

# Free and Inexpensive Tools for Managing Public Access Computers

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# 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](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>

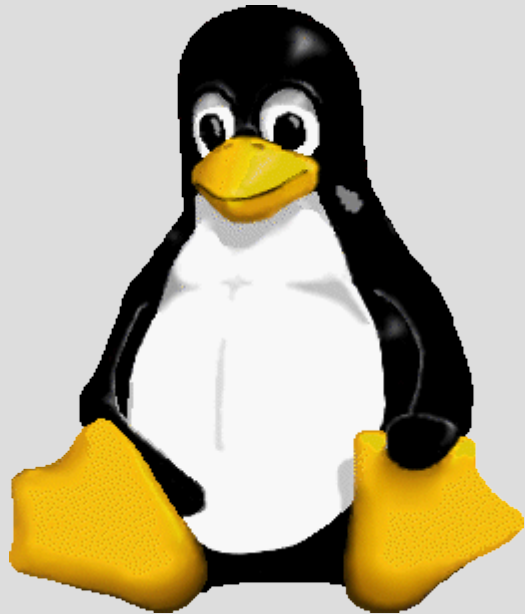
# Prevent Unwanted Executables

- 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
  - <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](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)
- 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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