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Do You Use Google?

You may want to reconsider

Google is the most widely used search engine, but it's no secret that using Google – which regularly shares information with advertisers and the government – may not be the best choice for protecting your privacy.

As clear evidence, simply use Google to search for some product you're interested in and you'll almost immediately find that same item showing up in advertising on other websites you visit, or even in email addressed to you. This is known as "targeted search results."

Popular technology radio show host Kim Komando has been railing about online privacy, including Google and the NSA. "It might be time to start thinking about ditching Google entirely" she says, "and start using another search engine."

There's no shortage of other options – here are three suggested alternatives:

- ★ **DuckDuckGo(.com)** is a solid all-around Google replacement, and it doesn't track your IP address or search history.
- **IxQuick(.com)** doesn't record your IP address, browser information or search history, and it has a system that rates the accuracy of your search results.
- **Yippy(.com)** provides privacy, and can also block sites deemed inappropriate for children.

Any of these utilities can be added as another selection in your browser's search bar options, and then be used as your default.

eBay Hacked

Password change recommended

eBay, the popular e-commerce site, has confirmed that its corporate network was hacked and a database with users' passwords was compromised. While eBay says there is no evidence that users' financial information was accessed, the company is recommending that all users change their eBay passwords.



Please take a moment to remember them...

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**NEARLY 1.1 BILLION VIRUSES, SPAM, AND PHISHING ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY THE OCS CENTRAL SYSTEM
CALL US ABOUT OCS OFFICE SCAN!**

OFFICE HOURS WEEKDAYS 8-5 • SATURDAYS 9-5 • CLOSED SUNDAY
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OCS Shop Reports

The OCS shop routinely manages a variety of service and repair issues for our customers. There are the occasional hardware problems, like a failed hard drive or power supply ... software and operating system updates and upgrades ... and for customers buying new computers, shop technicians often help with the transfer of personal data from the old computer to the new.

But the overwhelming majority of shop work continues to involve viruses, spyware and other malicious infections. Many people can't remember the last time they had a virus problem, yet the reasons why so many others continue to be frustrated by infections are primarily a lack of awareness, lack of protection, and risky browsing habits.

1. Awareness. Computer users should be wary of the variety of tricks used by hackers. One of the most common is called "phishing," which uses an official looking email warning that an account needs to be updated to continue receiving service, with a helpful "click here" link to complete the process.

Don't click on those links! If the company or bank is one you recognize, it's much safer go to their website and log into your

account. Otherwise, those helpful "click here" links are often disguised hacker sites that will launch an immediate infection of your computer that can be difficult to remove.

2. Protection. Many new computers come with free trial versions of anti-virus software, such as Symantec or McAfee. Once activated they are kept up to date with the latest virus information for typically 30 days, after which a subscription is required.

Then, regular updates must be applied to keep up with new threats. These can usually be set to run automatically, but not everyone does that, or they allow their accounts to expire. Make sure you have anti-virus software, and that you keep it active and regularly updated.

3. Browsing. Some websites are riskier than others, and some links should not be clicked.

Video sites are generally in a higher-risk category, especially the ads offering video players and related add-ons. Adult oriented and online gambling sites are particularly risky ... visiting websites like these without active, real-time anti-virus protection is simply asking for trouble.

Some websites can launch hidden malware simply by browsing to them, before clicking on anything. And if you have children, teenagers or young adults in your household, be aware that websites targeting those age groups are often riddled with links to potentially harmful downloads.

Email spam and virus scanning, and parental web content filtering, are free services to all OCS subscribers. For increased protection from malicious websites, consider OCS OfficeScan (powered by TrendMicro) ... contact our office for more information.

Fan Mail



"Many friends pushed me to switch to OCS. Your service and customer support are 1000% better than my previous ISP." -JH

OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Wireless Plan Types	Average Speeds (Mbps)		Monthly Usage	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		
	Max	Typical			Installation	Equipment Deposit	Monthly Service
	<i>(Note 1)</i>		<i>(Note 2)</i>		<i>(Note 3)</i>		
RESIDENTIAL	<i>All Plans</i>						
Basic	1.5M	1M	20GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	3M	2M	30GB	5			79.95
BUSINESS							
Business	3.5M	2.5M	40GB	10			129.95
Professional	4.5M	3.5M	50GB	25			159.95
Corporate	6M	4.5M	60GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	8M	6.5M	80GB	40			249.95
MOUNTAINS							
Yokohl, Balch, Bear Creek	<i>(Note 4)</i>						
Alpine, Pierpoint, Nelson	750K	375K	8GB	5			69.95

(1) Residential and Mountain Area plans are asymmetrical, with uploads at 50% of download speeds. All Business plans are symmetrical.
 (2) Usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.
 (3) Equipment deposit is fully refundable upon service termination after one year. No contracts are required.
 (4) Add \$10 monthly rural service fee to any Residential or Business plan.

I Didn't Know That!

- OCS provides "A-to-Z" technology services
- Complete computer service and repair shop
- Variety of Internet access plans and packages
- Professional website development and hosting
- Programming and custom development
- eCommerce solutions
- Computer and Internet technology consulting
- Secure branch office inter-networking
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*To set Account Preferences or make Payments Online, click **UserAdmin** on our website*

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