



Secure Your Computer to Protect Your Privacy

California Office of Privacy Protection
www.privacy.ca.gov

January 28, 2009

CAUTION!

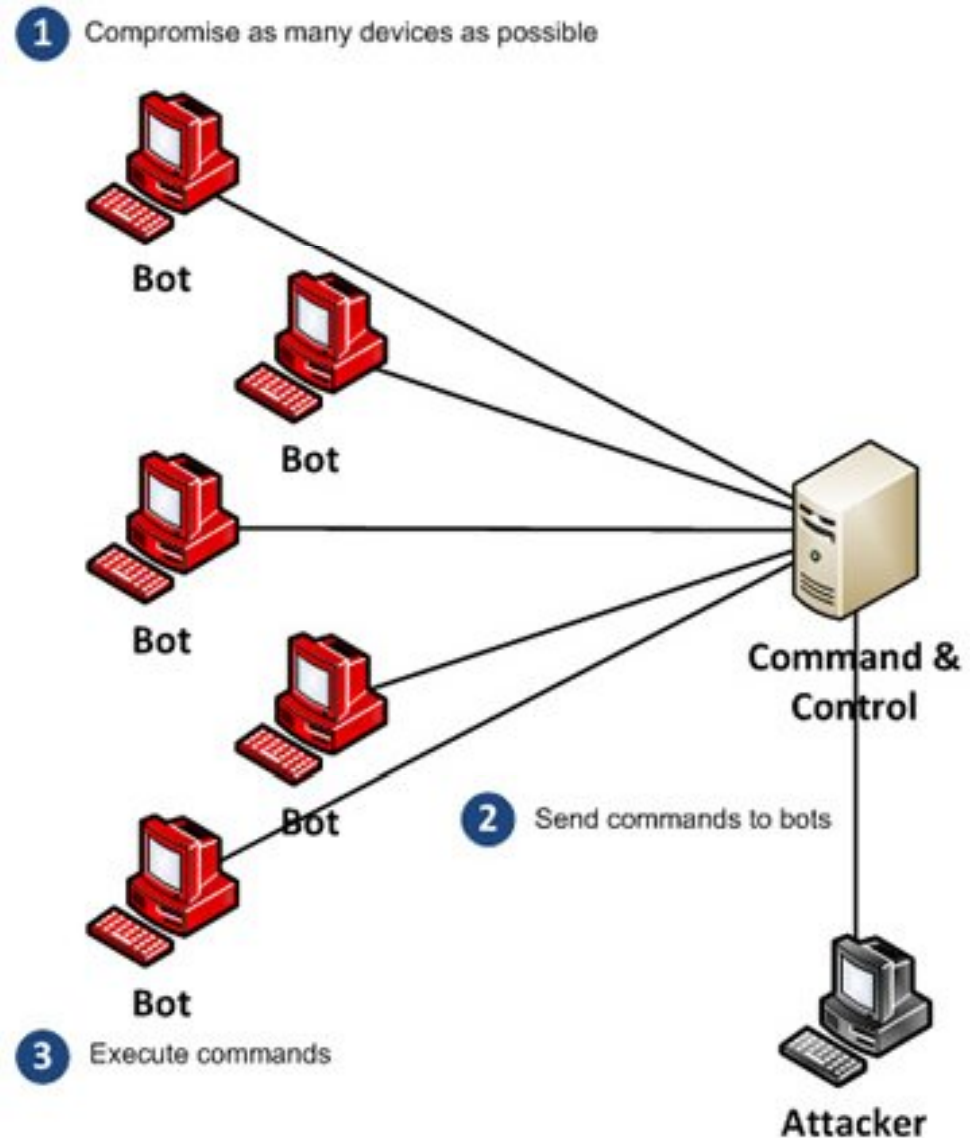


is your computer secure?

Home computers
lack basic
security
protections.

Botnets

- 100-150 million PCs in botnets – 20-30% of total PCs in world.
- Botnets of zombie computers responsible for 80% of world's spam.



