

# TFW Computers Newsletter

The Floppy  
Wizard, Inc.

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## 20 Years of the Computer Virus

Today one had better take all of the prevention steps possible to prevent an attack from viruses, trojans, and spyware.

In January 1986 the first ever computer virus was unleashed via floppy disk, and 20 years on the problem is still very much a nightmare situation for the average PC user. Most of our computer "repairs" today are from attacks on the software more so than a breakdown of hardware.

Though it's origin is still disputed it is thought the virus, known as Brain, was coded by two Pakistani programmers named Basit and Amjad who designed their virus to affect every 360kb floppy inserted into the drive. Four years later a company called Symantec launched the now hugely popular Norton Antivirus.

Within two years the number of malicious programs had increased by 420% to 1300, this was probably helped by creation kits like the Virus Creation Laboratory which was also released in 1992.

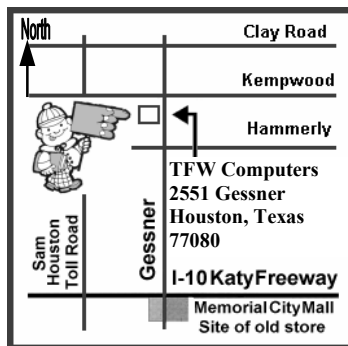
Some of the more memorable viruses since then include 1999's Melissa virus, which executed a macro which sent copies of itself to 50 people in the users Outlook address book, the Love Bug which deleted MP3, MP2 and JPG files as well as sending usernames and passwords to the author and 2004's MyDoom worm which affected businesses, banks and the British Coastguard.

Today there are more than 150,000 malicious programs and over 25 major companies specializing in anti-virus software for the Windows platform alone. **AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH POUNDS OF CURE.** Let us help protect your computer now before it is too late!

### Trade in your Old Computer

Now, more than ever, we are seeing more and more of our customers trading in their old computer for a faster, more powerful model.

Because people are trading in their older computers more and more often, we usually have many used computers from which to choose.



### Notebooks to your specifications

TFW Computers can custom "spec out" a notebook to fit your needs. Visit our web site for sample systems: [www.computerstfw.com](http://www.computerstfw.com). You can choose the size hard drive you wish, the amount of ram, whether you wish a CD reader or a DVD burner, wireless, etc. We will tailor it to your specs then set it up with our "value added package".

### Need a Web Page presence on the net?

Our experienced, professional web page designer can create for you or your business a fabulous, effective web site. He can upgrade you or improve your present site. Contact us if you are interested in developing a web site for your own business or adding a database, on-line shopping, or any other computer-based application.

# SINCE 1983

**TFW Computers** has been in business since 1983 serving homes and businesses. For 23 years we have been serving the Houston Metro area. Our long success is due to our many repeat customers and "word of mouth" advertising. In the Fall of 1999, we moved to our present location (see map inset) after 17 years in Memorial City Mall on I-10 at Gessner (then under our corporate name The Floppy Wizard). We want to be your headquarters for quick computer repairs, solutions, upgrades and new or used computers, trade-ins, digital cameras, etc. We have been custom assembling computers since the mid-80's. We repair pre-built computers as well as our own. If you can't bring your computer in to us...we can come to you (Labor rate is \$60 per hour in the store {\$37.50 minimum} and \$90 per hour on site {\$90 minimum}). More and more homeowners and small businesses are wanting their computers networked together. We can do this and show you ways to keep the costs down dramatically.



The Floppy Wizard, Inc.

# Computer Classes available!

dba TFW Computers

2551 Gessner

Houston, Texas 77080

Phone: 713-461-8660

Fax: 713-429-5431 (call first)

For questions, email us at

[tfwcomputers@houston.rr.com](mailto:tfwcomputers@houston.rr.com)

### Store Hours:

Mon. thru Fri. 10:00am—6:00pm

Saturday 10:00am—3:00pm

Sunday Closed

**Visit us on the web!**

**[www.computerstfw.com](http://www.computerstfw.com)**

**On line bids are now available**

Go to our web site for latest bid and class information

## Tip: Protect your Computer — Keep your Microsoft Updates up to date!

Viruses have long plagued our computers but now we have even more threats. **Adware** and **Spyware** are now sneaking into our computers. Any software application in which advertising banners are displayed while the program is running is called **Adware**. And any software that sends data back to a third party - WITHOUT ASKING the user - is **Spyware**.

**Download** the following programs to detect, remove and better protect yourself. The programs are all freeware or shareware.

[Spyware Blaster](http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html) at [www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html](http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html)

[Spybot Search and Destroy](http://www.safer-networking.org/) at [www.safer-networking.org/](http://www.safer-networking.org/)

[Ad-Aware](http://www.lavasoft.de/) at [www.lavasoft.de/](http://www.lavasoft.de/) or [www.lavasoft.nu/](http://www.lavasoft.nu/)

[CWShredder](http://www.intermute.com/spysubtract/cwshredder_download.html) at [www.intermute.com/spysubtract/cwshredder\\_download.html](http://www.intermute.com/spysubtract/cwshredder_download.html)

[ZoneAlarm](http://www.zonelabs.com/) at [www.zonelabs.com/](http://www.zonelabs.com/)

[Microsoft Antispyware Beta 1](http://www.microsoft.com/) at [www.microsoft.com/](http://www.microsoft.com/)

It goes without being said you must use Anti-Virus Software as well....

## WE BUILD CUSTOM BUILT COMPUTERS/NOTEBOOKS

We plan every component with you making sure you have the right system for your needs.

### Why buy a custom built computer rather than a pre-built?

Custom-built computers are systems that are built and assembled using standard "across the counter" parts. They are different from pre-built computers in that they can have any component replaced virtually by any computer store in the country, whereas pre-built computers have "proprietary" components. Most often, pre-builts have non-standard motherboards that have their video, sound and often their modem and LAN ports all built permanently to their motherboard. This means that if one component on the motherboard "dies", then only the manufacturer who made the system can replace that non-standard motherboard. Because "everything" is soldered permanently to that motherboard, it is very costly and un-realistic to replace. Whereas, if the system had been built by a computer store such as ours and

hundreds like us in Houston alone, then, just the single component can be replaced such as the video card, or sound card, or motherboard, or modem, or....

Upgradeability is the other very key issue. As faster and faster CPU's come on the market, they most always require a new motherboard. Motherboards have a relatively small range of upgradeability, so far as what the CPU can be upgraded to. Virtually all pre-built computers can only have their original motherboards replaced. You can't install a newer motherboard (very important). With custom built computers you just change the motherboard to the day's standard and keep on going...change any component you want. Don't replace the whole computer!

Another very important issue is service. Many companies brag

about their service. It amazes us to see how long, in reality, it takes most of these companies to do their repairs. Rarely, if ever, do any of them repair computers as fast as we do (usually same or next day). Ask yourself if you can take your computer into their local outlet and sit down with a knowledgeable technician and get personal help. Ask if you can sit and watch as the technician works on your computer (if you wish).

At TFW COMPUTERS you can!

At TFW COMPUTERS we sit down with you and your new computer on delivery and show you around the system, how it works in detail, for an hour or more as a courtesy. **Service after the sale is worth something!**

## FAST SERVICE OUR STRENGTH!

### Concerned about losing your present data on your computer?

We can back up your important data and transfer it to your new computer. We can preserve your documents, emails, address book, favorites, pictures, financial data, etc.

# In business since 1983