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XP asking for a Service Pack 3 CD ?

Some folks are reporting that their PCs are asking for a Windows XP Service Pack 3 CD -- and they don't have one. Rest assured, there is another method, but first an explanation. If you don't have this problem, skip on down to the next article about the "Incredible Shrinking Display". For those affected, keep reading.

Wednesday night July 8th, Microsoft pushed out an emergency fix after discovering an Internet Explorer vulnerability in something called Video ActiveX. This problem exists in Internet Explorer 7, 6, and prior versions, but NOT in Internet Explorer 8. Because of the potential for harmful software, Microsoft's "fix" for older versions, was to insist that users 'upgrade' to Internet Explorer 8 -- that's why your PC is asking for a Service Pack 3 CD. If you don't have one, here is an alternate method.

Go ahead and cancel the message prompting for a Service Pack 3 CD. Then start Internet Explorer and go immediately to the website "<http://update.microsoft.com>". Have it scan for and apply all critical updates; one of these will be Internet Explorer 8. After it's installed, restart your PC, and the immediate issues are solved.

Now for the secondary stuff. Just as Windows machines are more vulnerable to viruses than Apple Macintosh computers, the Internet Explorer browser is attacked far more frequently than alternatives, such as Firefox. Therefore, I recommend that you go to <http://www.mozilla.com> and download/install the FREE Firefox browser. Internet Explorer will still be available just in case Firefox is incompatible with

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Mozilla Firefox

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Flash Player for Firefox

<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

[Geeks.com](http://www.geeks.com):

<http://www.geeks.com/details.asp?invtid=BEI-1980SXI-R&cpc=SCH>

something.

After Firefox is installed, also download and install the Flash Player for Firefox (DIFFERENT from the Flash Player for Internet Explorer) from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

If there are any other "odd" things which occur after doing this, feel free to call your favorite Nerds!

The incredible shrinking display

(aka Are today's LCDs bigger or smaller?)

With a new computer (desktop or laptop), you usually get a widescreen display. These are attractive and bright, but sometimes you feel something's missing -- and there is, at least 1" of height!

Computer displays (like TVs) have always been measured



diagonally. Widescreen displays may be wide, but they're not as tall as their predecessors. A 15" (diagonal) older laptop LCD is 9" tall, where a 15.4" widescreen LCD is only 8.25" tall.

This may not matter to you, until you find yourself scrolling up and down while reading page after page of documents. Never fear, there IS a solution -- ROTATING displays. There's no law that says a computer display must be "landscape" (wider than tall). The original dedicated word processing systems always had "portrait" screens (taller than wide).



The 21st Century solution is a widescreen display on a special mount so it can switch between landscape and



portrait mode. And these aren't expensive either, it's just knowing the right keywords. Try

Googling "rotating LCD" and see what you find.

For those who constantly scroll thru documents or website pages, a rotating display may be just the thing. And laptop users, you're not left out, because most laptops these days can easily add a second display -- a 'portrait' to go along with the built-in landscape one.

We found some great values on rotating LCDs at [Geeks.com](http://www.geeks.com):

\$85 19" NEC MultiSync LCD1980SXi Dual DVI Rotating LCD Monitor-Beige

<http://www.geeks.com/details.asp?invtid=BEI-1980SXI-R&cpc=SCH>

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