OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

The Antivirus Blues

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"The security aspect of cyber is very, very tough. And maybe, it's hardly doable."

That remark, potentially the most incoherent ever spoken at a modern Presidential debate, exposed Donald Trump's dismal knowledge of computer security, an issue which, Trump notwithstanding, has affected the *Campus Times* staff—and my sanity—quite dearly.

The *Campus Times*, like many newspapers, has a complicated relationship with technology.

Even with the majority of our readers now online, by force of nostalgia, our staff still slaves away for 10 questionable hours each Sunday to produce the weekly print edition.

As online editor (read: IT), I'm responsible for attending to the Mac Minis that the editors use to produce the paper. Our Macs are not endowed with very much memory, but for our purposes, they should do the job. Except, they don't.

They were supposed to be an upgrade from the dreadful 2005 PowerPC models of yore, but they've been caterpillar-slow right from the moment we got them. We've grown quite accustomed to everyone's favorite rainbow-colored spinning pinwheel, or, as it's more aptly called, the beachball.

This semester, at the end of a particularly keyboard-banging, mouse-abusing, beachball-spinning night, my patience finally ran out. I launched a full-on investigation.

What could be slowing our Minis? I lay in wait until the next computer froze. Then, as soon as I heard the next editor groan in computational agony, I pounced. I grabbed the mouse, threw open the Mac Activity Monitor, and caught the RAM vandal red-handed.

Weighing in at a whopping 847MB: Sophos Anti-Virus.

Sophos is a required install on all University-owned computers, and it was absurdly consuming nearly a quarter of our computers' memory. Which, after OS X, Chrome, and all necessary peripherals, left us with a measly 200MB to make the paper.

What makes Sophos such a resource hog? Well, at startup, Sophos spawns seven separate processes. Then starts the scanning.

Sophos scans and scans and scans. It scans your files, scans your downloads, scans your uploads, and scans every single web page you visit.

And when it's not scanning, Sophos goes out of its way to engorge itself on more precious RAM, downloading updates from centralized University servers, in hopes of getting the scoop on the biggest, baddest, latest "threat."

The University prominently advertises the statistic that "Nine out of Ten Computer Doctors Recommend Sophos." The Campus Times was not able to independently verify this claim.

One of our computers, by some miracle of God, managed to escape the mandatory installation—given away by the absence of the Sophos Shield™ in the menu bar. For the sake of our survival, we've reserved this machine for our news editor.

I knew we mustn't be alone, so I scoured the Internet in search of advice. To my relief, I found a whole community of people just like us, who, due to the policies of their employer, school, or organization, have been forced to interact with a computer that contained a copy of Sophos. I scrolled through page after page of desperate victims demanding answers.

From the fed up:

"Memory usage seems to be way up with version 9. I mean really this is insane."

To the conspiratorial:

"Sophos is not what they want you to believe. It is ruining my business, screwing up my Mac."

To the downright enraged:

"IT IS RUINING MY TIME AND TAKING OVER MY MACHINE!"

Something told me that the occasional employee apology would do little to satisfy all this Sophos bloodlust.

"The improvement to 'turn off' the processes related to unused features will only be available in version 9.2."

And the saddest story of all? A poor soul who had made the mistake of installing the Sophos SafeGuard™ full-disk-encryption expansion pack.

"My Mac now consists of a gray screen with a Sophos login space and that's all! Everything is lost and my hard drive has to be replaced."

"I'm kind of wishing I'd stuck with the nice little virus I'd gotten as opposed to this computer hard drive eating monster!"

That's when it hit me. Sophos hogs your computer's memory. It slows your machine to a halt. It is near impossible to remove. It does everything a good computer virus would.

Sophos must be a virus.

I had to know for sure, so I made a call.

"...Hello? Is this Sophos?"

"Yes, this is Sophos."

"I have a question. Is Sophos a virus?"

"No it is not. Sophos is a product."

"Oh. But Sophos is taking a quarter of our memory, it's acting just like a virus. Are you sure?"

"Sophos is an anti-virus. It stops the viruses."

"Well, alright. One more thing, does the phrase 'Tough on Cyber' mean anything to you?"

Click.

Fraumeni is a member of the Class of 2017.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Getting Used to New Douglass

The Frederick Douglass Building's recent $27 million makeover will put the space to far better and livelier use, even as changes to the dining spaces leave something to be desired.

Douglass Dining Hall stands out among the many renovations. Its offerings, which include Java's coffee and allergen-free and kosher food, bring variety that the old dining hall lacked. The decor is reminiscent of Chipotle.

Its urban feel and multiple seating and dining options—particularly the Genesee Room, which features a fireplace and stays open for late night dining—set it apart from Danforth Dining Hall.

So does its lack of a salad bar, the loss of which some students lamented. The renovations have largely assimilated the two dining halls by bringing a micro-restaurant layout to Douglass.

We're not sure that's a good thing. One of the nicest things about Old Douglass was the room itself—sure, it was a little shabby-looking, but it was roomy, naturally-lighted, and comfortable—like an old shoe. It's a bit of a shame that we'll never again experience the simple pleasure of sitting on the balcony in Douglass on a snowy day, perhaps studying or reading a newspaper while idly snacking on pizza and french fries. And to top it all off, this year's freshman will never know the joy of "free Dougie."

New Douglass can feel more cramped than Danforth. The abundance and arrangement of seating and stations mean that as lines grow, diners have a harder time moving through the hall. Additionally, food often runs out and, at least for now, does not come with nutritional labels.

The addition of outdoor seating makes good use of the Douglass terrace and provides a convenient place for students to eat their Grab & Go lunches. The new Grab & Go location is more easily accessible—you don't have to climb to the top of the building to get there—but quickly becomes cramped when students flood

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it between classes.

The late-night dining option in the Genessee Room is probably one of the most novel improvements to Douglass. Open from 9pm to midnight (2am on weekends), it offers an alternative to the Pit for students looking to grab a fried snack while studying late. The menu is small, but offers some options not available at the Pit—namely, bone-in chicken wings and poutine.

While it might take time to learn to accommodate the popularity of the dining spaces, the changes are generally welcome.

The removal of the balcony has opened up the second-floor space that formerly housed Douglass Dining Hall. It's been refurbished into a polished multi-purpose ballroom which offers a distinct feel from the Gleason-esque vibe of many of the renovated rooms.

Bringing the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center to the third floor lends it some much-deserved prominence on campus, while the addition of a Language Center, a communal kitchen, meeting and study spaces, green rooms, and more on the fourth floor will encourage student activity on a floor previously occupied by Grab & Go and the Meliora Restaurant.

A sky bridge connecting Douglass and Rush Rhees looks slightly out of place, hovering closely above the walkway. However, it allows convenient travel between the two buildings, is impressive to walk through, and echoes Wilson Common's prominent glass ceiling. We're sure this will be a welcome addition when temperatures drop next month, since it means that students can easily travel between Douglass, Wilson Commons, and Rush Rhees without stepping outside into the snow.

These three buildings comprise a central hub on campus, and Douglass' shift into a more student-oriented space concentrates student activity and creates new spaces for it. It'll be interesting to see what alumni think of the renovations during Meliora Weekend—perhaps New Douglass can even make up for the lamented removal of the on-campus bookstore.