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Dear Clients and Friends:

One of my favorite radio talk show hosts is Leo Laporte. You can catch him on KFI, which is AM 640, on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Leo calls himself “The Tech Guy,” and he’s sharp when it comes to any kind of gadget from digital cameras to HDTV’s to computers.

He made a great point last week about computer security. If you have a computer using a Microsoft operating system, you need to set it up for automatic updates from Microsoft. Leo says this is absolutely necessary, even if you’re running a good antivirus software.

The logic goes like this. When Microsoft discovers a vulnerability within its system, it creates an update to solve the problem. This update is posted on its website, where you and I can download it for free and bring our software current.

But the bad guys download those updates too, and by studying the code they get clues about the vulnerability Microsoft is trying to patch up. All they have to do is create a virus that exploits that weakness, then get it into circulation before Microsoft users have installed the update.

Your computer should be set up for automatic updating, so you won’t be caught without protection. It’s pretty simple. Click on the Start button, then Settings, Control Panel, Automatic Updates, Automatic (take the recommended option which lets your computer download and install on its own). I have mine set for 3 a.m. every morning.

For Mac users, the Software Update pane (in System Preferences) gives a similar option.

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford