

Re: Adcaster – argh

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Amanda wrote:

- > *Does anyone know how to block Adcaster? Apparently it's*
- > *a program that spammers can purchase that sends pop-up*
- > *ads via Windows Messenger to known IP addresses. (I'm no*
- > *expert, this is just how I'm understanding it...could be*
- > *inaccurate.)*
- >
- > *For some reason, it only affects me when I've dialed in*
- > *through AOL and have their software running. My other*
- > *non-AOL dialup and IE don't seem to open it up to*
- > *problems for some reason.*
- >
- > *I've searched for months trying to find the answer to*
- > *blocking it, and come up empty. But this article states*
- > *that it's a simple fix (would have been nicer if they'd*
- > *stated what the fix was!):*
- >
- > *"One of Rines' latest ventures is Adcaster Extreme, a*
- > *software program that broadcasts pop-up ads to Windows*
- > *computers running the Messenger service. He claims the*
- > *technology isn't like e-mail spamming, because PC users*
- > *can turn off a feature in Windows to block the pop-ups."*
- > <http://www.wired.com/news/print/0,1294,60714,00.html>
- >
- > *Any help would be very much appreciated.*

Popups and Home Page Hijacks come in several flavors.. However, if you use most of the items in the list I am about to give you, you will lessen your popups, security holes and spam all with one list. Your problem may be Messenger Popups (you should follow the firewall advice and do a Google search on 'disable messenger service in windows xp' to fix this) or web page popups (you should follow the Google Toolbar advice section for these.) You may have spyware/adware infesting your machine, follow the appropriate section for that, making sure you use at least THREE of the tools I list to scan and clean your machine AFTER updating them. Cleaning up spyware/adware/malware usually solves home page hijackers as well.

microsoft.public.security: Re: Adcaster – argh

Please Notice that if you use AOL, you should at least upgrade to 9.0 or greater before doing any of the fixes. I know you can get AOL 9.0 at almost any convenience store, gas station, super market or other retail outlet in the world, so this should not be a problem.

Turn on that firewall...

<http://www.microsoft.com/WindowsXP/home/using/howto/homenet/icf.asp>

(It has been reported that it now works with AOL 9.0+)

Make sure you have all the updates (critical) installed from:

<http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/>

(Scan for updates, Review and Install)

Get rid of the spy/ad/mal-ware..

(Yes – using MORE than one of these..

I recommend at least the first three. Also..

UPDATE the definitions for them before using.)

Spybot Search and Destroy

<http://www.safer-networking.net/>

Lavasoft AdAware

<http://www.lavasoft.de>

CWSShredder

<http://www.spywareinfo.com/~merijn/downloads.html>

Hijack This!

<http://mjc1.com/mirror/hjt/>

I also like "The Cleaner" and "SpywareBlaster" and "SpywareGuard".

– <http://www.moosoft.com/>

– <http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/>

The first is a PAY product, but useable for 30 days – it has found and eliminated problems in the past the others did not. The latter two are prevention mechanisms. I like SpywareGuard for those with enough processor to have something running like antivirus software – and it prevents browser hijacking quite well.

And Assortment of Others:

<http://www.merijn.org/downloads.html>

After you cleanup your PC somewhat of spy/ad/mal-ware, verify your antivirus software is updated and run a full scan of your computer. If you have no antivirus software – get one NOW! Grisoft AntiVirus:

http://www.grisoft.com/us/us_dwnl_free.php

Empty your Temporary Internet Files and shrink the size it stores to about 80 to 120MB (seems to be an optimal size for the normal user)

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- Open ONE copy of Internet Explorer.
- Select TOOLS → Internet Options.
- Under the General tab in the "Temporary Internet Files" section, do the following:
 - Click on "Delete Cookies" (click OK)
 - Click on "Settings" and change the "Amount of disk space to use:" to something between 80MB and 120MB. (Betting it is MUCH larger right now.)
 - Click OK.
 - Click on "Delete Files" and select to "Delete all offline contents" (the checkbox) and click OK. (If you had a LOT, this could take 2–10 minutes or more.)
- Once it is done, click OK, close Internet Explorer
- Re–open Internet Explorer.

Uninstall any software you do not use often/ever. (If you have something installed but never use it, uninstall it.) If you go through Control Panel → Add/Remove Programs and see things you seldom if ever use, it is to your advantage to remove it.

Also, if you are tired of Web Page Pop–Ups/Unders.. You could try the Google Toolbar.

<http://toolbar.google.com/>

Stop loading applications at logon.. run MSCONFIG and look under the startup tab for things you DON'T want to startup! Search the Internet with Google to discover what things are safe to remove and what things may even be malware infecting your computer.

Better control your email and lessen the amount of time you spend dealing with SPAM:

SpamBayes

<http://spambayes.sourceforge.net>

or

Spamihilator.

<http://www.spamihilator.com>

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