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It seems as though the majority of our new clients have been spending more time this past year in disaster recovery mode rather than in production mode. Inevitably, the vast majority of the times, these disasters have been traceable to virus infections, ad ware (tracking cookies & Trojan horses) infections, spy ware infections, and intermittent or catastrophic hard drive failure.

Although we appreciate the opportunity to make the acquaintance of new customers and friends, we thought someone, especially clients, family, and friends may be able to avoid or minimize their future exasperation if we took a few minutes here to document our recommendations regarding PC utilities. Please understand that these recommendations are really personal opinions based on decades of past experience. GeoTech, Inc does not warrant these recommendations ([review our disclaimer](#)). Hyperlinks to vendor web sites are included and you are encouraged to visit these and research these products to your own satisfaction.

## [SystemSuite Pro 6](#)

... is a suite of applications that provides a robust series of features ideally suited to manage your PC. SystemSuite includes:

- **Anti-virus software**
- **Anti-spyware software**

AutoUpdate should be **enabled**. V-Com advises the user as new definitions or program updates are made available for download; usually this is a daily occurrence. The process is very straight forward, thus user-friendly.

- **Net Defense firewall**

This too is about as straight forward and user-friendly as this type of application can be. Questionable events are clearly explained in an understandable manner with an option for additional detail.

- **Recovery Commander**

This is a tool that allows you to create and manage Windows XP Restore Points. It can be configured to create a restore point as the first step to installation of new software (highly recommended). You can also create restore points manually (on-demand) or via a routine, scheduled event.



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- And there are other numerous embedded utilities to cleanup, diagnose, fix, and optimize & maintain your PC.

In addition to SystemSuite Pro 6, the CD also contains separate stand-alone applications:

❖ **MailWasher (Anti-spam)**

This is an application that allows you to view your incoming email before it ever gets to your computer assuming you are using Outlook, Outlook Express or other PC based email application. You can help “train” MailWasher to recognize spam v. legitimate email although it does a pretty good job by itself. Bounce and delete the offending messages as you wish.

❖ **AutoSave**

This application is very helpful for retaining consecutive, restorable versions of application data, e.g. email, documents, etc. Unfortunately, it is best configured by someone other than the average user. You must have a fair understanding of folders and data files in order to customize it to fit your specific needs.

- **SystemSuite has always been available from Wal-Mart at a discounted price.**

## Webroot Spy Sweeper

There are two aspects of this application that make it a must have on our computers: 1) it provides a definitions file that is automatically updated daily, and 2) it provides a protective environment via its Shields option. The Shields option provides a safety net that extends beyond that which is found in other applications. It may seem redundant with SystemSuite installed as well – but it’s worth it!

## Total Commander

If you find yourself using Windows Explorer often, to copy, move, compress, etc. folders/subdirectories and files, then you are an above average end-user and you will grow to love Total Commander. It is the primary interface to our computers, the network and the Internet. Instead of writing a whole book glorifying Total Commander, try it – there is a trial version available. And last, but not least is Norton Ghost 10 .....



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## Norton Ghost 10

Ask yourself a question – do you what the difference is between a backup and a disk image? AutoSave is designed to back up data files (multiple versions). Synchronization is another form of back up usually associated with network servers. Windows System Tools Backup also provides for differential and incremental backups – I’ve never known anyone who has successfully restored a Windows System Tools Full System backup.

Over time, your PC becomes customized according to your needs and wants even if it started off as a standard corporate image. Your hard drive is going to crash – it’s only a matter of when. So, if it crashes within the next thirty minutes, do you know that it will take at least a day to restore the operating system and most of the major applications (with patches, service packs & updates); it will take weeks or even months to get everything configured back to where you were before the crash.

If the thought scares you – good, it should. You need to image your hard drive. Now this is a service that we provide because we have the hardware tools to git-r-done, but all you really need is Norton Ghost 10 and a backup device to do it yourself. CD’s and DVD’s are notoriously unreliable, it seems, when you need them the most, so we use large external, swappable hard drives for this purpose. Symantec bought out PowerQuest, makers of Drive Image, almost two years ago. To their credit, Norton Ghost 10 is essentially the “next” version of Drive Image which has never failed us over past years.

We have a raw image for virtually every operating system beginning with Windows 95. If we need to test something using Windows NT Server for instance, all we have to do is re-image one of our Shop’s tower PC’s with the appropriate image and we are good to go usually in less than an hour.

The icing on the cake is that we can browse images and retrieve any number of folders and files as necessary. The image itself can be mounted as an additional hard drive – whoa!

We hope that this information was useful and that you save yourself a lot of heartache and aggravation as a result this sharing our experience & knowledge with you. We are not authorized to resell any of these products.

Best regards,

James R. Readel  
Vice President



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