

Free and Inexpensive Tools for Managing Public Access Computers

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Topics

- **The Basics**
- **Spyware**
- **Lock-Down Tools**
- **Prevent Unwanted Executables**
- **Patron Management & Authentication Tools**
- **Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP)**
- **Freeze Your Harddrive**
- **Restore/Clone Your Harddrive**
- **Remote Control Software**

The Basics

- **Update your software**

- Windows Updates
- Application Updates
- For more information:

<http://webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=1181>

- **Virus scanning software**

- McAfee, etc.

- **Protect your BIOS**

- <http://www.infopeople.org/resources/security/workstation/bios.html>

Spyware

- **Spybot-S&D (free)**
 - Detects and removes spyware of different kinds from your computer.
 - <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/home/index.html>
- **SpywareBlaster (free)**
 - Prevents Spyware from being installed in the first place.
 - <http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html>
- **Webroot Spy Sweeper Enterprise**
 - \$319.60 for 10 user license (Free 30 day evaluation)
 - <http://www.webroot.com/enterprise/products/>

Lock-Down Tools

- **Microsoft Shared Computer Toolkit for XP** (free)
 - “... help make shared computers more reliable and less time-consuming to maintain.”
 - <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sharedaccess/>
- **Public Access Computing Security Tool** (free)
 - “Creates user account profiles that provide protection against the user accidentally or intentionally making permanent changes to the system.” (Deprecated)
 - <http://pacomputing.webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=7593>
- **WINSelect** (\$49.00 per workstation/1-50 stations)
 - “Locks down web browser and other application settings, and even portions of Windows itself.”
 - <http://www.faronics.com/html/Winselect.asp>

Lock-Down Tools (con't)

- **Fortres 101**

- \$325 for 15 CPU site license
- “... monitors each action the user makes and determines if that action is permitted or not.”
- http://www.fortres.com/products/fortres_101.htm

- **Public Web Browser**

- \$100 site license (or \$40 a seat)
- “Web Browser designed for use in public areas.”
- <http://www.teamsoftwaresolutions.com/projects.html>

- **Auto Restart Utility (free)**

- Keeps a program running no matter what happens to it.
- <http://www.teamsoftwaresolutions.com/projects.html>

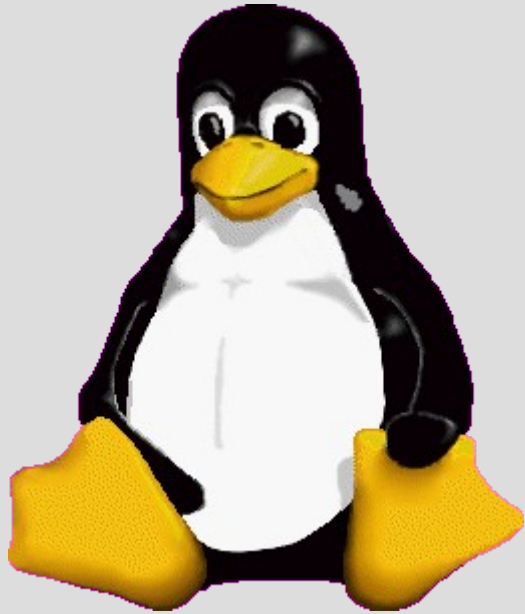
Prevent Unwanted Executables

- **Anti-Executable Standard (was FreezeX)**
 - “Prevents unauthorized executables from launching no matter if they are downloaded or introduced via removable media or the network”
 - 10 – 24 Workstations @ \$17.80 each + \$24.95 for media pack
 - <http://www.faronics.com/html/AntiExecStd.asp>
- **Trust-No-Exe (free)**
 - “Prevent users opening un-trusted executables yet being non-restrictive on the opening documents and other less harmful files”
 - <http://www.beyondlogic.org/solutions/trust-no-exe/trust-no-exe.htm>

Patron Management & Authentication Tools

- **Library Geek Timer (free)**
 - A very simple computer timer that enforces your time limits on public access computers.
 - <http://webjunction.org/forums/thread.jspa?threadID=968&tstart=0>
- **Internet Station Manager (ISM) (free)**
 - “means of controlling users' time on public Internet stations while reducing staff intervention”
 - <http://www.grpl.org/ism/>

Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP)



- **LTSP**
 - “an add-on package for Linux that allows you to connect lots of low-powered thin client terminals to a Linux server.”
 - <http://www.ltsp.org/>
- **K12LTSP**
 - LTSP Linux distro based on Fedora (next version Ubuntu)
 - <http://k12ltsp.org/>

Freeze Your Harddrive

- **DriveShield & MacShield** (pricing varies)
 - “A simple reboot of the computer restores it back to the administrator's pre-defined pristine configuration.”
 - <http://www.centuriontech.com/dsms-about.htm>
- **CenturionGuard** (pricing unknown)
 - “... uses a lock and key to enable and disable security protection.”
 - <http://www.centuriontech.com/centurion-about.htm>
- **DeepFreeze** (pricing varies – Standard is \$197 for 10 workstation license + \$24.95 for media)
 - “Each restart eradicates all changes and resets the computer to its original state, right down to the last byte.”
 - <http://www.faronics.com/html/deepfreeze.asp>

Restore/Clone Your Harddrive

- **Ghost**

- \$37.70 each (for 10 – 24 licenses)
- "... imaging and deployment solution for managing the entire PC lifecycle including OS deployment, software distribution, PC migration and retirement."
- <http://sea.symantec.com/content/product.cfm?productid=9>

- **RestoreIT**

- \$599.00 for 10 user network version
- "... backup and recovery software that [allows you to] simply click a backup point to roll your system back to a time when the computer last worked."
- http://www.farstone.com/home/ensite/education/edu_rit.shtml

Remote Control Software

- **VNC (free)**
 - VNC (Virtual Network Computing) software makes it possible to view and fully-interact with one computer from any other computer or mobile device anywhere on the Internet
 - Many versions (RealVNC, TightVNC, TridiaVNC, and others)
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vnc>
- **BeyondExec (free)**
 - Spawn Processes and/or Shutdown Remote Windows NT/2000/XP WorkStations.
 - <http://www.beyondlogic.org/solutions/remoteprocess/BeyondExec.htm>

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