

# What to Do if Bringing Your Computer

*Please follow these instructions **\*\*before\*\*** arriving at the SDI. This is the only way to ensure that your computer does not get a virus that would cause it to slow or crash. You will be in good shape if you configure your computer correctly, but we cannot stress enough the importance of following these steps before you arrive and connect to the campus network.*

**1) Make sure you have an Ethernet adapter installed in your computer.** Most likely, this is already installed and functional without any further work on your part, especially if you have high-speed internet access at home. To make sure you have one, look on your computer for a port which looks like a slightly larger than normal phone jack. It is most likely right next to the normal phone jack for your dial-up modem.

Please note that the campus network does NOT have dial-up phone access numbers you can use with a regular modem. If you need to purchase and install an Ethernet card, consult your local electronics or computer store for assistance in selecting the right model. Make sure you tell them if you need a laptop or a desktop model.

Only *some* parts of the campus are wireless (the libraries and law school are, but the dorms are not). If you usually use wireless internet at home, make sure you also have a wired Ethernet adapter in your computer.

**2) Update your operating system.**

- If running Windows, open Internet Explorer, go to the “Tools” menu, and select “Windows Update.” Follow the onscreen prompts to install all high priority security patches, updates, and service packs.
- If running Mac OS, go to [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), click on the tab for “Support,” then “Downloads” and make sure you have the most recent version of your operating system.

**3) Install a virus scanner and make sure it’s turned on.** If you don’t already have a virus scanner, you should purchase one, either in a store or online. Popular choices include:

**For Windows:**

McAfee -- <http://www.mcafee.com>

Symantec/Norton -- <http://www.symantec.com>

**For Macs:**

A variety of options can be found at [www.pure-mac.com/virus.html](http://www.pure-mac.com/virus.html)

**4) Update your virus definitions.** This is extremely important. Having anti-virus software is useless if you do not update your software so that it can protect you against the newest viruses. Consult your virus scanner’s documentation for how to do this.

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## 5) Install a firewall.

- If you are running Windows XP Service Pack 2, there is a built-in firewall. To ensure it is turned on, go to Start – Settings – Control Panel. Click on the icon for “Network and Internet Connections.” Then click “Change Windows Firewall Settings.” Make sure it is set to “On.” Note: Even though Windows has a built in firewall, we you may also want to install a third party firewall.
- If you don’t have a firewall, you can either buy or download one. One freely available firewall for Windows is
  - Zonealarm – [www.zonelab.com](http://www.zonelab.com)

Others for Windows include:

- Symantec/Norton Firewall – [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)
- BlackIce – [blackice.iss.net](http://blackice.iss.net)
- McAfee – [www.mcafee.com](http://www.mcafee.com)
- Outpost – [www.agnitum.com](http://www.agnitum.com)
- Sygate – [www.sygate.com](http://www.sygate.com)

For Mac, firewalls include:

- Mac OS X includes a firewall called ipfw – you can check to ensure it is installed and functioning properly by consulting your documentation
- A variety of other resources on firewall software for the Mac are available here: <http://seaotter.berkeley.edu/cab/mac-firewalls/>

**6) Install and Update a Spyware Blocker.** This last step is less important for Macintosh, but free software is available if you search the internet. Popular free choices for Windows include:

- AdAware -- <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>
- Spybot -- <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>

Make sure to run the update function in the program to get the latest definitions.