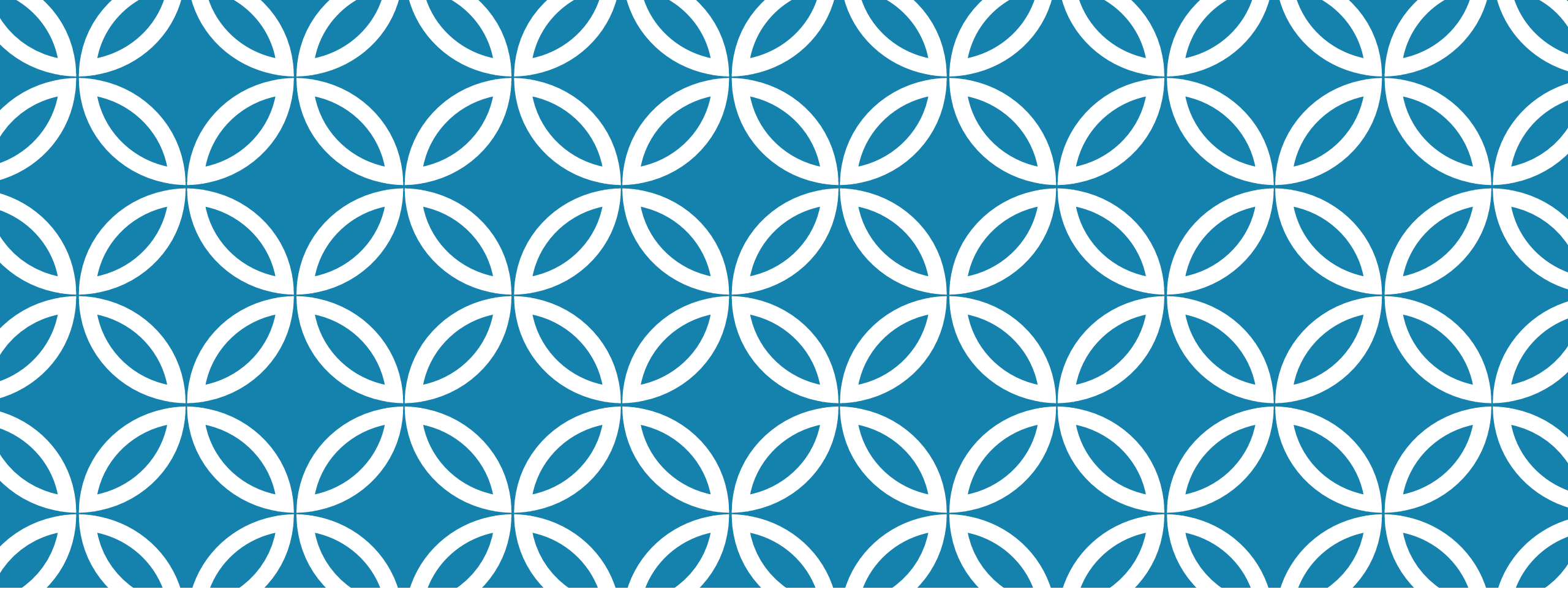




POSITIVE SECURITY MEASURES

By Mark Gillan

SECURITY SOFTWARE

Many commercially available Anti-virus packages / Internet Security applications that can be purchased, on average about £30 to £70 per year, including these top security suites:

