

MISSION 9 – IT SECURITY

BACKGROUND

Organizations and individuals need to secure their computers and communications devices. Is it possible to practice secure computing without breaking the bank?

SUMMARY

Free security options are available online; but do these programs provide sufficient security? Or will sufficient security need to be paid for?

TASKS

- ☐ **Background:** Free security software is readily available online. In most cases, these are programs which offer fewer features than paid-for software, such as the free versions of [Ad-Aware](#) or [Avast](#). A small number of completely free programs is available as well.
- ☐ Investigate some free security software, focusing on the categories of (1) *firewalls*, (2) *anti-virus*, and (3) *anti-spyware*. Of course, some software products may address more than one category.
- ☐ Evaluate the free software products you have found, based on features and reviews. Do you feel the products provide sufficient security, or do they leave gaps that can be exploited?
- ☐ Consider the needs of organizations and individuals. Do their needs for PC-based security differ, or can security software products sufficiently protect both?
- ☐ Compare the free software products against some paid-for products. In each category, would you recommend a free or paid-for software package?
- ☐ Write up your analysis and conclusions in a clear and professional document.

DELIVERABLE

☐ A document containing your resource and risk assessment.
☐ File format: PDF or MS Word
☐ File name format: <i>yourlastname-Mission9</i>
☐ Submit file via the submission link in Blackboard
☐ Deadline: see Blackboard for due date

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Course Competencies Applied	Maximum Score
☐ IT skills	2
☐ IT concepts	2
☐ Intellectual capabilities	1