

# Computer Tips

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## Michael's Computer Services

### Viruses, Spyware & Now Vermin

Potentially far more dangerous to your computer than spyware & even viruses is Vermin.

In this article we are going to take a look at vermin that can NOT be stopped by even the worlds best antivirus programs & firewalls.

These vermin can have access to your computer even when you're not connected to the internet. In fact your computer could be at risk even if you've never been connected to the internet. These vermin may even have access to your computer while it is switched off and unplugged.

So what am I talking about? We've all heard of computer viruses, spyware and "hackers" getting into our computer and running amuck with our software. But there are also real creepy crawlies that can get into your computer and damage the components. Vermin, such as mice can actually do more damage to your computer than the spyware & viruses most people dread. Lets take a look at these crawlies, and how we can prevent such destruction.

The case of your computer is designed to do several things for your PC, and it generally does its job remarkably well. Your computer case not only provides a secure frame to screw the components to, but it also provides ventilation in various ways for the components inside. The case also provides a "pretty face" for your PC, giving it some "character" and identity as well.

But probably the most important function your computer case provides is protection from dust, water, and vermin or crawlies like spiders, frogs, and MICE.

Your computer case has what we call expansion slots at both the front & back. At the front of the case these slots are used to add drives such as DVD or floppy drives. At the back of your case are expansion slots to add other hardware such as video cards, more USB ports & so on. All unused expansion slots have inserts, or plates in place to prevent any foreign objects from getting inside the computer.

If any of these plates are missing—leaving a gap, spiders, frogs, and especially mice, can get in and damage the components inside. This can lead to devastating results.

Recently we had a customer bring their computer in because it would not start up, although it had been working fine before they went away. Upon investigation, we found that mice had gotten into the computer through an open expansion slot at the back of the PC, and had done their business all over the components. Now mice excrements are extremely acid, and when they come in contact with the circuits on the motherboard & components, it eats into the boards, shorting them out.

Unfortunately for the customer we had to replace nearly every component in their computer. And as for the mice—a death sentence has been decreed!

So be sure to check your PC, and make sure there are no expansion plates missing from your computer case leaving it open to vermin.

For further assistance call 4171 0981, or email us at [info@mcsit.com.au](mailto:info@mcsit.com.au)

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