

## Happy New Year

We all love, love, love our computers and so I suggest that we make the following New Year resolutions in regards to our computers. **I resolve:**

1 – To remove a side panel from my computer and clean out all the dust and gunk inside, to check and be sure that all of the cables are seated tightly, and to check all of the fans for free movement.

2 – To clean my keyboard using a vacuum or a soft brush, and then wipe the keys with a clean damp cloth.

3 – To clean my screen with a soft duster, maybe even a soft damp cloth. And, then, I promise to never touch or put my finger on the screen again. I can point, but no touchy, touchy.

4 – To use “Disk Cleanup” to remove all of the items no longer needed to remain on my computer, followed by “Disk Defragmenter”. I promise to do this once a month to help my computer run faster. (Both are found under Programs> Accessories> System Tools.)

5 – To run Malwarebytes once a month to check for, and remove, unwanted malware. (Can be downloaded from [www.malwarebytes.org](http://www.malwarebytes.org))

6 – To remove old unused, unwanted programs, to free up disk space. And, I will only use RevoUninstaller when I remove a program from my computer. ([www.revouninstaller.com](http://www.revouninstaller.com))

**Microsoft Security Essentials ((MSE)** -- If you are in need of an all encompassing security suite you might want to consider the package offered by Microsoft, which is *FREE*. “MSE” includes protection against viruses, Trojans, spyware and other forms of malware. And, like other security programs MSE updates itself as needed when new “definitions” are required. Unlike other security packages, however, such as Norton, McAfee, etc., MSE is not a memory hog and does not seem to bog down your computer. You can download “MSE” at Microsoft, or just google “MSE”.

In addition to “MSE” Microsoft also recommends that you have Windows Firewall and Windows Defender turned ON.

**Microsoft Store** -- Located in the Fashion Square Mall in Scottsdale Microsoft has a store where they hawk their products. An unknown feature of this store is that there are personnel working here who are “tech savvy” and can help you with MS software problems that you might have. Can’t download, or can’t run a MS software program? You can make an appointment to have one of their tech people try and resolve your problem. And, the nice part is that the service is *FREE*. (This is best, of course, for a laptop situation).