Crime Drives “Badware”

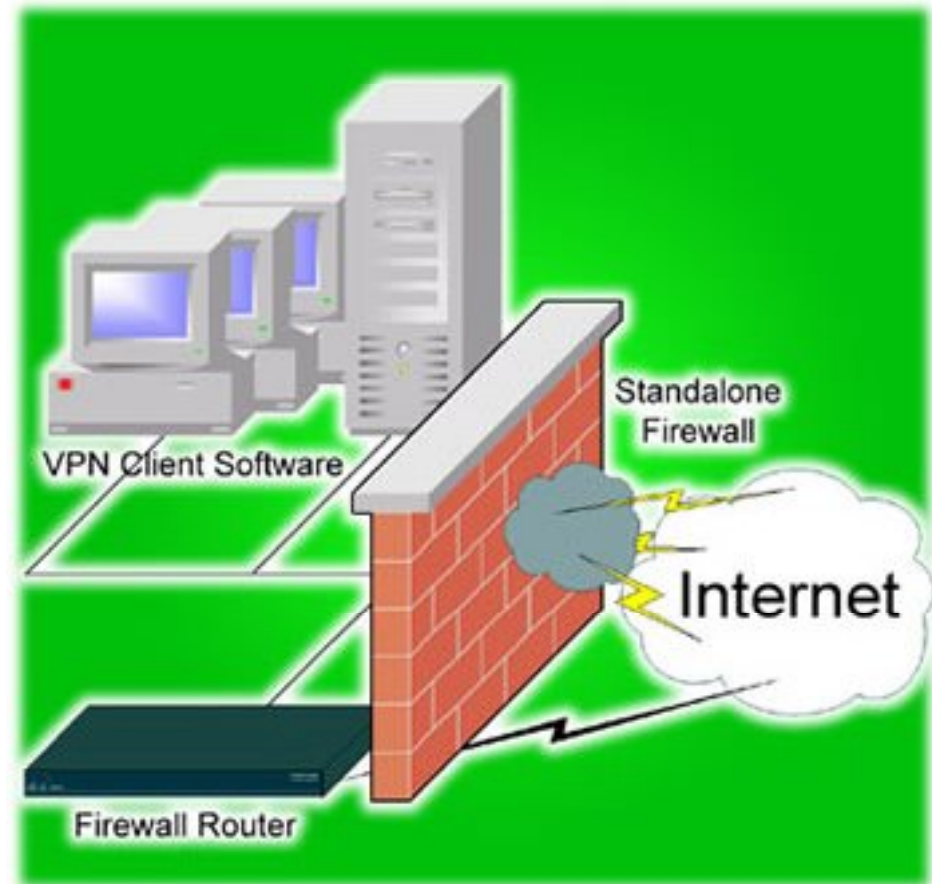
- Malware is multiplying.
 - 1988: 1,738
 - 1998: 177,615
 - 2008: 1.1 MM+
- Malware is sophisticated.
 - New version every 2.5 seconds.
- Malware is profit-driven.
 - Targeted, organized crime.

