

"Keeping You Informed"

Policy Key (Impulse/Safe Connect)

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What is Policy Key?

Policy Key is the software that Messiah College Student Computer Services currently uses to prevent mass spyware/virus infections on campus. The version for Windows XP is "Impulse," and the version for Windows Vista is "Safe Connect."

Once installed, Policy Key checks to make sure that your windows updates are being downloaded automatically, that you have an Anti-virus program installed and that your virus definitions are up to date. When any of these conditions are not met, you will receive an error message when you open a browser. You will then be "Quarantined" to the Messiah domain until you correct the problem (i.e. turn automatic updates back on or update your virus definitions).

Why should I know about it?

If you have a PC running Windows, you need Policy Key installed in order to connect to the internet on Messiah's residential network. You may remember seeing the prompt to install it the first time you went on the internet. From that point on, you can forget that it exists! If you have anything besides a Windows PC, you don't have to worry about Policy Key at all!

Technical Information:

Impulse/SafeConnect Website

When Policy Key installs, it sometimes runs into some problems. If you are prompted to install it every time you open your browser (even though you have already installed it), something has gone wrong with the installation.

To fix it try the following:

1. XP: Start (-> Settings) -> Control Panel -> Add/Remove Programs
VISTA: Start -> Control Panel -> Remove Programs
2. Look for anything called "Impulse," "Policy Key," or "Safe Connect" and uninstall it.
3. Reboot your computer.
4. Open a browser and install Policy Key when prompted.

If you experience any difficulty during this process or it doesn't fix your specific problem please contact Student Computer Services at ext. 5901.