

Win AntiVirus 2009



There's been some particularly nasty viruses and spyware going around lately. One that specifically comes to mind is Win AntiVirus 2009 (sometimes it's called Win AntiVirus 2008). Win AntiVirus 2009 is really spyware instead of a virus. Today, the difference between spyware and viruses are really blurred as they do almost the same exact thing. Viruses will spread to other files on your computer while spyware really focuses on generating pop-ups trying to get you to buy their junk. Both are a headache to remove.

The few times our customers knew what started it, they told us it was a file attached in an e-mail. Really though, it can come in a number of ways. The file was named "accounting 2007-2008.zip" and upon clicking on the file you will immediately get hacked. Once hacked, you'll start seeing pop-ups performing a fake scan and finding fictitious viruses. After that, you'll see another pop-up offering to fix the problem for a fee. All this is completely bogus and giving your money won't do anything to help the situation.

Generally don't open any attachments you aren't expecting, even if it's from someone you know. They could have gotten an e-mail virus, which sends itself to everyone in the infected computer's address book. Someone could send out an e-mail with a virus attachment and not even know it.

As a rule of thumb, never click on a pop-up. If you happen to click on a pop-up, never buy anything from it or put in personal information. Click the X at the top-right of the window to close it, and if it persists, give us a call and we'll come out and clean up your computer. It will only get worse and eventually your computer will be so bogged down with viruses and spyware it won't be usable until it's cleaned.

This particular spyware is so bad it actually disables some cleaning software from running which is why it's so hard to clean. If you get this one, it's nearly impossible to clean yourself as it could crash the computer. It's kind of like on its way out, it will take the whole computer down with it. Usually we can revive the computer, but it really depends on how infected the computer is. So, the earlier this one gets addressed, the better.