Comp 210:

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Personal computer security

Perform a security audit on your personal computer and social media.

For this activity, you assume the role of an outside security consultant hired to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the physical and data security of your personal computer. Begin by completing the following questionnaire and complete the activity by preparing a report with observations on issues with the current status of your system, plus recommendations for actions to correct deficiencies and address physical security, operational stability, data security, and privacy and software integrity/security. Submit the completed questionnaire along with the report combined in a single Word document.

1. Is the system in an area where casual access is possible (e.g., the kitchen table) as opposed to a private or semiprivate space (such as a basement or upstairs office with a lockable door)?

The system is behind the kitchens wall in my apartment, so upon entering the apartment it is just barely visible, and is also a part of the living room at large but the furthest corner away from the TV and couches.

1. Is the system in a place where it could be exposed to moisture?

There is a window nearby however I usually don’t open the side of the window that is nearest to the computer.

1. Are food and/or beverages routinely consumed at the workstation?

This one is definitely true, always coffee or a small container of ice cream. The kitchen table is also directly diagonal to the computer.

1. Does the system have general start-up password security enabled?

There is a startup password enabled.

1. Does the system have user-level password security enabled?

Yes however it is only me who uses it and is the only user on the computer.

1. Does the system have a surge protector and/or uninterrupted power supply?

No.

1. Does the system have an anti-virus program installed?

The system has AVG virus protector installed and also a VPN.

1. How does the anti-virus program installed on your computer rate among other products? (See <http://www.pcmag.com/reviews/antivirus>.)

AVG is rated at a 4 out of 5 on pcmag.com and isn’t included in the best antivirus programs article so it seems to be middle of the line from what I can tell.

1. Is the anti-virus program set for regularly scheduled scans?

Bi-weekly scans, so yes.

1. Is the anti-virus program set for automatic updates of virus definition files?

Yes

1. Is there an anti-malware/adware program installed?

Yes

1. Is the anti-malware/adware program set for regularly scheduled scans?

Yes

1. Is the anti-malware/adware program set for automatic updates?

Yes

1. Is the firewall enabled?

Yes

1. Are your browser security settings at recommended levels?

I changed some of the settings with a request not to track me, but mainly the same as the recommended and I have an adblocker add on.

1. Is there a regular schedule of temporary file/browser history deletion, particularly if online banking services are used?

I clear my browser history every 2 weeks along with cookies and associated data.

1. Are regular backups of valuable data being made?

90% of my files are on google cloud so yes.

1. Are periodic backups of valuable data being created and stored offsite?

No.

1. Are system and application passwords adequately robust? (See <http://www.symantec.com/connect/articles/simplest-security-guide-better-password-practices> or do your own search for an online resource providing password advice.)

I use a variety of passwords for different things and write down some of them but do reuse the same password for some things as well. The password choices are things no one would know unless they knew me very well and even then they probably wouldn't guess.

1. Are you aware of the privacy policies and settings on all your social networking applications (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.)?

Yes because of this have deleted Facebook years ago as I do not consent to my data being sold to other companies or collected by anyone as I find that creepy, I still have Instagram but I don’t use it much anyways.