

Re: XP BS

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2004-04/4421.html>

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Let me address your newsgroup post (which should be on several continents and several thousands news servers around the world by now – with your email address attached – meaning you will be getting spam from all sorts of people trying to screw you over very soon now..) one point at a time. Let me also point out that my attitude is presented in the way it is to reflect your attitude. It is not meant to be offensive, more of a "see what you sound like – why would anyone want to help you with that attitude?" demonstration. I assure you, I do have some helpful advice in this response – whether you take it or not will be entirely up to you.

> *I am a 55 year old male that got my first computer 1 year ago windoes 98!*

So you bought a computer in the year 2003 with Windows '98 installed on it? Right there – you got taken. Although Windows 98 was an excellent product, it was becoming pretty anemic in function by 2003. Essentially it was 5 years old and in computer lifetimes, that is getting up in age. As for your age – that is irrelevant. I setup my 65 year old (at the time) grandmother with Windows XP some years back, and despite her age (since you seem to want to point that out) – she has no problems using it daily. Sure, when she tries something new, she has questions, but overall, she uses it for her emails, web surfing, composing letters/faxes in MS Word, etc.. on a daily basis with little to no problems to speak of. As for your sex, you're male – okay – great – relevance?

> *I was talked into upgrading everything! I am now very very sorry! I now have a big tower intel celeron etc. etc. With the biggest crock of bovine excrement, called "WINDOWS XP "!*

So, you – a 55 year old male let yourself be talked into something that you did not investigate first and you have the audacity to call the thing you were talked into without looking at it for yourself first the "biggest crock of bovine excrement"? Wow – that seems like the pot calling the kettle black (like that "older phrase" thrown in there?) You would think that someone with your age might have a little experience not to get "talked into things" they don't understand – or at least make sure there will be some

after-change training you on it.

- > *I now get everything I*
- > *look at put onto the hard drive, I get an unwanted*
- > *history of every web site I look at! I lost my MC Word*
- > *that I used to make letters, resume's, etc. And when I*
- > *try to get any help , online or otherwise they want my*
- > *credit card #.*

Well, you obviously were also convinced that once you put Windows XP on your computer it would be like your car or home and require no further maintenance or upkeep on your part.. Wait – you mean you cannot just let your car run every day without getting it tuned up, oil changed, gas put in it and other routine maintenance? Your house then.. uhm – you mean you sometimes have to paint your house or put locks on the doors or mow your lawn, put a fence around the yard for privacy, etc.. Wow – then I don't know how you could have ever thought the computer would be like your house/car!

1) If everything you "look at" was being put on the computer, you have other issue unrelated to Windows XP. Be more specific – you mean when you visit the sites in an unprotected manner, you click on something then something you may not have wanted gets installed? It's called Spyware/Adware/Malware/Worms/Trojans/Viruses. You must have protection from these things.

Look into Antivirus software (you mention money later on – so how about from this point on I only list FREE options out there for the taking, eh?) For the antivirus software, have you tried AVG Free AntiVirus? No? Go have a look here:

http://www.grisoft.com/us/us_dwnl_free.php

Don't like what you see, well, might I suggest avast! 4 Home edition:

http://www.avast.com/i_idt_1016.html

Still not doing it for you? There is Panda ActiveScan – a free ONLINE scanner, but that doesn't "protect you", more like cleanup after the fact:

<http://www.pandasoftware.com/activescan/>

No – wow, you are stubborn, there is also Trend Micro's Housecall Online scanner. It's also not a protection thing, but can help you cleanup a mess:

http://housecall.trendmicro.com/housecall/start_corp.asp

Yes – the last two install from the web – but they are safe.

If none of those Free Options do it for you, look into Symantec AntiVirus.

In my opinion, it is one of the best ones out there. Or you can look at the pay versions of the free products I listed above.

2) Unwanted history of every website you visit? Well, assuming you have not installed a third party web browser, this solution was staring you in the face from day one. You PC (being Windows XP) came with all sorts of built in help. Internet Explorer itself has built in help. look across the top of an open Windows Explorer (non-maximized) window and you will see what I mean. The last word "Help" is a menu – it allows you to look for help on this particular product. If you use it in this case (contents and index)

and search for "history" (the complaint you have) you will find a subject called "Specify the number of days that the history list keeps track of your pages" and if you click on (select it), you will see the following:

To specify the number of days that the History list keeps track of your pages

1. In Internet Explorer, on the Tools menu, click Internet Options.
2. Click the General tab.
3. Under History, change the number of days that the History list keeps track of your pages.

Notes

- To empty the History folder, click Clear History. This will temporarily free up disk space on your computer.
- For Help on an item, click ? at the top of the dialog box, and then click the item.

So, if you do that and "change the number of days that the History list keeps track of your pages" to zero (0), guess what that does? Admittedly, maybe not what you expect, but the history of pages will only be there for 1 day, when the calendar date on your machine changes (manually or by the day actually changing) then your history is gone. That only fixes the "history" issue. The address drop down may still have some of your pages listed, but those too should fade. And you can always manually clear the history if the sites you are going to might offend those using the computer after you.

3) You "lost you MS (yeah – I corrected it) Word"? How can you LOSE a program? It does not come with Windows XP, it did not COME with Windows 98 either. Microsoft Word is a separate product that you can install yourself.. Matter of fact – you have to. Yes – it is possible that your "first computer" came with Windows 98 and that MS Word was on it – but someone INSTALLED it – it did not come with the Windows 98 product, nor does it come with Windows XP. You should – when you bough the computer, gotten some CDs that had the products that were installed on it at the time of purchase on them for reinstallation in such a case as this. If you didn't, refer to the "you got taken" comment from above..

4) So when you try to get help online or otherwise, someone wants money? You don't know how to look. You found this place – this cost you any money? Does www.google.com cost money now? Does searching the Microsoft Knowledge Base cost money now? Does asking a computer savvy friend/family member cost money now? (okay – that one might – depending on the relationship. heh) You have to learn to search for the answers if you don't want to pay money for them. Like learning to work on your own car, repair problems with your own home – the answers are not usually bred into us and either we pay money for someone with the knowledge or we try to find ways to learn it ourselves. My suggestions to you are found in this answer to your dilemma.

> *Shame, shame, on you Mr. Bill Gates, have*
> *you forgotten that you were wonce poor and worked out of*

> *your garage? And they used to say Henry Ford would roll*
> *over in his grave, when he found out that his product was*
> *no longer available to the average citizen! Sincerlty,*
> *RICHARD*

Wow – now this is the dangerous part. It wasn't bad enough you posted your email address to everyone in the free world, but now we know where you live and for \$25 can know all your neighbors names, probably locate your other vital information and steal your identity. (Yeah – I removed the information..) Never do that – BAD idea.

What can I suggest to you to help harden your computer and solve your problems are mostly already stated above. Some things I did not put will be listed below in a shortened version of my normal "I have spyware, my home page has been hijacked, I get lots of spam email, I think I have been hacked, my computer seems slow" response – which must be annoying by now to 90% of the common volunteers (and yes – these newsgroups are ran by volunteers – well, most of the questions are answered by volunteers is probably the more accurate way of stating it.)

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. I like SpywareGuard for those with enough processor to have something running like antivirus software – and it prevents browser hijacking quite well. 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/>

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 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.

Tired of Web Page Pop–Ups/Unders.. You could try the Google Toolbar.

<http://toolbar.google.com/>

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>

I sincerely hope that there is SOME advice in this long response to your post that you find useful.

microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics: Re: XP BS

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<- Shenan ->
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