

Ela Area Public Library

Wireless Network Instruction Sheet



Overview

The Ela Area Public Library offers wireless Internet access to all library users during our regular business hours free of charge. Access is available in every public area of the library. In using our wireless network, you thereby agree to our Internet Access Policy (<http://www.eapl.org/libraryinfo/internet.asp>) and Public Communication Systems Policy (http://www.eapl.org/libraryinfo/library_electronic_policy.asp).

Connecting to the EAPL Wireless Network

System Requirements

- Laptop computer (the library does not supply laptop computers)
- Wireless network card that supports the Wi-Fi 802.11g or 802.11b networking standards (if you're unsure, check with your laptop or wireless network card manufacturer)
- Software and drivers for your wireless network card (Windows XP and Macintosh OS X include all the necessary software for most common wireless network cards)

Quick Setup Settings

Network Type or Mode: Infrastructure or Access Point (AP) Mode

Service Set Identifier (SSID) or Network Name: eapl-public-wifi

Encryption Type: None

IP Address: Obtain address automatically using DHCP

DNS Addresses: Obtain addresses automatically using DHCP

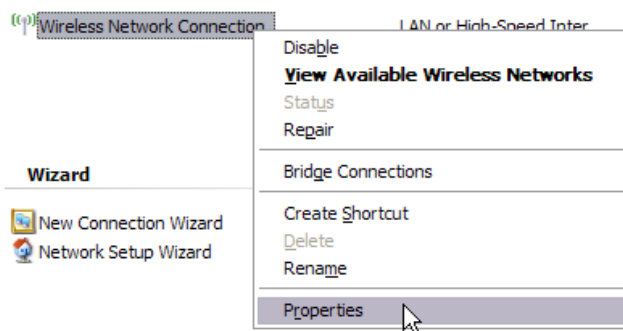
Setup Instructions for Windows XP

Microsoft Windows XP includes all of the necessary software to connect a Wi-Fi-enabled computer to our library's wireless network. If you are using an older version of Microsoft Windows, another operating system, or different wireless network software (such as one bundled with your computer or wireless network card), the details of setting up your connection may differ from the instructions below and you should consult the documentation that came with your software.

- Turn on your computer's wireless network card (if you need help doing this, consult the manual that came with your computer or wireless network card).

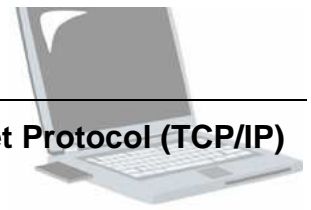
- With your mouse, first click on the  button, then select .

- Right-click on the network connection representing your wireless card (usually called **Wireless Network Connection**) and select **Properties**.

