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WELCOME TO THE AUGUST EDITION OF FAMILY COMPUTER NEWS
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If you have received this newsletter by mistake or do not wish to receive it in the future, then we apologize. Please email us with details at support@familycomputerusa.com

TAKE AN ANTI-VIRUS UPDATE AND CALL ME IN THE MORNING

Perhaps it's a sign of our times, but computer viruses are becoming more prevalent. I think of computer virus writers as digital graffiti "artists"; they want the notoriety that their work brings but they don't want to be known personally. Most computer owners know about anti-virus software that runs on their system to prevent a computer virus infection (you ARE running anti-virus software, right?). What is not widely understood is that the anti-virus software works by recognizing the digital patterns that each computer virus has embedded in them. Sort of like DNA. The anti-virus software manufacturers are constantly researching the newest varieties of computer viruses on the street and are updating their files to be able to recognize the new patterns. But YOU must update YOUR anti-virus software to their newest pattern files to keep your computer protected. Without this regular updating, your anti-virus software can only protect you from the virus patterns it was trained to recognize when it was installed. There are currently over 50,000 types of virus patterns that most anti-virus software can protect you from!

How do you keep your software updated? It depends on what brand and version of anti-virus software you are running. Most anti-virus software is set up with an annual subscription service that allows you to update your files all year for a single low price. This is, by far, the simplest way to do it. It works by checking, in the background, every time you connect to the Internet to see if there is a newer pattern file available to download.

For those that want to manually update, here are a few current direct links:

McAfee version 4 or 5 direct link

<http://download.mcafee.com/updates/4xa.asp?as=false&ref=5&real=0>

This should trigger an immediate download. Save the file to a folder, then run it to update.

Trend PCcillin 1998 or 2000 direct link:

<http://www.antivirus.com/pc-cillin/download/pattern.asp>

Scroll down the page to the Manual Update section, then click on the "LPTxxx.zip" link.

Follow the instructions shown to install the new pattern file.

Symantec Norton Anti-virus requires a subscription to be able to update it, but here is a direct link:

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/download.html>

As always, this advice and information is offered at no charge and carries no warranty. A computer user with average knowledge should be able to complete any task described in our newsletter.

NEW SUMMER STORE HOURS

During summer, we will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays, but will remain open Monday through Friday, from 8:30am till 5:30pm.

On Saturdays, we will offer service by appointment only. **THIS OFFER IS ONLY GOOD TO READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER.** Just call Eric at 435-9210 to arrange a schedule.

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE, DOUBLE YOUR RAM

We still have a closeout price on Micron 128MB PC133 SDRAM of only \$29.95!!!! Yes, you can add an extra 128MB of RAM to your system for only \$29.95. Don't be confused by the specs. "Micron" is a top brand name. "PC133" is an industry standard that means that this RAM is rated to run at a bus speed of at least 133MHz. "SDRAM" describes 168-pin memory cards that fit into slots on your mainboard. If your computer is less than 3 years old, it should be able to use this type of RAM.

RAM has never been this cheap. Now is the time to max out your system RAM for fastest performance. If you want, we can install the extra RAM while you wait with our new "Triage" service.

EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICE, STAT!

The Service Department now offers a "Triage" service. For a flat fee of \$35.00, we'll take a technician off the bench to spend up to 15 minutes solving your walk-in problem while you wait. If we can't fix it in that time, you won't be charged, but we'll give you a free time and cost estimate to do the job.

The kids will be back in school soon. Enjoy the rest of the summer and thanks for reading. Now you're one of the Family!

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