Protect Your Computer

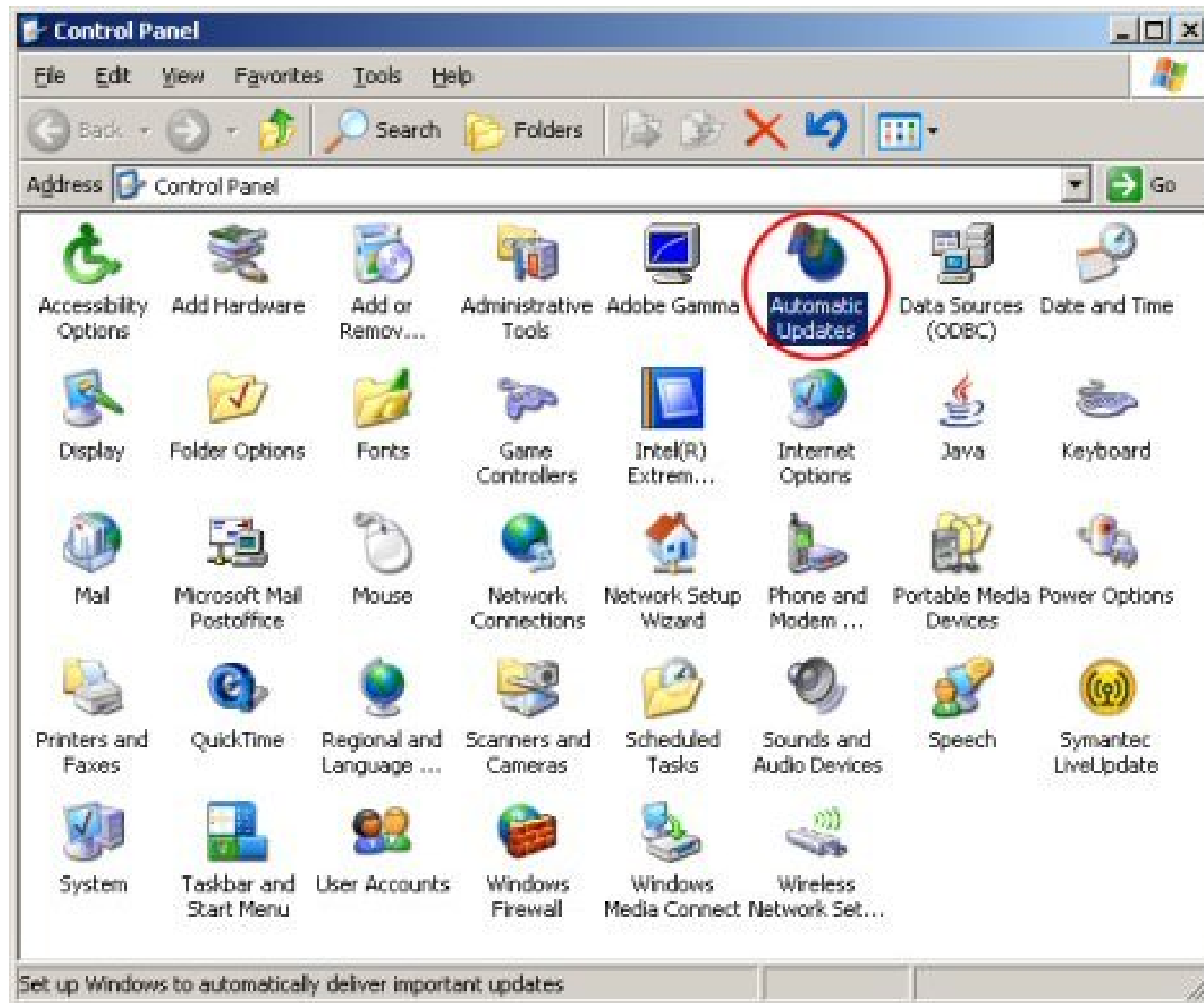
- Use an Internet firewall.
- Keep your operating system and browser up to date.
- Install and maintain anti-virus software.
- Install and maintain anti-spyware software.

