

ALERT - Antivirus XP 2008/2009 VIRUS

There has been a recent surge in “Rogue Antivirus” programs. These programs identify fake antivirus infections and then trick the user into purchasing an “upgrade” to remove the infections.

The most predominate infection at this time is Antivirus XP 2008 or 2009.

This program will continually notify the user that their system is at risk or under attack. There will be an icon in the lower right hand corner of the task bar, and it may periodically display a scan result with numerous security issues the software has claimed to of found on your system. This is false.

The main infection method of this program is through spam emails that entice the user to click a link. The recent fake CNN News Alerts and MSNBC Alerts are responsible for the drastic rise in infections. Once a system is infected, the program CANNOT be removed through normal methods.

The following precautions will greatly reduce your chance for infection:

- -- Read all mail in plain text (Contact your IT Support for procedures on how to do this)
- -- DO NOT click on links in unsolicited emails
- -- Keep your Antivirus Software Current
- -- Consider stronger spam filtering methods
- -- Ensure all latest security updates are applied to your machine.

If you have already been tricked into “Upgrading”, contact your IT support personnel immediately. You should also contact your bank or credit card company immediately to cancel/dispute any charges and consider cancelling the account or having the number changed.