



# Prairie State Bank & Trust

## Is your Virus software updated with the latest patches?

We live in a world where technology is changing quickly and computer hackers continue to look for weaknesses from users of both personal and business computers. If your virus software does not have the latest patches from the manufacturer, your computer may be vulnerable to malware attacks.

Malware, a general term formed from the words malicious and software, refers to different kinds of computer software designed to infiltrate or damage a computer system without your knowledge or consent. Malware includes computer viruses, worms, Trojan horses, spyware and many other malicious and unwanted software types. Malware can infect your computer through many paths, including pop-up messages that ask users to download things, links in web pages or e-mails, infected websites and many other methods that can sometimes be invisible to you. It is also used in conjunction with phishing scams.

While there is no single fool-proof method to fully protect yourself, you should keep your anti-virus software up to date and running, and your operating systems and applications updated with the latest patches from the manufacturers. If you do not and your computer is infected with malware, at the very least it can be a nuisance that sometimes will display unwanted advertising or uses your computer to send spam. At its worst, malware has the potential to steal personal and financial information ranging from browsing habits to e-mail address lists to online banking passwords and even identity theft.

To learn more about protecting your computer, contact the manufacturer, or companies that sell virus software.