Use a Firewall

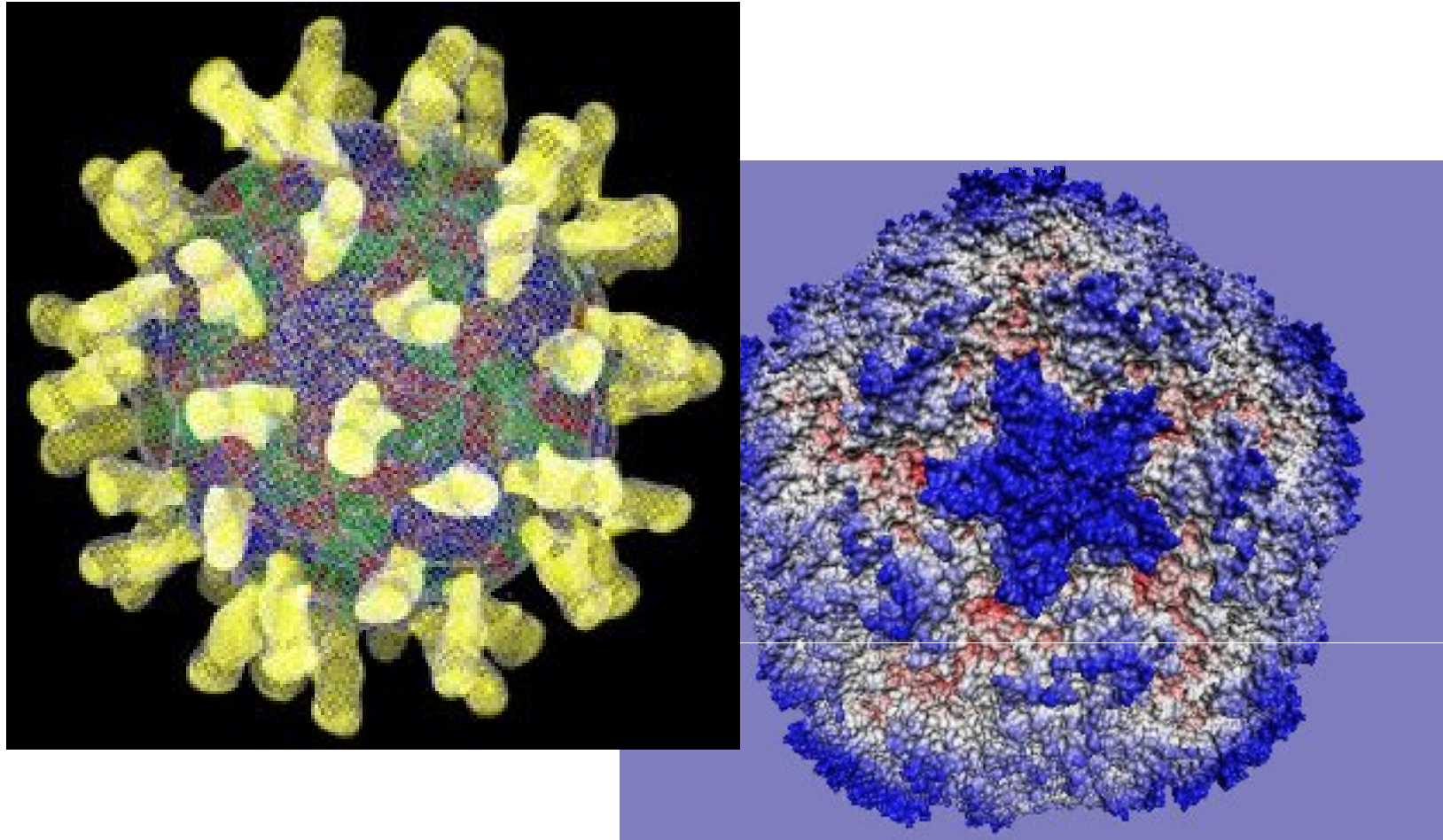
- Like a barrier between your computer and the Internet.



Keep Your OS Updated



Install Anti-Virus Software



And keep it updated.

Install Anti-Spyware Software



Keep it updated too!

Secure Your Wireless Network

- Use a wireless router with encryption.
- Change the default password & router identifier.
- Turn off your wireless network when not in use.



Don't Bank Where You Get Coffee

- Public wireless hotspots may not be secure.
- Consider using a mobile broadband card.



Consider a Security Suite

- Firewall, anti-virus, anti-spyware in one product.
- See *Consumer Reports*, September 2008, for product reviews.
 - Includes review of a free security suite.

