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## NerdViews Winter 2009

Cheer up, SPRING is only a few weeks away! Fall and Winter have been EXTREMELY busy, and I sincerely apologize for any slow response time.



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### AT&T Security Software change

If you use AT&T Yahoo Online Protection based on Norton Internet Security, you may have received an email that looks like this:

**Dear AT&T Customer,**

Your AT&T Yahoo! Internet Security Suite will expire within 30 days receipt of this email notification. In order to protect your computer you will need to update your computer security software by downloading the free AT&T Internet Security Suite powered by McAfee®.

Rest assured, this IS a legitimate email. AT&T Yahoo Online Protection has switched to McAfee as their free Internet Security software option. Here's how to make the change:

- 1) Just click START - CONTROL PANEL - ADD/REMOVE PROGRAMS and in the "A" section, select AT&T Yahoo Software, choose to remove the Online Protection
- 2) When complete, restart your machine
- 3) Go to website <http://att.yahoo.com> and logon with your @sbcglobal.net or @att.net address and password
- 4) Choose the Member Center tab, click on the "Online Protection" link on the right side, and follow the instructions.
- 5) Any problems, call AT&T at 1.877.SBC.DSL5, or contact [Professional Nerds!](#)

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### Netbooks

*You've heard of laptops and notebooks, but what about "netbooks"? You may have seen these in the stores this past holiday season, and they are evolving, changing, and providing you with another choice in computing. Netbooks are small, lightweight, ultra-portable machines. But as small as they are, contrary to the past, they are NOT more*

expensive -- Netbooks are priced around \$300. They are designed for people to easily browse the internet, and send/receive email. They are NOT designed for games (beyond Solitaire and Freecell!), and they are not designed to be your only computer.

I recently purchased from Tiger Direct an Acer Aspire One "netbook" for \$300. Here's what you get, and how to fill-in what you don't get.

<http://tinyurl.com/aedjrh>

Intel Atom™ N270 1.60GHz, 802.11b/g Wireless, 1GB DDR2, 120GB HDD, 8.9" WSVGA, Integrated Webcam, Windows XP Home  
Seashell White or Sapphire Blue



So you have a complete XP Home machine with 1GB memory, a 120GB disk drive, built-in wireless and webcam. Intel's Atom processor is a slow performer like the Celeron, but uses less power. What you don't get is a large screenm altho the netbook can be connected to an existing CRT or flat-screen monitor. You also don't get a CD/DVD drive, but you can network it to an existing computer's CD/DVD drive, or purchase an external USB DVD drive. Printers can be connected via standard USB cable, or through the wireless network.

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## Keeping Facebook Information Secure

<http://www.sophos.com/security/best-practice/facebook.html>

Our friends at Sophos Security have created a number of "best practice" articles. Here are their recommendations for Facebook users:

### **Sophos-recommended privacy settings for Facebook**

ID fraudsters target Facebook and other social networking sites to harvest information about you. Sophos experts recommend you set the following Facebook privacy options to protect against online identity theft.

### **Facebook walkthrough - adjust your privacy settings**

This guide walks you through Sophos-recommended privacy settings in Facebook, and shows you how to set more secure levels of privacy and reduce the chance of becoming a victim of online identity theft.

Profile	Controls who can see your profile
Search	Allows you to decide who can find you
News feed/Minifeed	Controls what information is published about your activities
Poke, Message and Friend Request	Controls what information you share with people you contact
Applications	Controls what information Facebook applications can access/share about you

### **General safety tips for Facebook**

Adjust Facebook privacy settings to help protect your identity. Unlike some other social networking sites, Facebook has provided some powerful options to protect you online -- but it's up to you to use them!

### **Think carefully about who you allow to become your friend**

Once you have accepted someone as your friend, they will be able to access any information about you (including

photographs) that you have marked as viewable by your friends. You can remove friends at any time should you change your mind about someone.

**Show "limited friends" a cut-down version of your profile**

You can choose to make people 'limited friends' who only have access to a cut-down version of your profile if you wish. This can be useful if you have associates who you do not wish to give full friend status to, or feel uncomfortable sharing personal information with.

**Disable options, then open them one by one**

Think about how you want to use Facebook. If it's only to keep in touch with people and be able to contact them, then maybe it's better to turn off the bells and whistles. It makes a lot of sense to disable an option until you have decided you do want and need it, rather than start with everything accessible.

Remember, the only "dumb" question is the one you DON'T ask!

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**Computer Take Apart**

For the last 3 years I've done fall & winter "Computer Take Apart" sessions at First Presbyterian of Glen Ellyn's Wednesday afternoon SPARK sessions. If you'd like to see what a dozen eager 5th graders can do with screwdrivers, browse over to our YouTube channel for a slideshow and some video: [www.youtube.com/professionalnerds](http://www.youtube.com/professionalnerds). These have been so popular that the Glen Ellyn Public Library is planning on scheduling a series of them in June, so look for it in your upcoming library events newsletter.

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**Speaking Appearances**

Both the Kiwanis and Rotary organizations have asked Professional Nerds to present on the topic of "Your Information Security". If you know of other organizations who'd enjoy a dynamic, lively, and thorough discussion of this very important topic, please let us know.

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