

ABit Anti-Malware tips

What is Malware?

Malware is a common name for all kind of programs and files what can do damage to your systems or are a threat to your data security. These includes, but are not limited to, viruses, root-kits, Trojan-horses, worms and tracking cookies.

Why is Malware a problem?

Malware can have a lot of different impacts on your systems. Some Malware just slows your system down, or opens random pop-ups, while other malware is written to try and steal your data, money or personal information. Some Malware is able to replicate itself, while a lot of Malware needs some user interaction to install itself.

How do I get infected?

There are numerous ways to get infected.

- Automatically, sometimes just plugging your computer into a network is enough
- Manually, clicking yes on a popup, or following a link in your email can be enough to get a nasty infection
- Accidentally, sometimes Malware installs with a legitimate program you are installing
- Social engineering, sometimes someone will try to persuade you to share personal information or passwords or install software by telling you a very well designed story

How do I get rid of Malware?

Removing Malware can be a time-consuming and expensive job and there is no guarantee it is possible at all. We use up to 5 different tools to try to remove it, but sometimes only a complete reinstallation of windows and all software will do the job.

How to prevent Malware?

Even the best protected system with the most careful user can get infected. But there are a couple of things you can do to minimize the risk and minimize the impact in case you get an infection after all;

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-Make sure you keep your version of Windows updated using Windows updates.

A lot of Malware will use recently patched errors in Windows to get unauthorized access to your computer, keeping your computer up-to-date will prevent these easy attacks.

-Make sure you have an anti-virus program installed with a valid subscription and keep it updated.

Anti-virus program's should be updated multiple times a day as virus outbreaks can be very fast (like flash floods up north!!). Anti-virus program's lose usefulness very fast when not updated as old viruses are less likely to roam around than new ones.

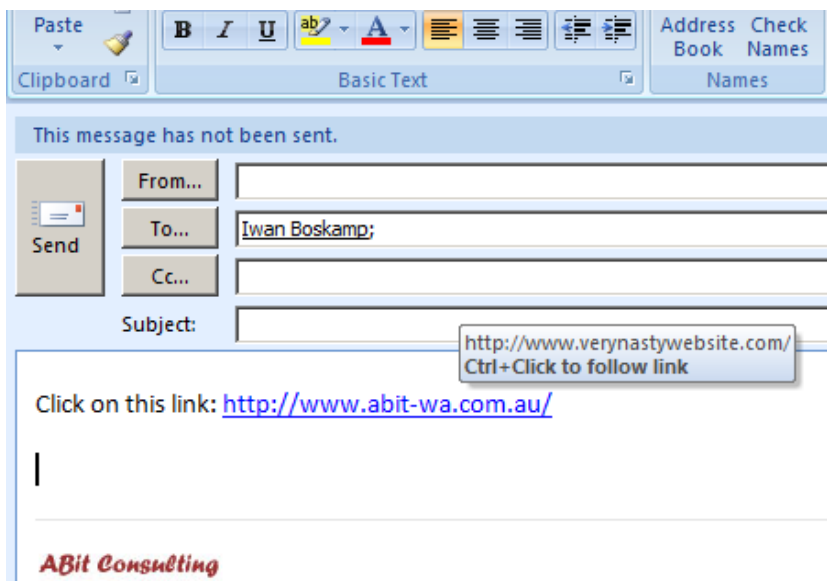
-Do not open any emails or attachments from un-trusted sources

Spam emails are very effective in persuading you to do all kind of things you should not do. Replying to such an email only confirms your address is actually in use and therefore will probably just attract more spam instead of less. Any attachments in those emails can contain viruses. Especially 'password protected' zip files, they are only password protected to prevent the virus scanner from scanning them!

-Do not click on any links send to you by email

More often than not the links in spam or fishing email's are not what they look like! Outlook can show you something quite different than what the real link's pointing at as you can see in this example where I just put my mouse on the link and Outlook tells me where it would take me:

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-Never try to get delisted from spam

It will not work. It will only prove to them that your email address is real and someone is reading those emails.

-Never trust website pop-ups claiming 'you are infected' or 'you have won'

Clicking on those links will get you infected and will probably ask you for money to disinfect! Don't trust them. If you are concerned, we can have a look at your computer and tell you if there is anything wrong.

-Your bank will not ask you to reconfirm your passwords or any personal data by email

Honestly they don't! Never ever give any personal information out to anyone in email you don't know personally! If in doubt, grab the phone and make the phone call, it will probably save you a lot of money you now keep in your account.

-Do not use someone else's usb-sticks

You don't know where they have been and what they have been used for. It is like a real life virus, it can easily stick.

-Do not let your children/husband/wife/smart cousin touch your work laptop

It is a work laptop.

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