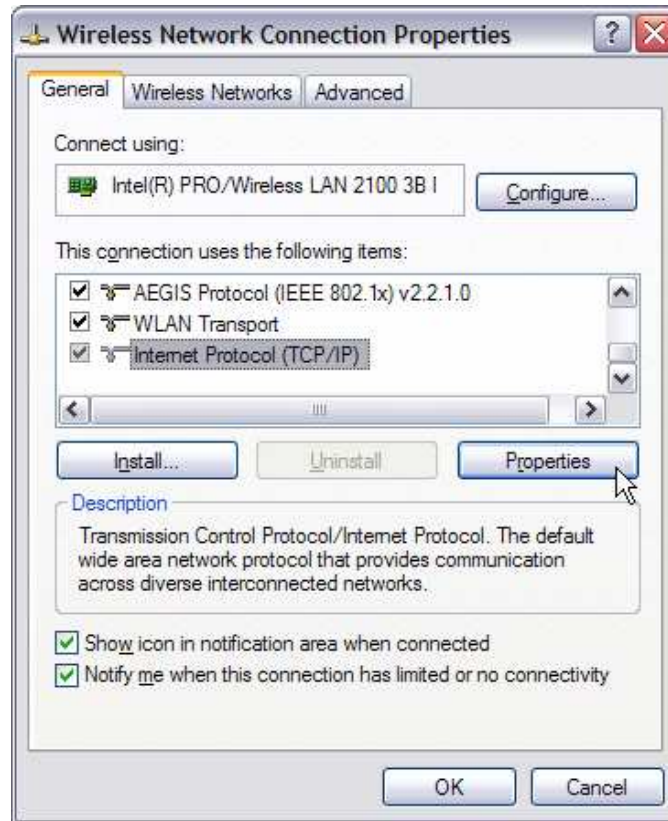


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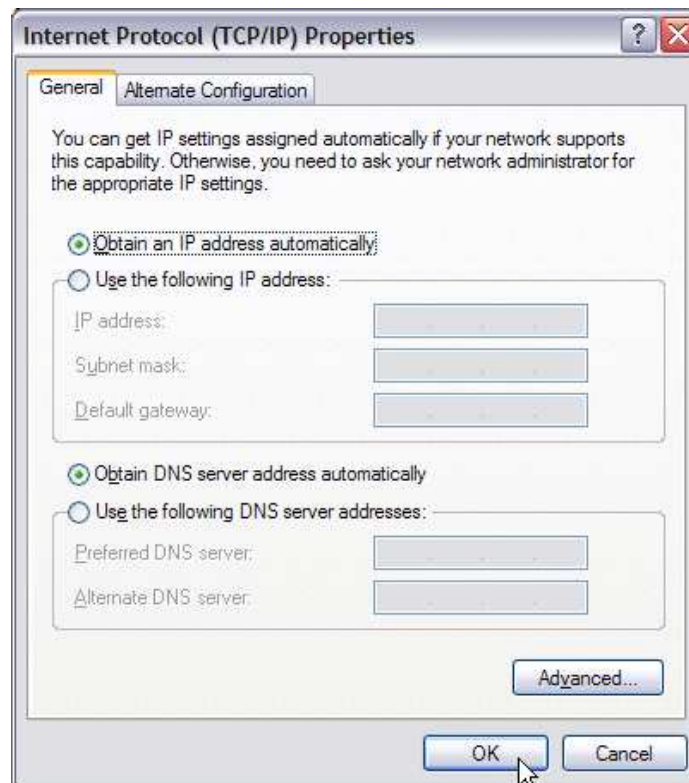
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- In the **Wireless Network Connection Properties** dialog box, highlight **Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)** and click on the **Properties** button.



- On the General tab, make sure that **Obtain an IP address automatically** and **Obtain DNS server address automatically** are both selected, then click on the **OK** button.

