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## Northern Computer Connection

What the heck is in your computer? Ever wonder? Paul will take us on a tour, beginning with the motherboard in this 5 part series.

How do you protect your computer from malware, viruses and spyware? Jeevan shares our recommendations this month.

## What the Heck's In My Computer? - Part 1

### Part 1 - The Mother of all boards.

The motherboard, also known as the main logic board, has been at the heart of every micro computer since its invention. Its function is similar to the foundation of a building in that it houses the wiring and plumbing required and provides a platform for the subsystems that make up the whole structure.

Managing the traffic between subsystems (ie hard drive, processor and ram) across links called busses is the key function of any motherboard. Over the years many of the components that used to be added on to a motherboard in the form of cards have become integrated. Examples would be video and networking. The notebook/netbook and now tablet revolution have made the motherboard much smaller. More expensive motherboards tend to have faster busses and support the



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***"The motherboard is at the heart of every microcomputer"***

Coming up next month...

***Do I Need to Upgrade my System?***



latest processors, sometimes more than one processor in the case of server motherboards.



As a user you can be happy not knowing what your motherboard is up to as it should just work. There is only one place to change the motherboard settings and that is the "system bios", also called cmos.

However...

Click [here](#) to finish reading,

- Paul Clancy, Service Bench Supervisor

## How to Protect Your PC

So you're cruising around on the Internet, minding your own business. A few clicks here, a few clicks there and before you know it, you're computer is acting odd. You thought you were pretty safe, or thought that the box that had appeared was just another annoying pop up. Uh oh! Now you're infected, but you might not even know it! Or maybe you have all sorts of pop ups showing up left, right and center. Or maybe there's a new program showing up that you don't recall installing lately. YIKES!

There are a lot of threats out there and more are developed every day. I could go into the details of network security, but then I might as well dedicate an entire website or book to that, because there is a lot of information to cover. If you do a little bit of searching, you will surely find someone out there that has been nice enough to have already gone through the trouble of gathering all the information in one convenient spot.

For those of you who are curious as to what some of these threats can do, here's a basic overview of just some of the threats out there, from less critical to most critical:

1. You click a link or open an email attachment and you



## What the heck's in my computer - Part 2/The Hard Drive



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*"There are alot of threats out there and more get developed everyday"*

Anti-Malware

get:

- Poppers galore!
- Programs that mask themselves as legitimate programs, but actually are not. Sometimes they will say "hey! Your computer is at risk! You need me, but first you need to buy me. Give me your credit card number."
- You try to go to a legitimate website, but get directed to some other website(s)

2. You download something off a website that you think was legitimate, but the download has been compromised and when you go to run it, in the background it installs a backdoor program to either:

-Jeevan T, Network Support Technician

Click [here](#) to finish reading the article.

## Tips and Tricks

### How to Recover Lost Icons



The use of desktop icons has served to simplify opening and using programs. With the simple click of a mouse, a program can be opened. Unfortunately, they can also be deleted, but there is a simple process to recover desktop icons. Just follow these steps:

First place your mouse anywhere in a blank area on your desktop and right click your mouse.



\$29.99

Contact us at:  
250-762-7753

[sales@northerncomputer.ca](mailto:sales@northerncomputer.ca)

## Remote Support

### Need Help?



We provide online help from  
8AM to 5PM Monday to  
Friday.

Contact us at:  
250-762-7753  
or

[service@northerncomputer.ca](mailto:service@northerncomputer.ca)

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1. Depending on the version of windows that you have, the following instructions will change.

- Windows XP: A pop up menu will appear. Choose the "Properties" tab by left clicking and you will receive a dialogue box. Left click on the tab named "Desktop". Now select "Customize Desktop" which will prompt another dialogue box to open. From there click on the "General" tab. Now choose the icons you want restored or placed on the desktop.
- Windows Vista and Windows 7: Select the "Personalize" option from the menu and then "Change Desktop Items". You can now choose the icons you want back on the desktop by checking the box next to the icon name.

2. Lastly, click on the "Apply" of "OK" button and the icons should be on your desktop.

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