

IE will not load any website page

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I am running Windows XP with Norton Antivirus. After connecting to the internet via phone modem, I clicked on IE as usual to load my homepage, yahoo.com. I got the page cannot be found, check your settings, dns error page. So I closed it and was just going to click on IE again. However, my desktop now showed that all of my files, everything on my computer, had been changed to .lnk files. Nothing would open and I kept getting the message that Windows could not find a program to open these files. I never received any messages from Symantec of a virus on my computer. Restore function was also disabled. I finally had to use the 5 restore discs provided by HP and put my computer back to its' factory condition.

Now I have two problems. The first is that something is loading mass emails from my computer to email addresses not contained in address book and Symantec scans them but won't allow them to send. There is a never ending amount of them. The only way I can stop it is to reboot.

The second is that IE will open my homepage, but it is a cached version because the date and time never changes. My big problem is that I cannot go to any webpage at all. No link, no URL will load. It is like some virus has disabled my capacity to get an active webpage. I am at a loss as to how to fix this since I can't get to any URL's and cannot even download antivirus definitions or updates.

Any help would be appreciated.