Are Your Files and Personal Information Safe in the Computer Lab?

Anti-virus protection is important in the Computer Lab. Since the 2002 inception, we can report with confidence that the Lab has *never once been infected with a virus*. While there is no guaranteed method to prevent virus attacks 100% of the time, we try to forestall them as best as possible using the following methods:

Anti-Virus Protection Software

Our anti-virus software, Symantec Endpoint Protection, downloads the latest virus definitions to all our computers once a day before the lab opens. When the computers first come on (or when they are restarted for any reason) the virus definitions download and this process takes about ten minutes to complete. By the time the computers are used for the first time, the latest in anti-virus protection is in place. You can tell the virus definitions are up to date by seeing the little green dot on the yellow shield in the taskbar. If at any time you see something other than a green dot on the shield, please alert staff. The lab computers should never be restarted by lab users. Only staff are permitted to restart a computer.

Constant Scanning of Files and Activity

In addition, as the computers are being used, Symantec Endpoint Protection **continuously scans** files and monitors user activity to prevent any possible actions that may compromise the computer. This includes downloading, opening, and attempting to install files, regardless of whether they come from the Internet or your own flash drive.

Web Browsers

Our browsers are configured to only save information as long as they are open. As soon as all windows are closed, all information is wiped including cookies, temporary files, and browsing history.

Hard Drive Protection

Using special software called DeepFreeze, most sections of the computer hard drives are locked, meaning no files can be saved to them. There is only one section, called the Temporary Patron Drive, where lab users can save files to. These files are only saved until the computer is shut down. DeepFreeze wipes clean any and all activity on the computer at shut down. The computers are shut down once a day, but not between user sessions. For your privacy, you should delete any files that you save to the Temporary Patron Drive when you finish your computer session.

Internet Filtering

Our network administrators employ software which filters all traffic across the library's network. It blocks access to sites that are deemed suspicious or that may download viruses and malware without your awareness.

Firewalls

Web traffic is monitored and controlled by several firewalls that block any non-standard traffic, including outside intrusion by attackers or malicious programs that attempt to gain access to our computers remotely. These firewalls are active 24/7.