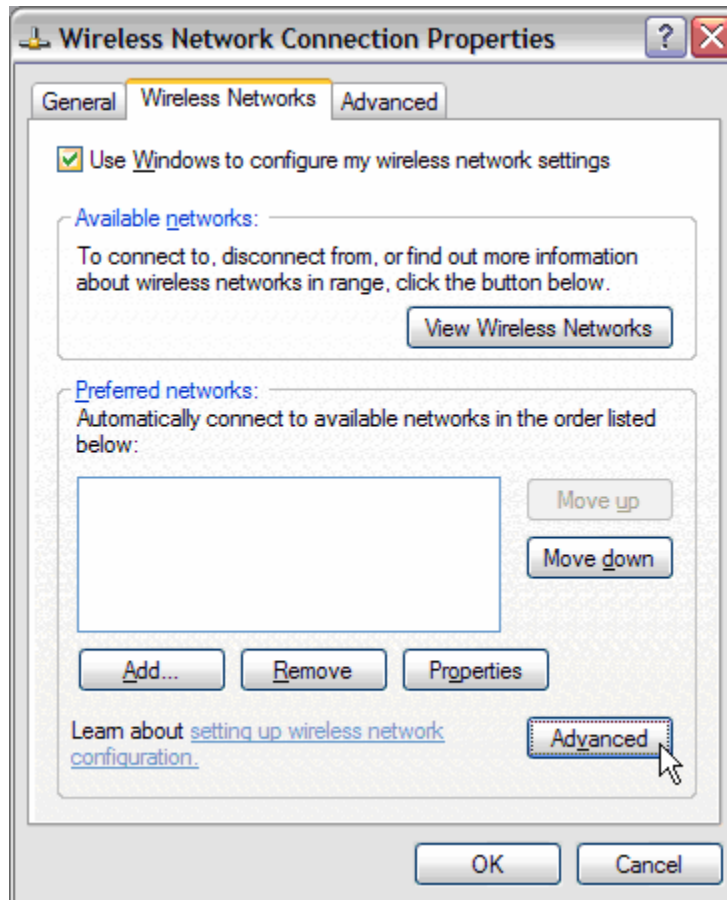


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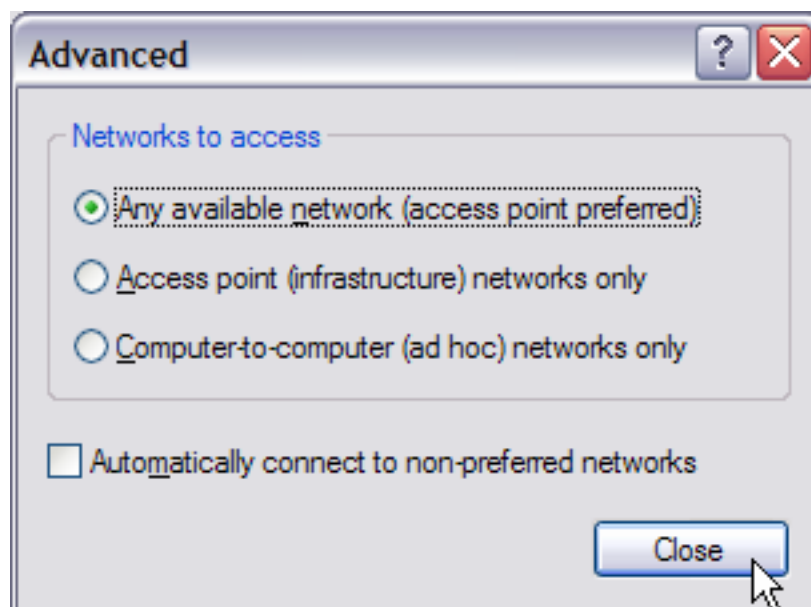
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- In the **Wireless Network Connection Properties** dialog box, select the **Wireless Networks** tab.
- Make sure the option to **Use Windows to configure my wireless network settings** is selected, and then click on the **Advanced** button near the bottom of the dialog box.



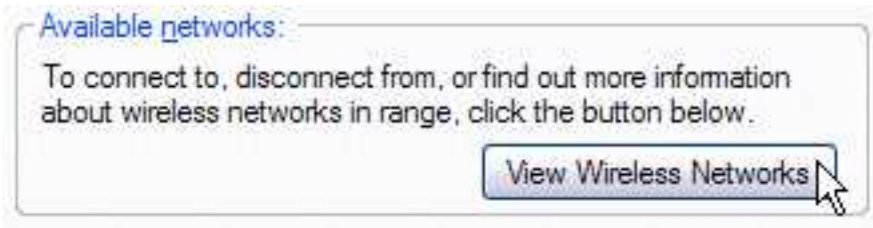
- Make sure *either* the **Any available network (access point preferred)** or the **Access point (infrastructure) networks only** option is selected and then click the **Close** button.



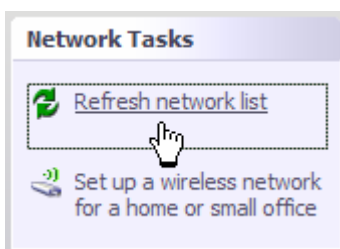
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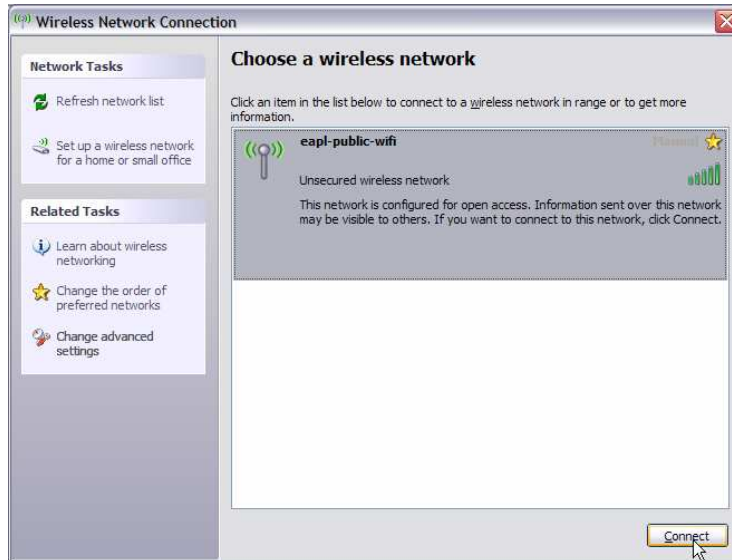
- Click the **OK** button to save any changes you may have made, then right-click on the network connection representing your wireless card (usually called **Wireless Network Connection**) and select **Properties**.
- Back in the **Wireless Network Connection Properties** dialog box, click on the **View Wireless Networks** button.



- In the **Wireless Network Connection** dialog box, inside the Network Tasks area, click on the **Refresh Network List** hyperlink.



- Your wireless network card will begin searching for nearby wireless networks and, as long as you are inside one of the public areas of the library, it should eventually find the library's eapl-public-wifi network. Highlight the **eapl-public-wifi** network and then click on the **Connect** button.

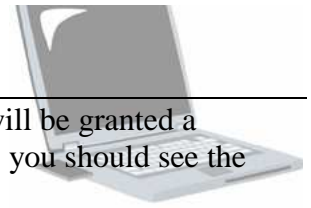


- Windows will display a warning indicating that the eapl-public-wifi network is not encrypted. This is normal. The library's wireless network is intended for use by the public and does not use any sort of encryption, so click on the **Connect Anyway** button.

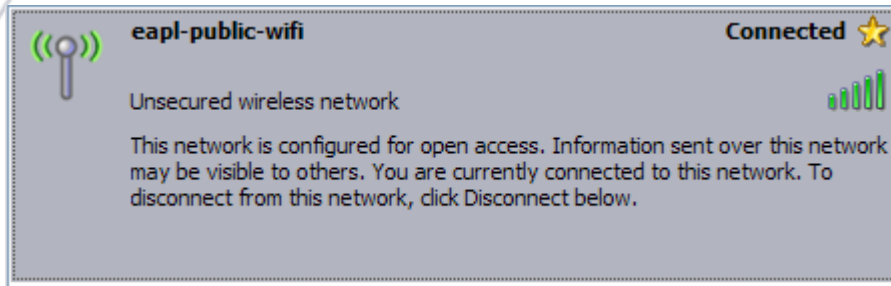


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- Your wireless card will attempt to associate with the library's wireless network and will be granted a temporary IP address. Once you are fully connected to the library's wireless network, you should see the following status message:



- Congratulations! You are now connected to the Ela Area Public Library's public wireless network and are free to begin browsing the Internet.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a wireless network?

A: Our wireless network allows you to use a wireless network card to access online library resources as well as the Internet from within the Ela Area Public Library without physically connecting an Ethernet cable or phone line to your laptop computer.

Q: How does it work?

A: We have installed wireless access points throughout the building which act like antennas and communicate with the wireless network cards that are now commonly installed in most laptop computers. When one of these wireless network cards (which must be compliant with the Wi-Fi 802.11g or 802.11b standards) senses a signal from the access points, it can establish a network connection using radio waves in the 2.4 GHz frequency band. This radio network then allows the laptop computer to use the library's Internet connection.

Q: Does it pose any health risks?

A: No. Wireless networking uses very low-power radio signals in the same frequency band as many cordless phones, and manufacturers design their equipment to fall well within industry safety guidelines. Experts generally agree that Wi-Fi technology is very safe when used appropriately.

Q: What can I do with it?

A: When you are connected to our wireless network you have a high speed connection to the Internet so you can do almost anything you would otherwise do on the Internet, such as:

- Do online research
- Look for materials in our library catalog
- Check your e-mail, etc.

Q: Can I access the library's subscription databases?

A: Yes, while connected to the library's network you have access to all the databases listed on our [Online Databases](#) webpage.

