Homework 1 (Module: Personal Computer Security)

a. What does a firewall do? Why is it a good idea to turn on the firewall in a personal computer?

b. Find out how to manage the firewall settings on your computer. Explain how you can get to the configuration panel (you can include screenshots if needed). What do you see there? Is the firewall turned on? In the current firewall configuration, which services are allowed to receive incoming connections? Do they seem reasonable to you?

c. What anti-virus product do you use in your personal computer? Check when the last time the anti-virus system has updated the attack signatures; report that time. Is the auto-update option of the anti-virus in your computer enabled?
d. Update the following pieces of software (if present on your computer). Report the current version label of each one after the update.

Operating System (Windows, Mac OS X, or Linux)

Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, or Safari

Office Software (Microsoft Office, or Open Office)

Java

Acrobat Reader, Adobe Flash

Email clients