

Re: application popup

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2003-08/9331.html

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Thanks... I am using winproxy firewall and i've upped the level of security one notch. I can no longer get into msn messenger, but I guess I can live with that.

I will see today if the anonymous messages stop.

>-----Original Message-----

>Greetings --

>

> *This particular "sales method" is strikingly similar to the*

> *"protection" rackets offered to small businesses by organized*

> *criminals. Yes, it's a scam; no reputable business would need to*

> *resort to extortion. Particularly since they're trying to sell you a*

> *type of protection that is already available to you free of charge.*

>

> *This type of spam has become quite common over the past few*

> *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. Install and use a decent,*

> *properly configured firewall. (Disabling the messenger service, as*

> *some people recommend, only hides the symptom, and does nothing to*

- >secure your machine.) And ignoring or just "putting up with" these
- >messages and the problem they represent 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/stops pam.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 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 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?
- >
- > Equivalent Scenario 1: Somewhere in a house, a small fire starts,
- >and sets off the smoke alarm. You, not immediately seeing any
- >fire/smoke, complain about the noise of the smoke detector, and are
- >advised to remove the smoke detector's battery and go back to sleep.
- >
- > Equivalent Scenario 2: You over-exert your shoulder at work or
- >play, causing bursitis. After weeks of annoying and sometimes
- >excruciating pain whenever you try to reach over your head, you go to

>a doctor and say, while demonstrating the motion, "Doc,
it hurts when
>I do this." The doctor, being as helpful as some of your
respondents,
>replies, "Well, don't do that."
>
> I'm beginning to think that the people deliberately
posting such
>bad advice are hacker-wannabes who have no true interest
in helping
>you secure your system, but would rather give you a false
sense of
>security while ensuring that your computer is still open
to
>exploitation.
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