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Northern Computer Connection

Is your computer slow at startup? Are you concerned about security and the Internet? Is a computer purchase in your near future?

If you've answered yes to any of these be sure to read on. We've got a lot of information on these topics this month.

Computer Warranty



When purchasing a computer it is important to consider your warranty options, and there are a few. Do you want onsite or depot warranty? How long do you want your warranty to last? What do you need it to cover?

What's covered under warranty: Warranty covers hardware defects. It does not cover software issues, viruses or breakage. Let's say your computer won't boot because your hard drive has failed. Warranty will cover the physical replacement of the hard drive and the labour to replace it, but it does not cover reloading the operating system (Windows), transferring data, installing an antivirus program or any other software you have installed.

Some manufactures have local depots that do warranty repair for you, but others don't. So it's important to find

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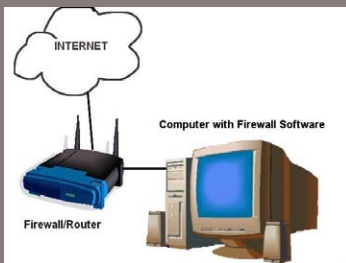
out who can do warranty work for your brand of computer and where they are located. Here at Northern Computer we are warranty authorized for the following computer brands: Integra, Lenovo, Toshiba, business line HP computers as well as other server and printer brands.

Click [here](#) to continue reading.

- Francine K, Warranty Coordinator

Home Security & the Internet

Some people live with the illusion that they have protected their home networks from internet attacks by



purchasing a firewall. Manufacturers even promote this by identifying their products as firewalls. Sadly, most users are not protected by a firewall, but by the simple router.

What's the difference between a router and a firewall? Without complicating it too much, a router acts as a junction point between the computer (or computers) in your home and the internet. It has the ability to route your computers requests to the internet and route the responses back to your computer. A firewall has this ability as well, but also offers another level of security by actually inspecting all the information and making some decisions about if it should allow it or not. Since most routers are relatively simple devices, they act as a firewall because they are not capable of complex tasks, like routing internet requests back to your computer without some assistance.

A very common attack on the internet is called a DOS (Denial of service) attack. A hacker floods a website with requests for information that don't exist and the website becomes overrun with requests and service degrades. Hackers have been known to exploit this attack to gain access to a site. How is it done?

Click [here](#) to finish article.



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Contact us at:

250-762-7753 Option 3

or

service@northerncomputer.ca

Tips and Tricks

Speed up Your Computer's Startup Time

One of the most irritating issues when using a computer is a slow startup time. For most it



is as quick as hitting the login button, but for others it's a dreadful time. If you have ever googled "how to speed up my computers start time" you will come across thousands of articles all with different suggestions and ideas on what to do. Though I don't agree with all of them, I went through and compiled a list of my top 7 suggestions that I find to be the most helpful.

7) Disable Startup Programs:

The first thing I do when I hop onto a user's computer for the first time is check out what programs they have loading on startup. To check this out in Windows XP, go into your start menu, click run and type in MSCONFIG. If you are running Windows Vista or Windows 7 open up your start menu and in the search box type MSCONFIG and enter. Now click on the STARTUP tab. This will tell you what each application is so you can decide which you would like to turn off.

6) Uninstall Unused Applications:

Your system is greatly affected by the amount of hard drive space available to it when it starts up. If you notice your computer's hard drive is getting full or is in the red, it is time to clear out some of those programs. Go into the Start Menu, and press Control Panel; for Windows XP - **Add and Remove Programs**, and for Windows Vista/7 - **Programs and Features**. Right click any applications you don't use and click Uninstall.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of the article.