker can break a six-digit lower case password in six minutes or less. Make it eight-digit, include uppercase letters, numbers, and symbols.

5. Your web browser has settings that can offer a lot of protection from websites desiring to track you. Consider elevating your privacy and security options.

Anyone can be infected and these are good steps. However, in reality, you are at far greater risk if you go to suspect sites. Online gaming sites and torrent sites are rife for this sort of problem. Never open an email or click on an email file you don't know the origin of. Ignore a pop-up telling you that you are infected. It will probably infect you if you click on it. I have even received phone calls from people wanting to fix my computer claiming to be from Microsoft. Don't trust anything and be very careful where you download from. Download.com is still a safe site as far as I know and will give you access to most legitimate software you might need. But even this site will try to load you up with software you don't want. Read everything. Be slow to click, my friend.

3