



<http://www.smartstuff.com/fps/fpsinfo.html>

Fool Proof is a powerful, full-featured desktop security software, PC security software and Macintosh security software solution that's still the easiest to use. The leading desktop security solution: allows multiple Security Groups, locks applications and Control Panels, directs file saving, provides internet access security, is fully network-manageable.



http://www.fortres.com/products/fortres_101.htm

Fortres 101 is an innovative security agent that resides invisibly between the computer and the user. A computer sentinel, Fortres 101 monitors each action the user makes and determines if that action is legal or not. As a systems administrator for one or one thousand machines, software security is a must. Fortres 101 offers you the ability to restrict/block local hard drives and removable floppy disk drives as well as any local file, folder, or application.

one or two computer-savvy hackers who will delight in trying to get around any block. If you're lucky enough to identify the students behind all the changes, you have two choices – ban them or try to co-opt or employ them to "help" you keep the computers consistent!

SECURITY CAN GET IN THE WAY!

Up to this point, the applications mentioned have focused on a "lock down" approach – with the goal to restrict user access tightly. This approach does not work, however, when a teacher's aim is to teach students about managing the computer itself. When the course content covers the operating system or computer set-up, students need the ability to manage system level changes.

A different approach to desktop security is taken by applications like Clean Slate and Deep Freeze. These work by identifying a core set of drives or directories and freezing them so they can not be altered, then protecting them inside a hidden kernel. The student using the computer finds it is apparently wide open. Changes can be easily made and even attempts to modify or trash protected files will appear to be successful. In the background, however, any changes are simply caching to another hidden file, separate from the protected core. Upon reboot, this temporary cache file is wiped, and the original computer settings are completely restored. Any trace of the previous student is gone. Erased files are miraculously back, installed software is gone, and all preferences are back to your chosen settings. Even downloaded viruses get wiped – the nasty changes they appeared to make at the system level were merely cache file changes, gone at reboot. Our network computer technician swears by Deep Freeze as a great way to explore safely the potential harm a virus could cause!

I like this kind of desktop security best. It does not impede the functionality of the computer for the student, and a simple reboot ensures that the next student sits down to a perfect workstation. Now I can spend my valuable time doing more important things.

At last, a cure for the computer gremlins! ■