

## Technology Corner

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### Microsoft SP2

Recently Microsoft has announced the availability of Service Pack 2 (SP2) upgrade for Windows XP. SP2 fixes a number of bugs in XP. SP2 also provides better protection against viruses, hackers, and worms, and includes a much improved Windows Firewall, a Pop-up Blocker for Internet Explorer, and the new Windows Security Center.

You can enable the firewall in XP (with or without SP2) by going to: start>My Computer>Network Places>Network Connection. Select the connection to be protected with a left click. Then Change>advanced tab>firewall. If you have installed a firewall from a third party such as Norton, be sure to turn off the firewall in XP so they do not conflict.

If you have enabled automatic upgrade, the system may install SP2 by itself. Or you can download it from <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/protect/default.aspx>. Be forewarned that this can be time consuming over a dialup connection. If you have a dialup connection I suggest that you request a CD from Microsoft which is free. See <http://find.pcworld.com/43200>. To enable automatic upgrade on XP, right click on My Computer, select Properties>Automatic Updates and select Keep My Computer Up to Date.

### Finding Community Information

It is often difficult to find reliable electricians, plumbers, carpenters, etc. One source of useful information is Craigslist. The list also provides a forum to buy, sell, find community events, find a job, and get other information. See <http://boston.craigslist.org/>

### Accessing Social Security on-line

Most transactions dealing with the Social Security Administration can be done conveniently through the internet. Useful pointers include (all preceded by http://):

<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/best">www.socialsecurity.gov/best</a>	determine eligibility for benefits
<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/changeofaddress">www.socialsecurity.gov/changeofaddress</a>	change address or phone number
<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/best">www.socialsecurity.gov/best</a>	replace Medicare card
<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/beve">www.socialsecurity.gov/beve</a>	benefits verification
<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/1099">www.socialsecurity.gov/1099</a>	request form summary of last year's contribution
<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/locator">www.socialsecurity.gov/locator</a>	locate nearest SSA office
<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/women">www.socialsecurity.gov/women</a>	SSA information pertinent to women