

## Re: windows security bulletin

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-02/26742.html>

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noname wrote:

- > *I get a following message of and on with title 'Messnger Service'*
- > *Important windows security bulletin,buffer overrun in messenger*
- > *service allows remote code execution ,virus infection and unexpected*
- > *shutdown, your system if affected, download the patch from the*
- > *addresss below*
- > *address [www.updatepatch.info](http://www.updatepatch.info)*
- > *I dont know whether I should go to this address and download what they*
- > *are suggesting to download. some good advice thanks*
- >

It's a scam, plain and simple. It's from a very unscrupulous "business." They're trying to sell you patches that Microsoft provides free-of-charge, and using a very intrusive means of advertising. It's also demonstrating that your PC is very unsecure.

This type of spam has become quite common over the past couple of years, 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 most definitely open to other threats, such as the Blaster, Welchia, and Sasser Worms that still haunt 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>

microsoft.public.windowsxp.general: Re: windows security bulletin

Stopping Advertisements with Messenger Service Titles

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/communicate/stopspam.asp>

Blocking Ads, Parasites, and Hijackers with a Hosts File

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

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 over TCP/IP). You'll have to follow the 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)

Security Scan – Sygate Online Services

<http://www.sygatetech.com/>

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?

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Bruce Chambers

Help us help you:

<http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faq/smart-questions.html>

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once. - RAH