

SECURING YOUR SOFTWARE FROM ATTACK

The average computer holds about 80 programs! Some are pre-installed, and some are downloaded from the Internet. These applications are vulnerable to attack from the cybercriminals.

Software developers issue patches and updates that close these doors to hackers in a never-ending game of us against them. A vulnerability pops up here, hit it with a patch. Another pops up over there, hit it with another patch. Developers provide the patches, but it's up to us to know about these updates and download and apply the patches in a timely manner. Patches for third-party applications, i.e. not from Microsoft, are not handled through Windows automatic updates.

A good solution is to check all the software on your computer for vulnerabilities using the [Secunia Personal Software Inspector \(PSI\)](#) (**hyperlink**). This free program comes from a trusted security site, and scans your software for known vulnerabilities. It will tell you which programs need updating and provide links to sites where you can download patches.