

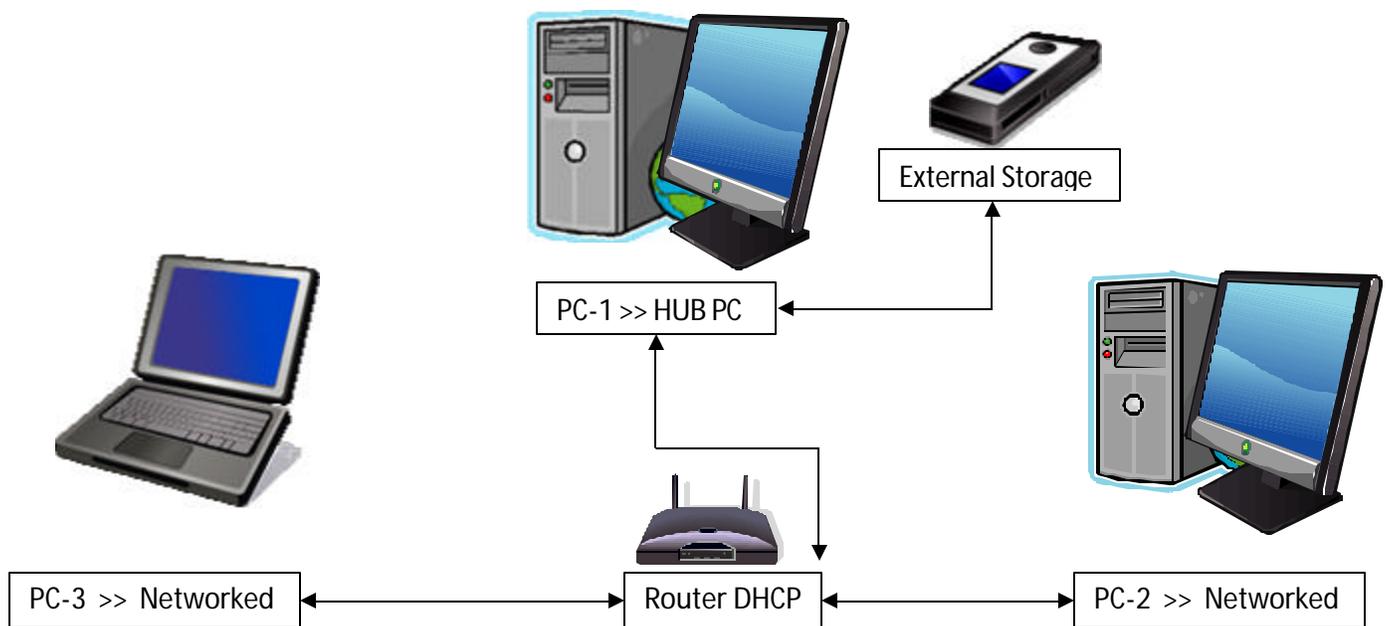
Microsoft Live One Care, Interim Evaluation

Reason for trying the software

Initially the software was installed to see if it could actually deal with a virus infection that had installed itself as an exception in the Symantec software. Live-One-Care was successful and has kept the PC running for the last 2 months.

Features and behavior

The software integrates into the existing spyware, firewall, and antivirus components of the Microsoft operating system and tries to further remind users of the importance of keeping service packs up to date and requires a backup strategy. It also wants to work in clusters of 3 PC's that require an external backup media.



The software lets you elect one "Hub PC". It is recommended that this PC have a backup device (DVD-R/W drives are not recognized) attached. This is usually an external hard drive. Two other PC's then connect through this PC for backup purposes. The hub PC will also receive a status report from the other devices, provided they are active on the network. Hence all tasks required will show up. These include Microsoft Updates that are not installed or missing and last backup performed. Backup can be automated but required all PC's to be running at that time.

The program does streamline the process and is overall less invasive than a host of other programs. It also deletes conflicting antivirus software when being installed. The PC's seem to run better, but it pesters the user to keep the PC up to date (it could be a good thing).

Conclusion

I would very much recommend the program for the home user. The cost is comparable to other individual PC user software at \$59.00 for three PC's. I believe that additional licenses can be purchased.

I don't know if a commercial version is available but the extra storage requirement may mean that a small pseudo data server would be required to address the backup needs of more than 3 PC's. Hence I would hesitate to deploy this product. It is, however, useful for the removal of stubborn virus or malware.