Notice to Windows XP Users

You may have heard that Microsoft is stopping support for Windows XP this spring (April 2014). What this means is that you are at risk for Malware infections that your anti-virus can't protect you from, once Microsoft stops the updates.

Microsoft has made the downloading of Windows updates very difficult for those who try to reload Windows, if not impossible. You need at least SP3 and you need IE8, plus 2 manually downloaded updates to proceed, These are now required to make the update process work. Microsoft is also not providing IE8 as a download. That is the latest version of IE that works with Windows XP.

OK: you have several choices. First get a new computer while you can still get Windows 7. Don't try to put an upgrade of Windows 7 on an older computer running Windows XP. The drivers for the hardware are most likely not available. The Hardware being the motherboard, the video, the network, and the sound card. If you get Windows 7 Pro, you can also get the Virtual machine and virtual XP to run under Windows 7 free of charge. That lets you run older software that may not run on Windows 7 Home.

Second: For those technically minded, you can create "images" of your working and non-infected XP, so that when you do get it infected or otherwise messed up, you can simply just reload the image and start again after also reloading your data that you also backed up. You can keep doing this till you are tired of the process. Imaging requires good software to make it and the knowledge to do it right.

Last, you can run Windows XP till you just can't run it any longer, either because it dies, or because you got it infected. If your XP computer is still running fine, enjoy it while it lasts. Many people use XP for accounting, and if you can keep it off the internet and away from email, it could last for a long time.

Remember, your anti-virus does not work if Windows is not updated with these "fixes". One last thing about this: Use the Chrome browser and not IE if you must surf.

You can also use your XP computer to back up your tablet, but still keep it off the internet.

We can reload Windows XP and service pack 3 and available updates and your software for which you have disks. We can't keep the infections out. You will get them. Its time to look for a new computer with Windows 7 and preferably the Pro version.