

Re: Messenger service

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2004-02/3427.html

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Greetings --

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 across 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>

Whichever firewall you decide upon, be sure to ensure UDP ports 135, 137, and 138 and TCP ports 135, 139, and 445 are all blocked. You may also disable Inbound NetBIOS (NetBIOS over TCP/IP). You'll have to follow the instructions from firewall's manufacturer for the specific steps.

You can test your firewall at:

Symantec Security Check

http://security.symantec.com/ssc/vr_main.asp?langid=ie&venid=sym&plfid=23&pkj=GPVHGBYNCJEIMXOKCDT

Security Scan – Sygate Online Services

<http://www.sygatetech.com/>

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?

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

"Dai" <anomanous@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:1459301c3f8c1\$7f3915d0\$a401280a@phx.gbl...

> Hi

> I use windows messenger reguarly for talking to my
> freinds online, but recently i have been receiving pop-
> ups while not even on the internet, called "Messenger
> Service", containing and internet address and advertising
> (explicit) webcam programs, i do not know how to get rid
> of it orhow it has started, also at the same time i have
> been recieving explicit spam e-mails, i use the following
> sites on the internet
> BBC.CO.UK
> SIMCITY.COM
> EAGAMES.COM
> BT.COM
> MSN.COM
> i have not used any other sites on my pc, and know that
> those sites are trusted, how have i received them and how
> do i get rid of these messages?