Q: Can I use the library's wireless network when the library is closed?

A: No. The wireless network is only operational during the library's regular business hours and will shut down automatically at the library's regular closing time. **Make sure you save all of your work to your computer's hard drive before the library closes or you may lose data.**

Q: Will my Windows 9x/ME/2000, Macintosh, Linux, or UNIX computer work with the library's wireless network?

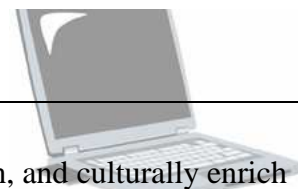
A: As long as it supports the 802.11b or 802.11g wireless network standard, yes it should.

Q: Are there any restrictions on my use of the Internet?

A: Everyone who uses our wireless network thereby agrees to abide by the Ela Area Public Library's Internet Access Policy (<http://www.eapl.org/libraryinfo/internet.asp>) and Public Communication Systems Policy (http://www.eapl.org/libraryinfo/library_electronic_policy.asp).

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Q: Do you charge for this service? Why are you providing it?

A: No, this service is free of charge. The library's mission is to inform, educate, entertain, and culturally enrich our patrons. Not only does providing wireless Internet access fit well with that goal, but it also frees up some of our desktop computers for people who don't have their own wireless-enabled laptop.

Q: Where can I access the wireless network? Where should I sit for the best signal?

A: The wireless network covers all of the public areas within the building, though you will find the strongest signal near the public reference desks and in the stacks where the books, CDs, and other materials are shelved.

Q: How fast is your wireless Internet connection?

A: Your wireless connection speed will vary depending on a variety of factors. Our Internet connection is shared by everyone using the wireless network as well as by all the desktop computers in the library. Therefore, the more people in the library using our wireless network or desktop computers, the slower your connection will be. Other factors include the type of wireless network card and hardware drivers you are using, how your computer is configured, where you are located in the building, etc. Typically you should see download speeds anywhere from 100 to 4000 Kbps.

Q: Is there anything that could interfere with my connection?

A: Wireless networks connect using radio waves. Those things that can cause radio interference (e.g. walls, furniture, people, cordless telephones on a nearby frequency, etc.) can also cause interference with your wireless connection. However, we've tested this network and you should receive a good signal from most public areas of the building. If you experience a connection problem, try moving to a different part of the library.

Q: What do I need to get started?

A: Everything you need to use our wireless network is listed in the System Requirements section at the beginning of this document.

Q: Do I need special software or drivers to connect?

A: Up-to-date drivers can remedy many connection problems. The drivers included with your wireless network card may be several generations old. Updates are usually available on the vendor's website.

Q: Do I need to register to use this service? Do I need a library card?

A: No. Currently we are offering free access to everyone who visits our library. You do not need to be a resident of our district, nor do you even need a library card. However, we reserve the right to change this policy in the future if necessary.

Q: What if I don't own a laptop?

A: If you don't own a laptop you cannot use the wireless network, but you can still access the Internet using the desktop computers throughout the building.

Q: I'm having problems connecting to your wireless network. What can I do?

A: Are you using any sort of firewall, web filtering or popup blocking software on your computer? If so, it may be preventing you from accessing our wireless network. If you're not sure how to configure your firewall, web filter, or popup blocker software, try turning them off while you connect to our wireless network. Once you're connected, turn them back on again. Given the large number of security software applications available, unfortunately we cannot provide step-by-step instructions, so your best resource is typically the online help that came with your software.

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Q: What if I have other problems? Can a librarian help me configure my computer?

A: Sorry, everyone's computer is different and you are responsible for knowing how to configure your own equipment. **Our librarians are not allowed to make changes to your equipment and the library cannot be responsible for any changes you make to your own computer's settings.** If you need additional assistance, you may need to contact your laptop or wireless network card manufacturer's technical support service.

Given the various kinds of laptop computers, wireless network cards, operating systems, and wireless access software, we also cannot guarantee that your computer will work with our wireless network. However, if you are using Wi-Fi certified 802.11g or 802.11b equipment, and configure your wireless card using the settings described in this document, you should be able to connect. To see if your equipment is Wi-Fi certified, check with your laptop or wireless network card manufacturer.

