

Help With Computer Problems

I found this article about computer maintenance which some of you might find helpful. We will be using the statistical software “R” in this course, and, since it is a free download from the CRAN web site, you are encouraged to download it onto your personal computer at home. Some have had computer problems, so I wanted to show this article to you. Note that we will post detailed instructions on how to load R and R Commander (another more user-friendly version of R) onto your computer. FYI.

Safe, secure, legal

Tips for avoiding risks to computer, identity, breaking law

JAYME FRASER
for the Missoulian

The Internet and computers are key to the life of every University of Montana student, whether they are chatting with friends on Facebook or registering for classes on Cyberbear.

And so it's equally important to keep your computer healthy, your files backed up and your personal

information secure.

UM Information Technology security manager Adrian Irish shared a few simple tips to help keep your computer, accounts, files and yourself safe from common hazards of the digital age and focused on campus life:

Phishing and identity theft

Use common sense. Do not give out personal information unless you started the conversation and know the person. The University of Montana will not ask for personal data, account numbers or passwords via e-mail. Do not click on links in unsolicited e-mails, even if it appears to be a trusted source. Do not share login information with others and use more than one password for your various accounts. Limit the amount and type of identity information posted on blogs or social networking sites.

Downloading media

The University does not limit legitimate peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing. Be aware that most P2P software will, by default, share some or all of your files, even if you are not using the program. Be sure to disable features that could be illegally sharing your media and other personal files without your knowledge. Various music and movie industry groups aggressively report copyright violations to the university, which is obligated by law to take action. Students are subject to penalties as outlined in the Student Conduct Code and

Residence Life policies. You also are at risk of being sued by the companies if you illegally share files, even if you are not making a profit or cannot afford the fines.

Protect your computer

Immediately install system updates as they are released. Do not put off updating your system or add-ons such as Flash and Java. Install one reputable anti-virus and anti-malware program and keep it updated. Beware of fake programs. Always back up your data.

Visit the IT Central Help Desk in Social Science 120 with any questions. Its website and a campus map can be found at www.umt.edu/it/itcentral/default.aspx. Also ask the resident assistant on your floor about the services of a resident technology assistant.

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