Home-Computing Protection

- Configure your computer securely:
  - Use strong passwords
  - Use a regular, non-administrative account for activities
  - Remove unused programs; register the programs you use
- Install an Anti-Virus (AV) product and automatically update software:
  - Download free AV protection software from AKO for authorized users
  - Configure automatic AV updates
  - Configure automatic updates for Microsoft or Macintosh
  - Ensure all programs and applications are updated, e.g. Adobe, Firefox, Office
- Enable network protections:
  - Host-based personal firewall on every computer
  - If using wireless: enable WPA2; don't broadcast the ID; use strong key
  - Leverage your ISP offerings
  - For increased protection, use hardware firewalls in routers, switches and cable modems

Home-Computing Protection

- **Practice safe computing habits**
  - Web surf responsibly to "trusted sites"
  - Email security: be aware of "Phishing Attacks"; know the senders
  - Do not use Peer to Peer file sharing applications
  - ALWAYS read the end-users license agreements
  - Do some homework on program capabilities
- **After the Basics:**
  - Purchase and maintain: anti-spyware // registry cleaner // child-protection applications
  - Plan and conduct maintenance of your computers
  - Prepare for a hard drive disaster and subsequent recovery
  - Prepare for sanitization and disposal
  - Use/buy file or disk encryption
  - Turn-off when not in use. Secures -- and saves energy as well!