VC Newsletter

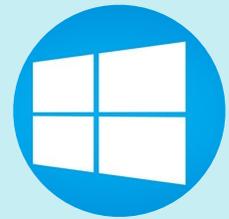## Technology, Security and Computer Repair

Back to School

Get your computer ready for the new school year.

The new school year is right around the corner. Is your computer running slow? Yes. Do you need to buy a new computer? Probably not.

Viruses, spyware, malware and browser hijackers seem to be taking over these days. Having these items removed, and repairing the problems left behind, is usually much cheaper than buying a new computer. After your computer is cleaned, a good anti-virus program can keep it that way.

Laptops can overheat as dust is sucked in through the ventilation system. Running laptops on flat surfaces is recommended. Pillows and blankets can suffocate the laptop and can lead to permanent damage.

Get your computer checked out. Volusia Computers always offers free in-store evaluations and diagnostics. No need to pay if your computer isn't worth fixing. ∎

Windows 10 Upgrade Still Free?

Windows customers that use assistive technologies can still upgrade to Windows 10 for free. Older versions of Windows may refer to these technologies as Accessibility or Ease of Access. These features include narration, magnification, increased font size and many more. The reason this upgrade is free for these users is due to the fact that many of these features were lacking. A recent Windows 10 update makes many improvements they want users to check out.

Ad Blockers

Can be malware blockers.

Ad blockers are browser extensions for Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari and others. These add-ons prevent most advertisements from appearing on the web pages that you visit. Even though hundreds of millions of people use ad blockers worldwide, some aren't aware of the malware protection that they can provide.

There are many free ad blockers to choose from. However, in this article we will be referring to the extremely popular AdBlock Plus from adblockplus.org. For security reasons, choosing a reputable ad blocker is important.

Is an ad blocker needed when only viewing reputable websites? The answer is Maybe. Most websites display ads from a third-party service. These services rely on advertisers to submit their ads through a web interface. Using embedded scripts, malware authors take advantage of the latest weaknesses.

Are there any examples of large websites running malicious ads (malvertising)? Yes. Last year, more than 6 billion Yahoo viewers fell victim to this type of attack. Just by viewing

Yahoo's home page, news, sports and other pages, the malvertising took over. Based on the computer type and location, certain malware was served.

Will everyone that views these ads get infected with malware? No. Most of these attacks will attempt to trick a user into installing an add-on. But it could be a simple as a single click. Good anti-virus software can also aid in the prevention of these types of attacks.

Why ads can be a good thing. While few people actually want to see ads on web pages, they do pay the salaries of many web workers. If you enjoy certain blogs, consider unblocking those sites. AdBlock Plus allows you to disable the blocking of ads on a per site basis. ▪