Computer Virus issues revisited…

Several ago months I wrote an article for this publication about virus problems and how people get infected which generated quite a few emails and calls so I thought I'd expand on that a bit more this month. The first question I always get on this subject is "Which Anti-Virus program is the best?"

Well, that question should be rephrased as "Which anti-virus program stinks the least?" According to a Symantec executive he believes anti-virus products stop only 45 percent of the cyberattacks today. Read more: http://dottech.org/157355/symantec-admits-anti-virus-software-is-no-longer-effective-at-stoping-virus-attacks/#E8cGzAZXEyfotyh5.99

Got your attention?   Why is this you ask? An anti-virus program compares downloaded files to its database which is always behind the malware guys. It takes some time – in some cases weeks- before a virus is reported and all databases are updated. So what about the other 55%? As I mentioned in the previous article the overwhelming amount of infections are self-inflected. Go to my download page and click on the link for Virus Issues. There you will see several screen dumps that show the importance of reading the verbiage in any window before you install a program. Most people just click on through and miss the little (already checked) boxes that say install X, Y, Z. It's all opt out not opt in. The other main way people get infected is to open Email attachments that are really infections. Download any attachment and run it against your anti-virus program first.

So, what do I use? On Windows 7 and earlier versions I use Microsoft Security Essentials. It's free, light weight and does the job for me. You can right click on any file/folder and scan it. That's what I do with Email attachments. With Windows 8 it's built in. I also use a powerful SPAM filter with Outlook (my Email client of choice) and that prevents about 90% of the garbage Emails from showing up anyway. Try http://www.spam-reader.com

You should also be running in a "restricted user" profile not in an administer profile. While on the web always remain skeptical. Facebook is one of the worst. And yes, MAC's getting infected too.


Update 10/29/2014 One thing that may help keep you away from malicious web sites is to use a different server than what your ISP provides. Time Warner is especially liberal and doesn't block anything. You can change your DNS server address quite easily. Open the control panel from the start menu. With Win 8.1 Right click on the start menu to find control panel. Win7 and earlier have it right in the left column of the start menu. With Win 8 (no update to Win 8.1) open the file manager and hit the up arrow to the left of the address bar. That will present a list of things like computer and you will find the control panel in there. You should upgrade from Win8 to 8.1 ASAP if you are still using that.

