



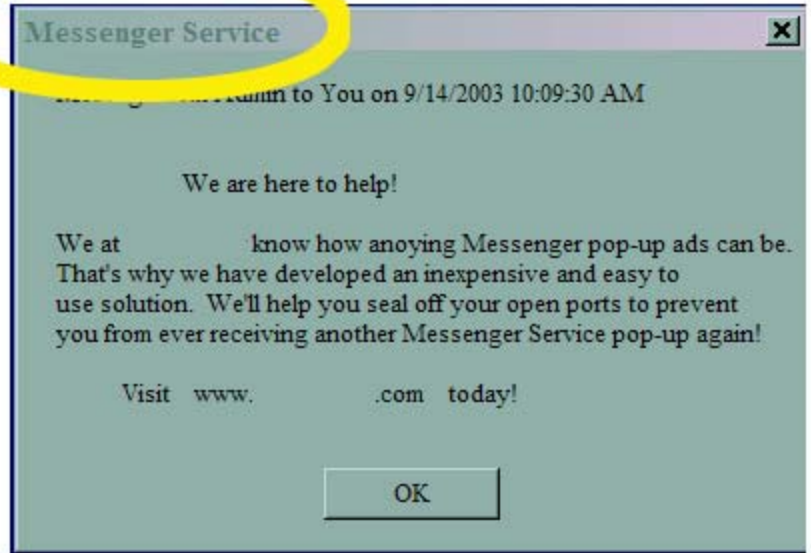
## Getting Rid Of Those Annoying Pop-ups in Word, Excel and other Microsoft Programs

By Laura Dawn Lewis

About three weeks ago while working in FrontPage the first of these annoying pop-up ads showed up. An advertisement for a company selling me its software to get rid of these pesky ads. A tactic I consider close to blackmail, so I ignored it.

Then they got worse.

Viagra (*like as a female in my '30's I'm the right target market!*) Porn, Dating Services and more software companies trying to sell me cures. Talk about irony!



My next tactic included downloading [Spybot](#), cleaning and immunizing my entire system of spyware. At first it looked like this worked...two days later the porn ad popped up on my desktop. Now I'm irritated! How do I get rid of these things? Next stop, [SpywareNuke](#). This killed the regular pop-ups from websites, but failed to get rid of the ones popping up in Word, Excel and all my other Microsoft Programs when I wasn't on the Internet.

Finally I figured out that it is Windows Messenger, which allows these little parasites to invade my work, even though I don't use Instant Messenger and I do not have an account with them. Talk about sneaky! [Panicware](#) has a free program to disable this or you can just follow the instructions below to end the problem and close the gateway for good:



## Disabling the Messenger Service

To remove the ability for anyone in the world to pop up messages on your computer, you can disable the Messenger service. It's easy to reverse at a later time if you wish to do so. Faculty and staff are advised to check with their computer support staff before disabling any service so that you do not inadvertently disable a service that your department uses.

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### Windows XP Home

1. Click Start->Settings ->Control Panel
2. Click Performance and Maintenance
3. Click Administrative Tools
4. Double click Services Scroll
5. down and highlight "Messenger"
6. Right-click the highlighted line and choose Properties.
7. Click the STOP button.
8. Select Disable or Manual in the Startup Type scroll bar
9. Click OK

### Windows XP Professional

1. Click Start->Settings ->Control Panel
2. Click Administrative Tools
3. Click Services
4. Double click Services Scroll
5. down and highlight "Messenger"
6. Right-click the highlighted line and choose Properties.
7. Click the STOP button.
8. Select Disable or Manual in the Startup Type scroll bar
9. Click OK

### Windows 2000

1. Click Start-> Settings-> Control Panel-> Administrative Tools->Services
2. Scroll down and highlight "Messenger"
3. Right-click the highlighted line and choose Properties.
4. Click the STOP button.
5. Select Disable or Manual in the Startup Type scroll bar
6. Click OK

### Windows NT

1. Click Start ->Control Panel
2. Double Click Administrative Tools
3. Select Services-> Double-click on Messenger
4. In the Messenger Properties window, select Stop,
5. Then choose Disable as the Startup Type
6. Click OK

### Windows 98 & ME

Windows Messenger Service cannot be disabled