SECURITY AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

DON'T ACCEPT OFFERS OF "FREE PC SCANS" THAT POP UP WHEN YOU USE THE INTERNET

Secure Computers LLC paid a $1,000,000 fine for offering "free spyware scans" that told users their systems had been infected with spyware, even if the system was clean. They are not the only ones doing this — when you surf the Web you are still likely to see pop-up windows like that. Some "scans" don't just give misleading results; they actually try to install unwanted software on your PC. Often the screen pop-ups only have a "scan" button and no "cancel" or "quit" option. In fact they could interfere with your PC no matter which of the buttons you choose. Be safe: close pop-ups like this by clicking on the X in the top right corner of the browser window. Better yet, use a pop-up blocker software (http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2170208/security-firm-pay-million-false).

BE SKEPTICAL AND TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

People often post false or misleading information concerning their identities and interests. In most instances, this is done with good intentions as a way to avoid disclosing personal information. However, there are also people who fabricate information with malicious intent. If you ever feel threatened or uncomfortable with someone you encounter online, take the time to report the incident. Most social networking sites like MySpace provide several mechanisms for reporting inappropriate behavior.

Cyber Zones
Cyber Security Services

Make sure your personal information is protected when you do business online
Always read the privacy statement before you fill in the blanks. You should also verify that the site is using encryption before you submit any information — look for https in the web address and for a padlock or key in the lower right corner of your browser. Don't send your personal information (social security number, credit card number, etc.) in an email or through instant messaging.

Look before you click

Do not open e-mails when you can't tell who the sender is. The "friendly" postcard below warns alert readers of danger with its weird syntax, poor spelling and suspicious web address. PS Do NOT click on any links in this message if they appear.

Hello friend!
You have just received a postcard from someone who cares about you! It has been a long time since I haven't heard about you! I've just found out about this service from Claire, a friend of mine who also told me that ..." If you'd like to see the rest of the message, click herehttp://[linkremoved]ro/postcard. gif.exe to receive your animated postcard! Thank you for using http://[link removed].com's services !!!
Please take this opportunity to let your friends hear about us by sending them a postcard from our collection!

Place a fraud alert to protect against identity theft
If your wallet or credit card is stolen, call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit has to contact you to authorize new credit.