

Don't Fall for Fake Pop-Up Warnings

How the Scam Works

Scammers design websites that launch fake alerts. They want to scare you into:

-  Calling a fake 'support line' where they pressure you to pay for bogus repairs
-  Downloading 'antivirus software' that's really malware
-  Giving them remote access to your computer

Red Flags to Watch For

-  The pop-up makes scary noises or locks your screen
-  It says you must 'act immediately' or lose your data
-  It shows a phone number for 'Microsoft/Apple' (they don't do that)
-  The pop-up doesn't close normally

What To Do Instead

-  Don't click anything in the pop-up. Close your browser completely.
-  If it won't close, restart your computer.
-  Never call the number or give remote access.
-  Use the trusted antivirus software you already installed — not one from the pop-up.

Bottom Line

These warnings are nothing more than digital jump-scares. They're designed to make you panic, not protect you.

-  When in doubt, remember: if the pop-up is screaming at you, it's probably lying to you.