

Re: Programs that take over my computer

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-06/7237.html>

From: Alex Nichol (alexn.mvpdts_at_ntlworld.delete.com)

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Kim wrote:

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>*I am wondering if it would be easiest to just completely
>erase the hard disk and then to re-install windows and ther
>other programs. Will this work? Do I have to set up a
>startup disk, or will the disk I got when I purchased the
>computer work.*

No – such things are all over these days, and will return immediately if you go to the sites that dump them onto you. Clean up, using the tools suggested at <http://www.aumha.org/a/parasite.htm> and then try to practice Safe computing, and especially Safe surfing. And do not open any attachments to e-mail, even from close friends, unless you have an **independent** assurance that they are sending one. Even then, save it and check for viruses before opening. Many viruses pretend to come from someone that is not even using the infected machine – just in its address book, along with you

If you **do** ever need to reinstall, the CD you got will be bootable with no need for a startup floppy. But will probably put things back to ex-factory state, erasing everything, so it is not to be done lightly

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