

Common utility programs | Part B

Some utility programs help keep your computer free from unwanted software, such as viruses, while others add functionality that allow you to customise your desktop and user interface, or keep your data safe. I'm now going to go through a few different types of software utility you might typically find on your PC.

Anti-virus software scans for malicious files which could cause harm, and they should remove them from your computer. You need to update this regularly, otherwise it may not be able to detect the latest viruses or security threats.

A firewall is a program that can prevent unwanted access into or out of your computer from a network. For example, at school you may not be able to access websites such as Facebook or Twitter as these might be filtered out by the firewall.

Spyware detection searches for and removes malicious software which can do things like display irritating advertising messages or collect your personal data. Sometimes spyware can change settings on your computer without your knowledge. You may have experienced a form of spyware called browser high jacking, where your homepage gets changed to something else without your permission.