

No. 206. Malwarebytes Anti-Malware

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Stan got hit! Here is what happened, and the lessons learned that might help you, too.

I was installing a 64-bit copy of Windows 7 on a newly acquired Dell laptop. All was going well. I had completely wiped the hard drive, made a C, D and E partition and had finished installing Windows on C. Then I installed my favorite browser – Firefox – on the D drive, and I opened it to get fresh copies of other favorite programs. Ouch! A popup was making it impossible for me to proceed! Darn thing was demanding I purchase something or other, and there was no X in the upper right corner (or anywhere else, for that matter) to close it. Furthermore, Firefox would not close, either. OK, Ctrl-Alt-Del brought up the Task Manager, and I was able to close both the popup and Firefox. Reopening Firefox brought the same sequence, with the popup in my face. I opened Internet Explorer, and it was there, too!

OK, I knew I had a job. I hit majorgeeks.com (the ONLY safe site on the web for freeware; you can trust them), looked in their Anti-Malware category under Malware Removal and Repair. There were over 100 programs there! So, I picked three based on their date, compact size and description. I installed and ran one, rebooted, and the popup was still there. So, I installed and ran another, rebooted and the popup still popped up. The same results were had with the third. Clearly the infection was in several places, probably including my Windows Registry.

So, I sniffed around majorgeeks.com for a little guidance. Under Site Info, within their Top Freeware Picks section (which they tout as absolutely the best, 5 star rated, totally free programs), I found Malwarebytes Anti-Malware. They claimed that it is “simple, fast and effective”. That sounded good to me and I trust Majorgeeks, so I downloaded and installed it. When I ran the program, it found a number of PUPS (Potentially Unwanted Programs) and a couple of dangerous entries in the Registry and elsewhere, for a total of 8 bad items; it quarantined them all. I went back later and deleted the contents of the quarantine, just for safety, though the program assured me that they could hold no harm where they were. Most important, the popups were gone!!! Clearly the program is was winner! Here is what is written on majorgeeks.com:

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware is the de facto industry-leading free anti-malware scanner and has long been a favorite at MajorGeeks.com, especially with our Malware Removal Gurus in our forums. It detects and removes malware, spyware, and potentially unwanted items like worms, Trojans, rootkits, rogues, adware, and more.

The free and pro versions are all in the same download file. All you have to do is launch Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Free and run a scan. It's that simple. The program will offer up items to remove and clean them with no charge what so ever. Or, if you want even better protection, consider upgrading to Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Premium. The premium version will not only handle malware removal, but has a number of additional options for protection including a instant real-time scanner that automatically prevents malware and websites from infecting your PC.

With over 15 million downloads at MajorGeeks; Malwarebytes is one of the top downloaded files of all time.

Now please understand that this program is not a substitute for your virus scanner. This is a tool to employ in addition to your scanner when you suspect you may have unwanted piece of malware in your system. Run it, clean out the infection, and go on with life. But you still need a virus scanner to prevent and clean infection by true viruses.

So, there you have it. Majorgeeks.com has saved my bacon again. That is why it is the home page for my browsers on all my machines! Happy Computing!