Once in the control panel go to the "network and sharing center" and then click on change adapter settings on the left side. Rt click on your adapter and go to properties. There you can change your DNS server to use the Norton servers.
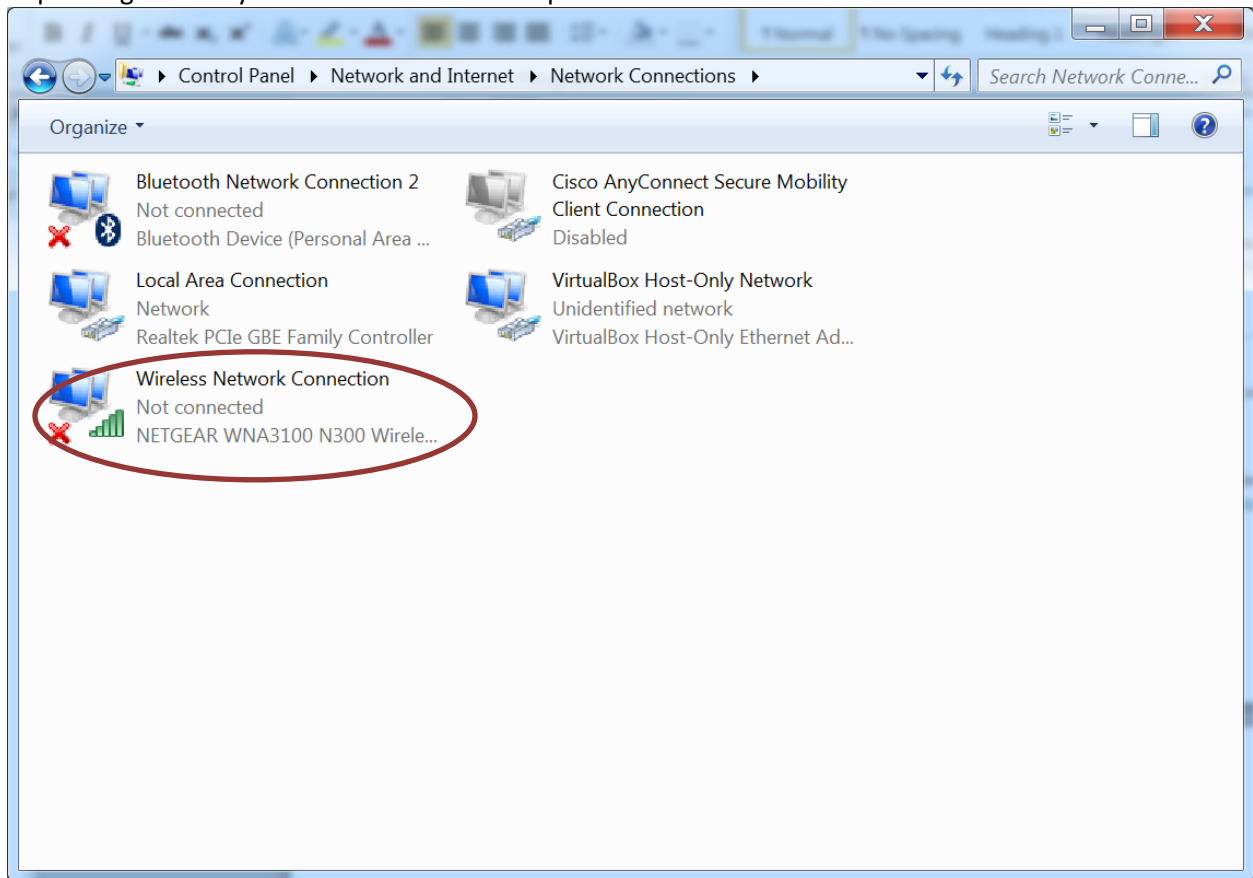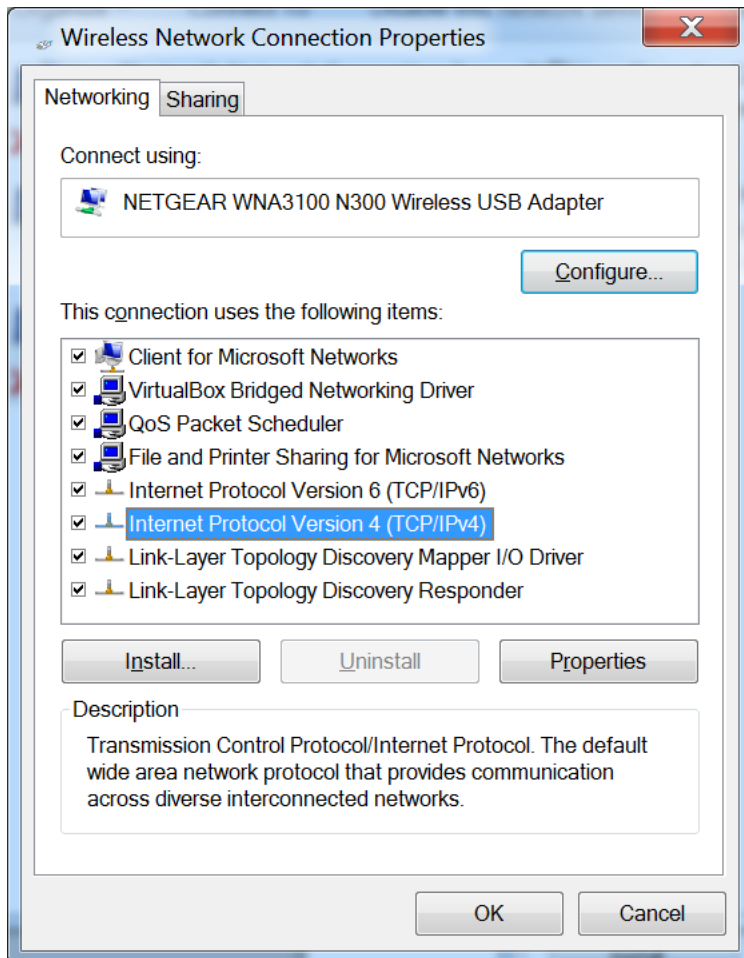
Select network and sharing center
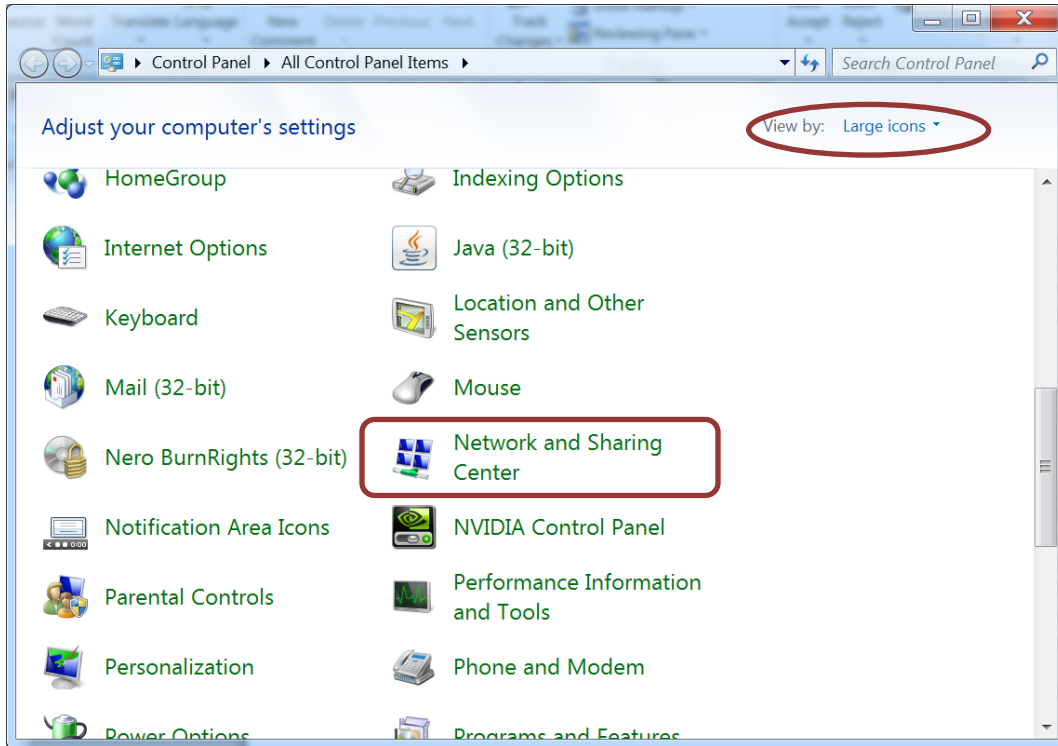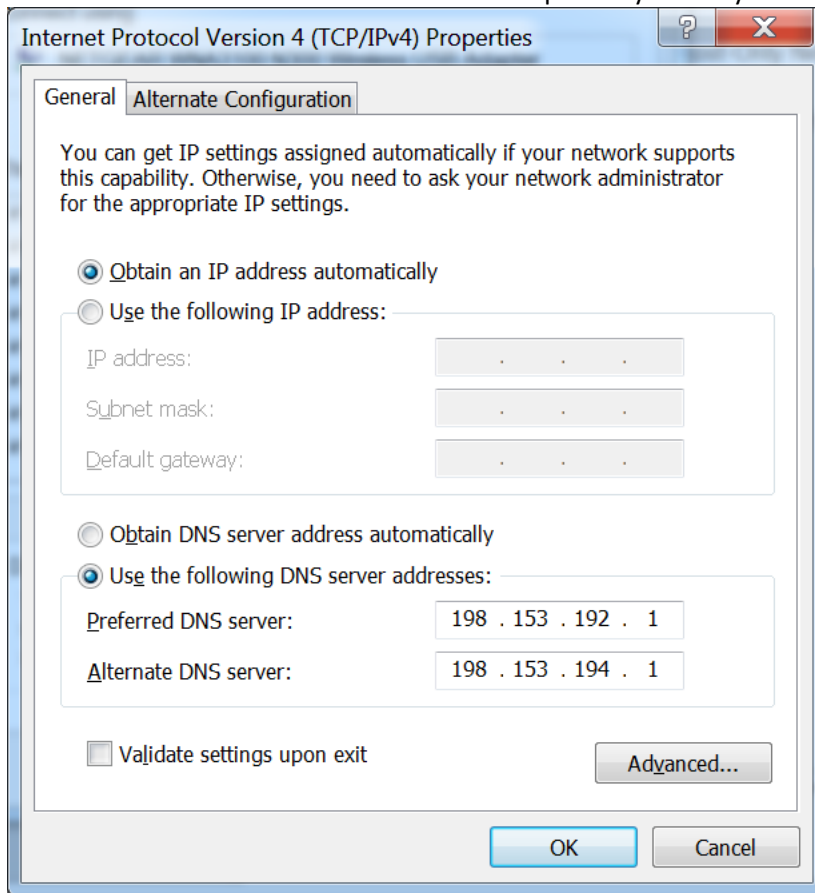

