

## Re: Is This Warning Legitimate?

**Source:**

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2004-03/1632.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2004-03/1632.html)

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**From:** Bruce Chambers (*bchambers\_at\_nospamcableone.net*)

**Date:** 03/11/04

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 2004 20:33:53 -0700

Greetings --

Other than this being a glaringly obvious scam (the site is not a valid Microsoft URL), it's a warning that your PC is very insecure.

Does the title bar of these pop-ups read "Messenger Service?"

This type of spam has become quite common over the year or so, 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>

Blocking Ads, Parasites, and Hijackers with a Hosts File

<http://www.mvps.org/winhelp2002/hosts.htm>

HOW TO Enable or Disable Internet Connection Firewall in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:Q283673>

If you decide on a 3rd party firewall product, 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

microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\_admin: Re: Is This Warning Legitimate?

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

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?

For regular Internet pop-ups, you might try the free 12Ghosts Popup-killer from <http://12ghosts.com/ghosts/popup.htm>, Pop-Up Stopper from <http://www.panicware.com/>, or the Google Toolbar from <http://toolbar.google.com/>, which is what I use.

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
"Gail" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message
news:7c3b01c4070c$95782ee0$a601280a@phx.gbl...
>I would like to know if this warning is actually from
> Microsoft. I would also like to know how to contact
> Microsoft in the future to find out if such information
> is legitimate.
>
> I received a dialog box with this in the tital bar:
> "Warning: Important Message!!! Microsoft Internet
> Explorer
>
> The message read:
> Warning. Important Message!!!
>
> You are seeing this message, because we have detected
> that you have tracking software installed in your
> machine. (more info)
>
>
> This is not a virus, but a program in your machine that
> monitors and transmits all of your online activities, and
> is a serious violation of
> your privacy.
>
>
> Below is a link to a free scanner to download that will
> find and remove all spyware programs on your machine:
> Get the scanner
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