

Popups disabling login screen

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Situation:

XP2 machine with standard security settings.

Single Account setup with password.

DSL Internet connection.

MSN internet interface with IE locked out (you have to login through MSN).

I'm not logged into MSN.

The machine is sitting at the XP login screen, either after logout or reboot.

A popup executes (assumedly because some unwanted adware has gotten onto my machine that my scanning programs can't block or delete—in any case, no user involvement is necessary for this event to happen).

Suddenly, the login screen is gone and the desktop is fully available without the need of entering the password.

Is there some XP setup option I can take to prevent this behavior?