Kaspersky Labs

Bit Defender

MacAfee

Symantec

AVG

TYPICAL FUNCTIONS OF SECURITY SOFTWARE

Anti-virus

Ant-spyware

Adware protection

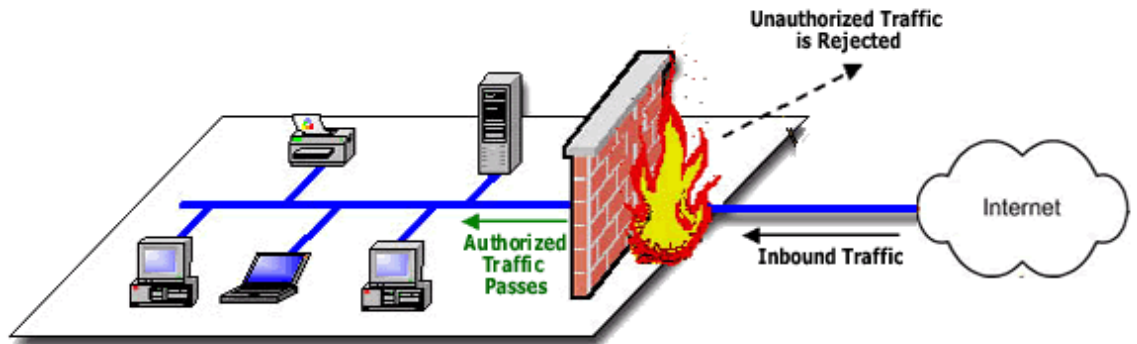
Phishing protection

Worm protection

Anti-spam

Firewall (network and internet)

Social network protection



SOFTWARE MUST DO

Security software must be kept current with regular updates to threat libraries (virus definition files) by instructing the software to check for updates with most having buttons with such a command

Visit security application manufacturer websites for updates as to current threats, reports of unusual activities by world region, scam details, news, advice and fixes

Set security software to scan the system on a regular basis to seek out any possible viruses, adware, trojans, spyware, malware and to keep the system monitored

Purchase software from reputable sources, investigate any possible threats online prior to downloading and installing software

Check files prior to installation or opening, invoke anti-virus software at the first opportunity

If an infection is suspected, run a full system scan immediately

Keep the operating system up to date with patches, updates, bug fixes and free of known vulnerabilities

COMMON SENSE

Back up data on a regular basis via the internet or stored in different locations or kept in fireproof safes, ensure data can be restored to its original state and keep copies of important files

Keep passwords secret and safe, occasionally change passwords

Know the possible threats and take appropriate action as advised by security companies or software manufacturers

Do not open unexpected email attachments and be careful of email messages using strange wording (especially from people you know)

Your bank will never ask you to verify your details by email and the tax office will not email you with a refund and you will never win money in a lottery you have never entered, remember if it is too good to be true then it probably is

Delete suspicious email messages from people asking for personal email

Keep in mind the threat on social media and snoopers looking for your personal information

PURCHASING GOODS OR SERVICES ONLINE

If paying for goods or services online consider using PayPal and always check the site has an https protocol. This can be checked in the URL e.g. <https://safesite.co.uk>

Many pay sites will display a padlock on the browser for the page, signifying that the transactions will be encrypted and secure

Never use a debit card for purchasing goods or services as no legal responsibility for helping customers with fraud, unlike credit cards with the lender legally bound to offer support



ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Many files such as movies or music are downloaded illegally using bit torrent sites like Pirate Bay or LimeWire

These sites are renowned for being the source of virus infection

Additionally Internet Service Providers (ISP's) are under pressure to report customers

ISP's quite often warn households about illegal downloading or sharing of copyrighted files, sometimes it is three strikes and your out (the ISP can block internet connection after warnings or throttle speeds)

Sharing copyrighted files is illegal and may carry a harsh court penalty



SAFE ONLINE

Knowing the pitfalls, security issues and scams will empower you

Taking precautions means you are more safe online

Consider the benefits of shopping and communicating online:

- **The high street has various criminal activity but at technology means we do not get physically hurt**
- **Security software is like having a team of security guards constantly at your side**
- **Shopping online is efficient, safer, cheaper, allows investigation of products, a bit like having your own personal shopping assistant**
- **Law can protect online shoppers more than on the high street in many cases, especially using PayPal or Credit Card**
- **Email is instant, ability to share information around the world, obtain news around the world, enjoyment of working online, 24/7 service, more efficient than traditional methods, keeping in touch via social networks**

Remember, having more knowledge means being more secure and using technology has so many benefits to enjoy