What NOT to do to a new computer!

Several months ago I wrote about some steps to take in setting up your new PC. I thought it as helpful to outline a few things not to do that I see all the time. I assume you have removed all the trail bloatware the manufactures pre install and the PC is running well.

So now what happens is people start loading up all sorts of junkware to "protect", "tune", "optimize" the computer. I see this more on PCs than MACs but now that they are getting malware I am seeing it done to MACs as well. So first: Do not install more than one anti-virus program. That may be as bad as not even having one. They spend ½ your computer resources fighting one another.

Secondly, do not install anything with the words registry, optimize, gofast, or tune in the name. Things like regclean pro and PC optimizer are actually malware. Registry cleaners/optimizers don't work and cause much more damage than any supposed help they provide.

So what about all those tools you may have used years ago on XP? Forget them! The days of needing things like system mechanic, spybot Norton utilities, have long since past. In my opinion they are a complete waste of money and are annoying at best, destructive at worse.

Things like defrag and disk cleanup are scheduled and run in the background just like updates. By the way I never power my computers off.   If you only use your computer infrequently, then a power off makes sense.

Do not ever allow any unsolicited callers have access to your computer. Microsoft does NOT call people. If you open that door you are in trouble. Several months I had a customer who allowed that and when he refused to fork up a couple of hundred dollars they put a syskey password on the computer and there was no way to break it. A complete system reload was necessary.

If you have problems and call an IT company they may indeed want to establish a remote connection and that's fine as long as you initiated it.

Update 1: Think MACs are really secure. Well, have a look at
http://www.zdnet.com/article/mac-os-x-is-the-most-vulnerable-os-claims-security-firm/#ftag=YHFb1d24ec