

## Use Common Sense While Online

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It's 8:00 PM, and someone is knocking on your door at home. When you answer the door, someone you have never seen before says they work for XYZ Inspection Company. The person says they were driving down the street in front of your house and saw that your electrical consumption in your house indicated that you have faulty wiring in one of your rooms. The person would like to come into your house and search each room to find the faulty wiring. They promise they will then fix the problem for free.

### Would you let this person into your house?

Hopefully you said no and thought that was a real silly and stupid question to ask you.

### But a scenario like this happens on the Internet everyday!

#### Here is an example...

Say you are surfing the Internet, doing a Google search on some topic. You click on a link that sounds like it is a match for whatever you are searching for.

The screen you receive back pops up a warning window that your PC is infected with the XYZ virus. The message in the window says to click here for a free scan to immediately clean the virus off your PC.

Not wanting your PC to be infected, you click the button. From that point on, you have given total control to whatever program is executed by your clicking that button. Actually with today's technology, this can all happen without having to click a button. Just visiting a bad web site could possibly result in the malware program running on your computer.

The majority of the time, the program you authorized to run by clicking the button will install malware, viruses, key loggers or other bad stuff on your PC. This malware will then attempt to contact their home computer in Russia, China, Korea, Nigeria or some other location. The malware will be attempting to either download more malware on your PC or send to their home server personal data from your computer. They will then steal such things as your account numbers, pin numbers, social security numbers or anything else of importance that could be used to try and fraud you out of your identity. Anything you have typed on the keyboard or any files on your computer are at risk of being compromised.

All because you clicked on a link that was offering you a free computer scan to eliminate that virus they said you had. Or maybe you were the 25,000th visitor to their web site and because of that remarkable feat you had just won a free digital camera. Just click on the button below to learn the details. Or maybe you just won a free iTunes, just click here to get it.

**REMEMBER...if it sounds too good to be true, it is. Please do not fall for these scams that tempt you with prizes or ways to clean your computer. Never click on buttons on screens unless you absolutely know what you are doing. Be sure you have educated your family members of these dangers as well. It is not surprising that PCs used by children are almost 100% guaranteed to be infected with malware or viruses.**

Hopefully this will remind you to use common sense while surfing the Internet.

**Remember, would you let a stranger into your house because they promised you something that sounded too good to be true? Of course not. Use the same common sense when surfing the Internet or reading email from unknown senders.**