**PREVENT PROBLEMS WITH YOUR COMPUTER**

Just as in medicine, when you're dealing with computers, prevention is a much better tool than medication. That's why, if you want to face as few issues as possible, the best approach is to consider these simple, effective rules:

- Don't download apps and programs from untrusted sources. Stick to websites that have a good reputation and with well-known software. If you need to download and install an app that you know nothing about, before you even consider downloading it, search on Google or Bing for information about it.
- When you install apps, never use the quick install option; always use the custom install. Many free desktop apps bundle all kinds of junk and third- party apps that you don't need. If you always choose to install them quickly and don't go for a slower custom install where you configure in detail what gets installed, you're just asking for trouble. You may install toolbars that hijack your computer, useless desktop apps that take up space and system resources, apps that display ads you don't want, and so on.
- Be careful what you click on while browsing the web. It doesn't matter which browser you're using, clicking random links and ads invites trouble. Use browser add-ons like WoT (Web of Trust) that help you quickly evaluate the trustworthiness of the websites that you're visiting.
- Shut down your Windows computer or device from time to time. Usually, you want your devices to start as fast as possible, so you might use Sleep and other low-power modes. However, a simple shut down once a week helps Windows update files, shut down processes, and start from scratch the next time you turn it on.
- Read error messages; don't just click through them. When you encounter an error message in Windows 10, don't just click OK automatically. First, take some time to read it completely and understand what's going on. If it's something serious, take a screenshot (use the Snipping Tool) of that message, so that you can share it with someone who can help you solve the problem.
- Use a security product on your Windows device. At the very least, use the built-in Windows Defender and Windows Firewall to protect your computer or device from malware and network attacks. The best idea is to purchase a commercial security product from a well-known security company such as Kaspersky, Bitdefender, or ESET.
- Keep Windows 10 and your security software up to date at all times. Yes, updates are annoying, but they're also very useful. Keeping your software up to

date means that your system is less likely to get infected by malware and is less vulnerable to all kinds of threats, and you get new features and bug fixes that are rolled out on a regular basis.