July 21, 2008

Computer Viruses Are Bad

A customer was having issues with the tester computer. After turning on the laptop, I knew something was wrong – the start button didn't open when selected. Furthermore, the icon for My Computer was missing, and when placed in safe mode, a random laughing sound would play through the laptop's speakers.

The laptop unfortunately did not have an anti-virus program installed, so I immediately told him to do so. His IT department was gracious enough to donate him a license.

The next day, after the program was installed, we took stock of the damage:
- 169 virus/Trojan instances
- 10 individual viruses
- 15 Trojans

It was a good thing that this computer was not hooked up to the company's network, because with the number of Trojans on it, things would have gotten very interesting for the IT department.

After trying to repair the damage to the system that the viruses unleashed, eventually he still ended up having to reformat the computer and in the process had to sacrifice a couple of months worth of motor data.

This story was tragic. Don't let this be YOU. Although we'd like for you to minimize the number of programs that you have installed on your tester's laptop, we HIGHLY recommend that you do indeed install an anti-virus program AND keep it up to date. The alternative is not good.

You are invited to submit an Electric Motor Testing Tip of your own and receive a free PdMA mug or hat if we publish it! Contact Lou at 813-621-6463 ext. 126 or lou@pdma.com.