Click on change adapter settings
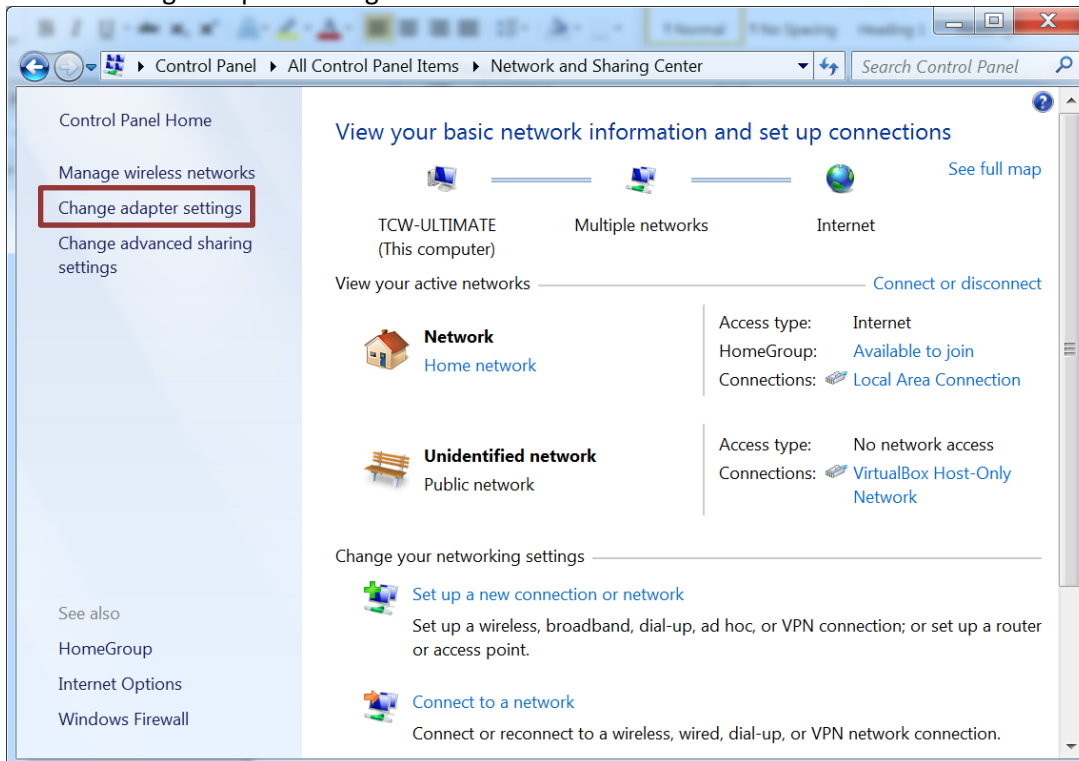
Right click on your adapter and select properties . It will be local area connection or the wireless adapter depending on how you connect with the computer.

After selecting properties you will see the properties window. Click on Network Protocol Version 4 one time and then click on properties

Change the DNS server to "Use the following…" and put the address you see below in there. That will use the Norton DNS servers which should help stear you away from malicious web sites.

Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4) Properties

General | Alternate Configuration

You can get IP settings assigned automatically if your network supports this capability. Otherwise, you need to ask your network administrator for the appropriate IP settings.

◉ Obtain an IP address automatically

◯ Use the following IP address:

IP address: . . .

Subnet mask: . . .

Default gateway: . . .

◯ Obtain DNS server address automatically

◉ Use the following DNS server addresses:

Preferred DNS server: 198 . 153 . 192 . 1

Alternate DNS server: 198 . 153 . 194 . 1

☐ Validate settings upon exit   Advanced…

OK   Cancel

You may also wish to install the site advisor from McAfee which is free at
http://www.siteadvisor.com/final/index.html