

Connection

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Beware: 'Free' security scans

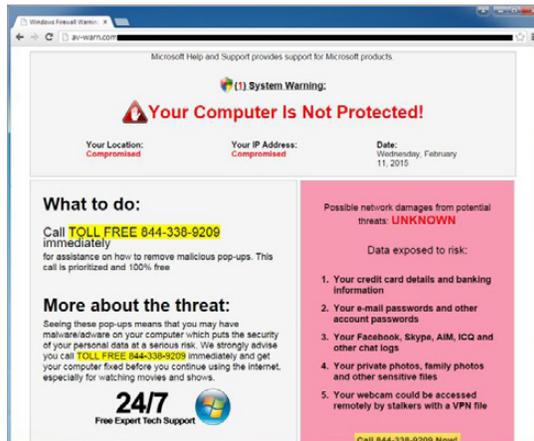
Messages telling you to install and update security software for your computer seem to be everywhere. So you might be tempted by an offer of a "free security scan," especially when faced with a pop-up, an email or an ad that claims malicious software has already been found on your machine.

The free scan claims to find a host of problems, and within seconds you're getting urgent pop-ups to buy security software. After you agree to spend \$40 or more on the software, the program tells you that your problems are fixed. The reality is there was nothing to fix. And what's worse, the program now installed on your computer could be harmful.

Scammers have found ways to create realistic but phony "security alerts." Though the "alerts" look like they're being generated by your computer, they actually are created by a con artist and sent through your Internet browser.

These programs are called scareware because they exploit a person's fear of online viruses and security threats.

Scareware schemes can be quite sophisticated.



Example of 'free' security scan pop-up message.

The scam artists buy ad space on trusted, popular Web sites. Even though the ads look legitimate and harmless, they actually redirect unsuspecting visitors to a fraudulent Web site that performs a bogus security scan. The site then causes a barrage of urgent pop-up messages that pressure users into downloading worthless software.

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Tips for creating strong passwords

A strong password is one that's easy for you to remember but difficult for others to guess. Here are some important tips to consider when creating a password:

Never use personal information such as your name, birthday, phone number or e-mail address. This type of information is often publicly available, which makes it easier for someone to guess your password.

Use a longer password. Your password should be at least eight characters long. For extra security it should be even longer.

Don't use the same password for each ac-

count. If someone discovers your password for one account, all of your other accounts will be vulnerable.

Try to include **numbers, symbols** and both **uppercase and lowercase letters**.

Avoid using words that can be found in the dictionary. For example, *baseball123* would be a weak password.

Random passwords are the strongest. If you're having trouble creating one, you can use a password manager program that creates and stores your passwords so you only need to remember one *master* password.

Offices closed

The F&B Communications office and Technology Solutions will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 for Labor Day.

Refer a friend

Want free money? Then, refer a friend to F&B's Internet service and receive a \$25 credit on your bill. For more details and to print a referral coupon, go to www.fbc.com.net and click the Internet Referral link or contact the office.

Internet Help Desk available 24/7

A reminder that F&B's Tech Support Help Desk is ready to respond to e-mail and Internet connection questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To reach the Help Desk call 1-888-832- 4322 or dial locally (563) 374- 3322. Help Desk technicians are trained to answer FBCom.net e-mail questions as well as troubleshoot Internet connection issues.



'Free' Security Scans
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

If you're faced with any of the warning signs of a scareware scam, shut down your browser. Don't click "No" or "Cancel," or even the "x" at the top right corner of the screen.

Some scareware is designed so that any of those buttons can activate the program. If you use Windows, press Ctrl + Alt + Delete to open your Task Manager and click "End Task." If you use a Mac, press Command + Option + Q + Esc to "Force Quit."

As always, it is recommended that you install and maintain reputable security software from a name-brand company or utilize the SecureIT Plus service offered by F&B.

Information courtesy <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov>

Are you ready for the political phone calls?



As election day gets closer, chances are you'll be getting more telemarketer type phone calls, surveys and recordings. Did you know political calls are an exception to the national Do Not Call Registry?

Consider F&B's Smart Telemarketer Call Screening service. It is an intelligent call screening service that blocks telemarketers and at the same time "learns" who your friends are so their calls complete without interference.

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	Monthly Service Charges
Single party, voice grade residential service, including local usage	\$18.00
Federal Subscriber Line Charge – Single Line	\$ 6.50

Customers of basic residential service have access to long distance, directory assistance, and operator service providers of their choice, at rates established by those carriers.

Toll Blocking is available at no charge for low income customers that qualify.

Emergency 911 Services are provided and a surcharge is assessed at governmental rates

Basic residential service is available as a Lifeline service. Lifeline is a government benefit program which provides a monthly credit toward a qualified low-income subscriber's telephone bill. Only eligible low-income consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Consumers who meet eligibility criteria must also complete documentation necessary for enrollment. Lifeline assistance is non-transferable, and eligible subscribers may receive assistance from only one wireline or wireless telecommunications provider per household. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline benefits can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. If you have any questions regarding the company's services or you want to apply for Lifeline telephone assistance, application forms can be obtained from F&B Communications at 103 Main St. N., Wheatland, IA 52777 or by calling (563) 374-1236.



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