

Re: commander toolbar

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2004-05/0335.html

From: Shenan Stanley (*news_helper_at_hushmail.com*)

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mark wrote:

- > *immediately after installing the latest security updates,*
- > *my IE browser has an extra toolbar called the "commander*
- > *toolbar". also, my home page is stuck on "about: blank"*
- > *and i cannot reset it so that it stays that way. i am*
- > *assuming that this may have been bundled with the security*
- > *updates, since i cannot think of anything else i did that*
- > *may have caused this and the timing points to the updates*
- > *i installed.*
- >
- > *if anyone knows where this came from or how to get rid of*
- > *this extra toolbar, i would be most grateful if you would*
- > *email the solution to*

It's Adware/spyware/hijackers.. Try CWShredder from the list below for your particular problem.. Perhaps HijackThis might be the one to fix it. Either way – I would run through the entire list if I was you..

Note that Microsoft is not sending you patches in emails nor should you EVER open attachments you did not expect in emails. You simply posted your un-munged email address to the thousands of newsgroups that this is spread to around the world and it has been "harvested".

My other suggestions to you include:

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. SpywareBlaster is a FANTASTIC free product, I suggest getting this after you cleanup and keeping it updated as well....

And Assortment of Others:
<http://spywareinfo.com/>

ALSO – Be sure to IMMUNIZE after you clean up. SpywareBlaster and Spybot Search and destroy both have these features – use both!

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)

- 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

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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://sourceforge.net/projects/spambayes/>

or

Spamihilator.

<http://www.spamihilator.com>

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