

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month I've been asked about Microsoft's new Windows Defender (Beta 2) software.

First I'd like to say that Windows Defender is the new name for Microsoft's Anti-spyware program which was the Beta 1 version of their product. Since there are numerous improvements and changes in Beta 2 they changed the name to Windows Defender. If you have downloaded and used the Beta 1 software you will be receiving an email to upgrade to Beta 2 when your Beta 1 software expires. To be able to test Beta 2, I downloaded and installed it before my Beta 1 expired. Beta 2 does detect Beta 1 and will uninstall it before installing itself.

As with all anti-spyware programs Beta 2 does not detect all spyware, although it does do a very good job at it. For this reason I suggest that you use multiple anti-spyware programs, of course, only one should be in an active mode at a time. I personally have Windows Defender Beta 2 running in real time protection mode and I have Windows Defender Beta 2 and Zone Alarm run system sweeps at various times. This scheme has kept my computers free from spyware.

I do have one problem with Beta 2 and that is that it likes to run a full scan more often than I would like it to. Well, the real problem is that when you open Beta 2 to see what its warning is about needing to run, it starts a scan in the background but also gives you a button on the warning screen to start a scan. If you click on the button you get a cryptic error message. Hopefully, they'll fix this problem as Beta 2 does a nice job.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is [meggert@wi.rr.com](mailto:meggert@wi.rr.com), my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.