Warning Signs of a Computer Virus

When you look at files on your hard drive, they will be a certain size. The size could be in kilobytes or megabytes. Computer viruses are known to alter programs so as to further infect a computer. Viruses are also able to do a lot more than just change programs. If you are concerned about whether you have a virus on your computer, there are tell-tale signs that will provide you the evidence you will need to know whether you have a virus or not.

One way to know if you have a virus is to examine your programs to see if the size of the file has changed. Looking at the code of the program is one way, but also looking at the program in Windows Explorer will also tell you. Here you will be able to see the actual file size, the date the program was modified, etc.

Another warning sign that you may have a virus on your computer is by examining the way your computer works. If your computer should be slow for some reason, this may be a sign. Also keep watch on your available memory. If you have a virus, the virus will load in memory and take up necessary memory space.

No matter whether you use your computer at work or at home, you should be aware of typical signs of what a virus will do to a system so you will know if that is your problem. Sometimes, PCs will create problems that aren't virus related at all. The most common signs of a virus attack will include the following:

- Your applications will take longer to load and may not work properly
- When you try to access your disk you won't be able to (your disk drive could crash)
- Any pull-down menus you use could become distorted
- Your printer may not work any more
- The date of last file access won't be the same as the date you accessed it
- You will notice more files are now on your hard drive than you had previously, and you didn't install any new programs
- Your disk drive light is flashing continuously for no reason
- You may receive unusual error messages
- You may notice your system slows down considerably, or may even crash

If you notice any of these symptoms, you just may have a virus on your computer.