

Re: Do I have a virus

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security.virus/2003-10/1949.html>

From: Bruce Chambers (*bchambers_at_nospamcableone.net*)

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Greetings --

There are at least three varieties of pop-ups, and the solutions vary accordingly. Which specific type(s) is troubling you?

1) Does the title bar of these pop-ups read "Messenger Service?"

This type of spam has become quite common over the past several months, and unintentionally serves as a valid security "alert." It demonstrates that you haven't been taking sufficient precautions while connected to the Internet. Your data probably hasn't been compromised by these specific advertisements, but if you're open to this exploit, you may well be open to other threats, such as the Blaster Worm that recently swept cross the Internet. Install and use a decent, properly configured firewall. (Merely disabling the messenger service, as some people recommend, only hides the symptom, and does little or nothing to truly secure your machine.) And ignoring or just "putting up with" the security gap represented by these messages is particularly foolish.

Messenger Service of Windows

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=KB:en-us:168893>

Messenger Service Window That Contains an Internet Advertisement Appears

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=330904>

Stopping Advertisements with Messenger Service Titles

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/communicate/stopspam.asp>

Blocking Ads, Parasites, and Hijackers with a Hosts File

<http://www.mvps.org/winhelp2002/hosts.htm>

Oh, and be especially wary of people who advise you to do nothing more than disable the messenger service. Disabling the messenger service, by itself, is a "head in the sand" approach to computer security. The real problem is not the messenger service pop-ups; they're actually providing a useful, if annoying, service by acting as

a security alert. The true problem is the unsecured computer, and you've been advised to merely turn off the warnings. How is this helpful?

2) For regular Internet pop-ups, you might try the free 12Ghosts Popup-killer from <http://12ghosts.com/ghosts/popup.htm> or Pop-Up Stopper from <http://www.panicware.com/>. Myself, I use Norton Internet Security, which, in addition to containing Norton Anti-Virus and Personal Firewall, also blocks many of the pop-up adds on the Internet.

3) For pop-ups caused by some sort of "adware" and/or "spyware," such as Gator, Comet Cursors, or Bonzai Buddy, that you've deliberately installed, two products that are quite effective at finding and removing scumware are Ad-Aware from www.lavasoft.de and SpyBot Search and Destroy from <http://security.kolla.de/>. Both have free evaluation versions.

You'll either need to find a 3rd party firewall that is compatible with AOL, or switch to a real ISP that is compatible with the real Internet..

AOL is an on-line content provider that ignores international Internetworking standards in favor of its own proprietary products, and has deliberately made its connection software incompatible with both WinXP's built-in firewall and WinXP's Internet Connection Sharing feature. AOL's proprietary connection applet is deliberately designed to preclude your setting/adjusting any of its properties, to include enabling/disabling WinXP's ICF and ICS.

Bruce Chambers

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Help us help you:

<http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once. -- RAH

"barb" <blindaddress@aol.com> wrote in message

news:09ec01c38e21\$9ea2a4f0\$a101280a@phx.gbl...

> I am being bombarded with pop-up ads and not just a few.
> This has been going on for about three weeks. An example
> is "LowerMYBill-Microsoft Internet" and Enigma-Microsoft
> Internert and on and on just one right after the other. I
> did everything AOL said to do to block that stuff and
> nothing works and they don't take responsibility for it.
> This is driving me crazy. I have a feeling it started when
> I downloaded a free trial on a program to see if I wanted
> to purchase. I may have to drop AOL and go to another
> server because I can't stand this much longer. HELP!!