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Software To Go has been offering
superior products, service and
support to small and medium
sized businesses.*

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Why does my computer seem to slow down?

You may have memory leakage occurring.

OK, I just heard the swooshing sound from another tech-speak mumbo-jumbo explanation rushing past the that-makes-sense response.

Let me clarify....

Memory leak is a term for a particular type of unintentional memory consumption by a computer program where the program **fails to release memory when no longer needed**. This condition is normally the result of a bug in a program that **prevents it from freeing up memory** and so in turn, continually allocates more memory until your computer slows to a snails pace or outright freezes.

This term has the potential to be confusing, since memory is not physically lost from the computer. Rather, memory is allocated to a program and that program subsequently loses the ability to access it due to program flaws which ties up all of your computer's memory.

So, what is the fix? The famous tech phrase applies once again, "Reboot the computer!" This simple function resets many starting points for a lot of applications and clears virtual memory as well.

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Firewalls

If you are using a broadband connection, you should have some kind of firewall protection. With these "Always On" type connections you become more vulnerable to attacks from outsiders.

While you cannot keep someone determined enough out of your machine, what you want to do is make it more difficult for any potential causal attacker. The idea is to make them give up and move on to someone without adequate firewall protection rather than you becoming the one they move on to.

Firewalls act like a doorman or bouncer for your computer. If your name is not on the firewall's list, you don't get in. A firewall is traditionally a device that sits between your machine and the Internet and deals with any data that comes in. When configured, it will allow in data that you have requested, or said that you want to allow in, while stopping anything that you are not interested in or didn't ask for.

Software based firewalls

These applications are installed on a single machine and protect a single connection.

Dedicated hardware firewalls

These are devices that are between your computer and the Internet designed to act purely as a firewall.

As well as providing firewall features they are often combined with other network functions such as DHCP server, router, wireless access point and VPN end point.

Three good reasons to use a Personal Firewall:

1. *Process monitoring* - The firewall monitors all applications trying to access the Internet, receive data or send an e-mail.
2. *Port blocking* - The firewall blocks ports (Internet-to-computer paths

which data is transmitted and received) from unwanted visitors.

3. *No Backdoors* - The firewall scans Internet ports for the detection of backdoor programs.



*Software To Go Provides a
Number of Maintenance and
Support Programs Designed to
Fit the Needs of Almost any
Business!*

Starting at just \$9.95 per month for the first 5GB of data, eFolder is your best 'insurance policy' against disastrous computer failure.

Over 80% of organizations do not have a reliable way to backup and protect one of their most valuable assets – their data. eFolder provides the easiest, most reliable and safest way to protect this information.

With backups of personal computers, laptops and all sorts of data storage becoming more and more critical – as well as needing multiple methods of backup for redundancy – We offer a low cost, easy to use solution to ensure you never loose your most important data.

We've installed this product successfully for customers in small and medium sized businesses in addition to many personal computers and everyone has been thrilled with it!

For personal computers, you can backup your data to secured servers across the internet so you will never have to worry about loosing your Outlook, Turbo Tax, My Documents or any other files you choose.

For servers, we can help you choose exactly which directories get backed up for your most critical data.

Even if you already use tape (or another method) for backup, it's always a good idea to have multiple ways to restore in case one method fails!



Joe's Small Business Notes:



Once again our President (of Software To Go) Joe Balsarotti, has been featured in a [publication](#). This month's issue of Small Business Monthly features his responses to being in the top 20 businesses with fewer than 20 employees, '[The top 20 under20](#)'. Though there are a couple typos, it is an honor to be ranked in the top 20 small businesses.

(The article should read Joe has 28 years of experience and we've been in business 25 years.)

We here at Software To Go are proud of the years of service to our clients and customers. By understanding and keeping their business needs first, we have enabled [businesses to succeed](#) in achieving their goals.

Partnering with our clients for 25 years, we have been resolving technology problems which negatively impact business operations.

This periodic email is solely for information of interest for our circle of friends, partners and fellow Chamber Members. If you do not want to receive any further emailing, click [here](#).