

# Re: Problem with AboutBlank and missing Notepad

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AboutBlank hijacked my homepage and somehow I got the CWS SearchX at the same time. It screwed up my shortcuts to Notepad too. After reading a few posts here and elsewhere and looking at my notes from a somewhat similar experience with ISearch, here is what I did to finally fix the problem and got rid of AboutBlank as my homepage. I'm not a computer tech. so I don't know the technical aspects of the process but it worked for me. (Note: I'm running WinXP Home. I had Norton Antivirus, Spybot, WinXP Firewall and D-link Firewall running but still got the problem).

I ran Norton AntiVirus but it didn't detect anything.

I ran Spybot but it didn't detect anything.

I ran CW Shredder and it found CWS SearchX. I removed it.

I downloaded and ran AdAware (run the update and get the latest revision first). It found a slug of problems in my Folders and Registry. I had AdAware fix them. (Note: Some had to be fixed after a reboot)

I rebooted in Safe Mode and then completed the following:

Make sure you are set to Show Hidden Files and Folders and delete the following files/folders:

Delete files/folder from the following directories (But not the directory itself, for example delete all files/folder IN temp; but not temp itself!)

```
[*]C:\Windows\Temp\  
[*]C:\Documents and Settings\<<Your Profile>\Local Settings\Temp\  
[*]C:\Documents and Settings\<<All other users Profile>\Local Settings\Temp\  
[*]C:\Documents and Settings\<<Your Profile>\Local Settings\Temporary  
Internet Files\ [*]C:\Documents and Settings\<<All other users Profile>\Local  
Settings\Temporary Internet Files\  
[*]Empty your "Recycle Bin"
```

```
[*]Reboot
```

microsoft.public.security: Re: Problem with AboutBlank and missing Notepad

I then ran HijackThis. This first item on the list was an R1-HKCU that ended in AboutBlank. I checked the box and had HJT remove it.

I rebooted and everything was back to normal, except my shortcuts to Notepad were still screwed up. I right clicked on the shortcuts, selected properties and changed the Target to: C:\WINDOWS\notepad.exe and cleared the stuff that was in the Start-In box.

My computer seems to be back to normal. Hope this works for you. Good luck. Mac

PS: I just read a post where a guy with a similar problem was able to resolve it by just going back to a RESTORE POINT prior to getting infected. You may want to give that a try before doing all of the above.