Q: Why can't I use my copy of Outlook/Outlook Express/Eudora/Pegasus Email/AOL or other e-mail clients to send e-mail from my laptop while I'm connected to the library's wireless network?

A: For security reasons we currently deny access to SMTP port 25. This means you will not be able to send email using locally installed software on your laptop like Outlook, Outlook Express, Eudora, Pegasus, and so forth; however, you will still be able to *read* email using these programs. We have decided to do this because people may try to send "spam" from our library, and unfortunately, it would look like it was coming from us, and then the library would be black-listed by various spam filters. **If you need to send email while connected to our wireless network, please use a web-based email service** like Hotmail or Yahoo! Mail, or check with your Internet Service Provider to see if they provide a web-based interface to your email account.

Q: Can I print from the wireless network?

A: No, there are no printers configured on the wireless network. To print you will need to save your document to a floppy disk, CD, or USB key, or email the file to yourself, and then open it on one of our desktop computers, and print from there.

Q: Does a wireless network card reduce my laptop computer's battery life?

A: Yes. The wireless network card uses the laptop's battery more since it is constantly emitting radio signals to maintain the network connection. If you plan on using our wireless network connection for an extended period of time, you should try to find one of the many tables we provide with integrated electrical outlets.

Q: Is this network secure?

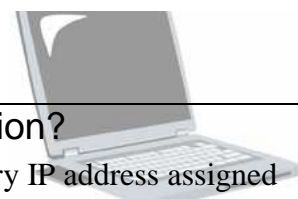
A: No, public wireless networks are by nature not secure. Connecting your computer to the Internet via our wireless network will expose you to all the risks and dangers that are present on the Internet, including but not limited to: computer viruses, spyware, hackers, spam, online fraud, and identity theft. You are responsible for securing your computer against these threats (e.g. by using antivirus and anti-spyware software, running a personal firewall program, turning off file sharing, etc.) and for taking the necessary precautions while using the Internet. **You use the library's wireless network at your own risk.**

However, there are a number of free software tools available to help protect your computer. A selected list of some of these tools can be found at the end of this document.

If you are transferring confidential information (passwords, credit card numbers, online banking information, health data and so on) you are strongly encouraged to use secure web sites or other techniques, like a Virtual Private Network (VPN) or Secure Shell (SSH) connection, to safeguard your confidentiality. **The library is not responsible for insuring the privacy of information you transfer over our network.**

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Q: What about my privacy? Do you collect or log data about my session?

A: The library temporarily collects information about the hardware address and temporary IP address assigned to your computer for the duration of your network session. The wireless network neither collects nor stores any other information about you, your computer, or the data you transfer over our network. However, the library does collect aggregate information about the online services and websites our patrons use so we can better understand our patrons' needs and improve our online services for their benefit.

Q: I have a question not covered here? What should I do?

A: Contact the library's Computer Services and IT Systems staff by filling out a question/comment form at <http://www.eapl.org/forms/public-email-form.asp>.

Additional Resources

Wi-Fi Standards, Introductions and Interoperability Certification

Webopedia Overview of 802.11 Network Standards - http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/8/802_11.html

Wi-Fi Alliance Certification Program - <http://www.wi-fi.org>

PC World "Mobile Computing: All About Wi-Fi" - <http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,112138,00.asp>

Free Personal Firewall Software

Windows XP Firewall (built into Service Pack 2) –

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/networking/security/winfirewall.msp>

ZoneAlarm – <http://www.zonelabs.com/store/content/company/products/zna/m/freeDownload.jsp>

Comodo Free Firewall – <http://www.personalfirewall.comodo.com/>

Free Antivirus Software

AVG Antivirus Free Edition – <http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/avg-anti-virus-free/lng/us/tpl/v5>

Avast! Home Edition – http://www.avast.com/eng/avast_4_home.html

Free Spyware Removal Software

Lavasoft Adaware – <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>

Spybot Search & Destroy – <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/download/index.html>

AVG Anti-Spyware Free – <http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/20/lng/us/tpl/v5>