

Re: Poppers !!!

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2004-03/10945.html

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Greetings --

There are at least three varieties of pop-ups, and the solutions vary accordingly. Which specific type(s) is troubling you?

1) Does the title bar of these pop-ups read "Messenger Service?"

This type of spam has become quite common over the past year or so, 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 Worm that still haunts 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>

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>

If you're using AOL, you'll either need to find a 3rd party firewall that is compatible with AOL, or switch to a real ISP that is compatible with the real Internet. This is because AOL is an on-line content provider that ignores international Internetworking standards

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in favor of its own proprietary products, and has deliberately made its connection software incompatible with both WinXP's built-in firewall and WinXP's Internet Connection Sharing feature. AOL's proprietary connection applet is deliberately designed to preclude your setting/adjusting any of its properties, to include enabling/disabling WinXP's ICF and ICS.

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 (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

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?

2) For regular Internet pop-ups, you might try the free 12Ghosts Popup-killer from <http://12ghosts.com/ghosts/popup.htm>, Pop-Up Stopper from <http://www.panicware.com/>, or the Google Toolbar from <http://toolbar.google.com/>, which is what I use.

3) To deal with pop-ups caused by any sort of "adware" and/or "spyware," such as Gator, Comet Cursors, Xupiter, Bonzai Buddy, or KaZaA, and their remnants, that you've deliberately (but without understanding the consequences) installed, two products that are quite effective (at finding and removing this type of scumware) are Ad-Aware from www.lavasoft.de and SpyBot Search & Destroy from www.safer-networking.org/. Both have free versions. It's even possible to use SpyBot Search & Destroy to "immunize" your system against most future intrusions. I use both and generally perform manual scans every week or so to clean out cookies, etc.

Bruce Chambers

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Help us help you:

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

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

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microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support: Re: Poppers !!!

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

"Ali wongo" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:0CE9A89C-C2C7-4B7A-B167-6441A253C332@microsoft.com...

> Please can someone help me with these pop ups ! I have read other
> replies but I do not understand what i ahve to do. I know nothing
> about my computer - I am with AOL and cant read anything without pop
> ups constantly one after the other, if I leave the PC for five
> minutes I come back to about 10 of them and just spend all my time
> sitting trying to clear them.
> They all say messenger service at the top ? I do not understand all
> the advice about try google, try this try that ? I need to be told
> exactly what to do step by step - which no one is going to do, as
> its boring for you to advise a thicko !!
>
> I am so close to getting rid of AOL and trying some other provider
> as they are making my internet experience hellish !!
>
> Please please can a knight save this damsel in distress ?