Use a Strong Password

- Not birth date, anniversary, SSN, mother's maiden name, name of pet, child or spouse.
- 8+ characters, including numbers or symbols.
- Change your password at least every 90 days.



Formula for a Strong Password

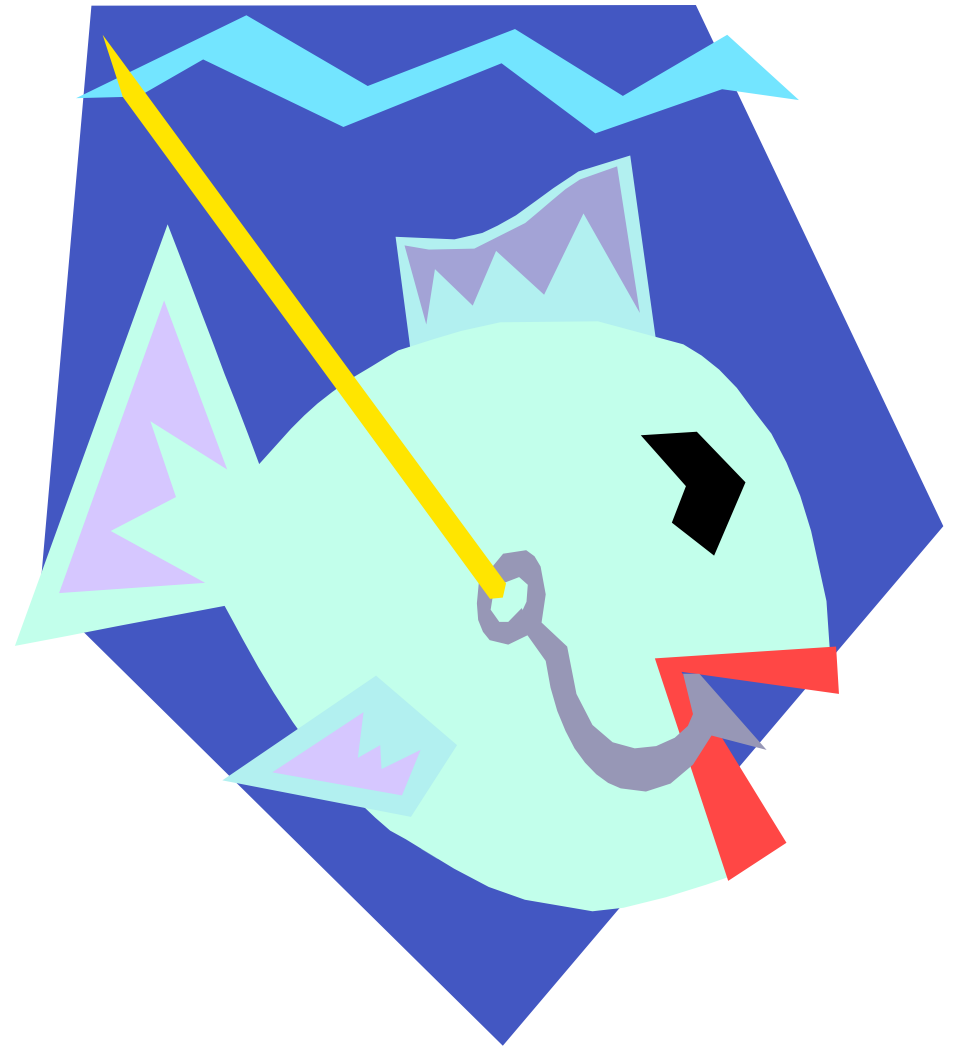
- Try first letters of words in phrase, with symbols.

Mfc1p&Mff1g

- My favorite color is purple and my favorite food is granola.

Don't Get Hooked by a Phish

- Don't give out your personal information unless you initiated the contact.
- Don't click on links in emails.



For More Information



www.privacy.ca.gov

866-785-9663