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TITLE: Preventing Pop-Up Ads

Websites may use different forms of advertising, in hopes of attracting a computer user to buy products (or as a way to redirect a viewer to a sponsor's own website). Advertisements can be found in many forms, including: animated banners on a website, text links that can be clicked on, or even pop-up advertisements.

Pop-up advertisements work by opening a second window in the currently used web browser, so that the Internet user is not totally redirected off the first page they were viewing. The pop-up advertisement has become a very common way for vendors of products to attract attention to their items for sale, or even their own websites. While some Internet users may appreciate this second window, others may not.

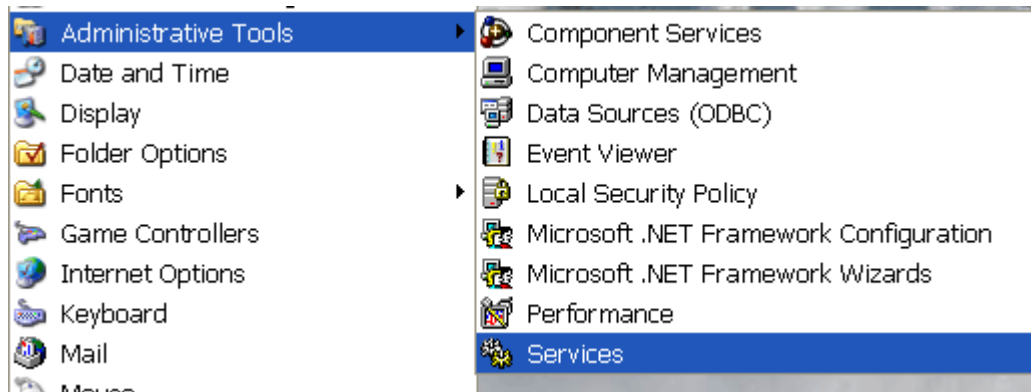
There are a number of different things that the Internet user can do to prevent pop-up windows/advertisements from occurring.

Ways to Prevent Pop-up Ads

1. Some programs that Internet users have on their computers, such as some peer-to-peer file-sharing programs, can cause an abundance of pop-up advertisements to appear. One easy way to prevent these pop-ups is not to use peer-to-peer types of software on your computer.
2. There are a number of third-party software applications designed to reduce or eliminate the advertisements that may appear in second windows when using your browser. These programs can be found in some retail stores, and are available for download over the Internet for free or for a charge. Websites such as CNET's Download.com allow the user to investigate such types of software applications.
3. The Windows 2000 and XP operating systems comes with a built-in service called Windows Messenger. The built-in Windows Messenger service allows users on the same network to send private messages to each other. This service is automatically activated when the operating system is installed on the computer. Exploits in the Windows Messenger software code may allow advertisers to send pop-up windows directly to your computer.

To disable Windows Messenger in the Windows 2000 and XP operating systems, follow the process below:

- A. Left-click on the Start button.
- B. Left-click on Settings, then left-click on Control Panel.
- C. Double-left click Administrative Tools, and then choose the Services selection.



D. Scroll down to Messenger, in the Services choices, and double-left click the Messenger selection.

E. In the Startup type scroll-down box, left-click on Disable. After this is selected, left click Apply, then left-click OK.

F. Restart the computer if asked; otherwise, as long as the above process has been followed, Windows Messenger will be disabled.

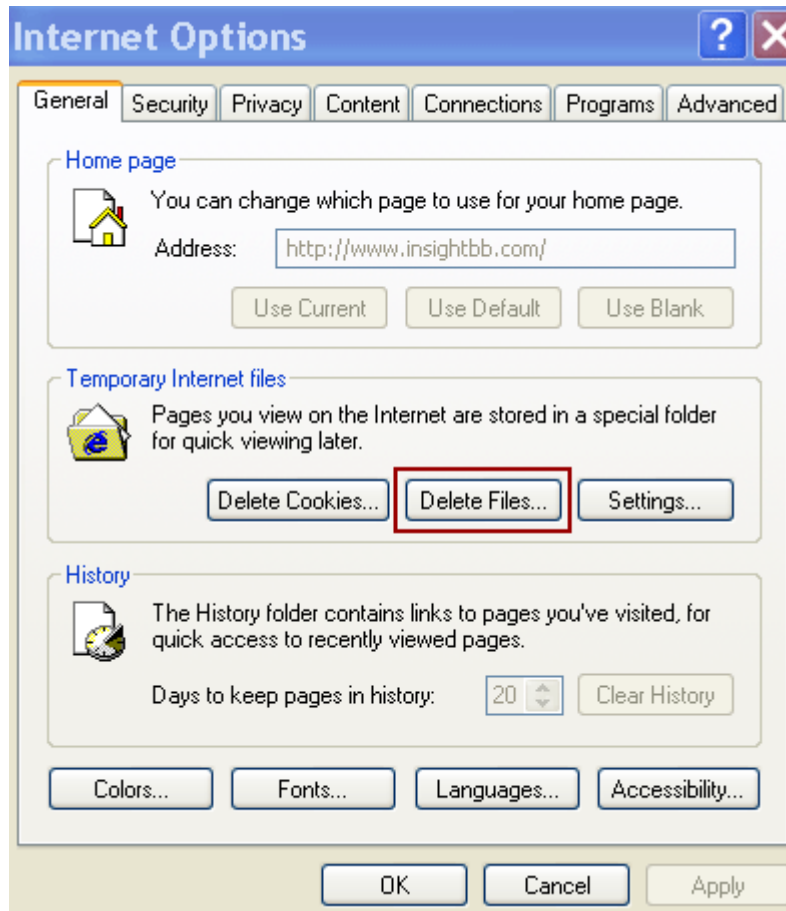
4. One method that can be used to help eliminate pop-up windows from appearing is to clear out the browser's cache files. Previously viewed content is stored in a directory of your browser software, which allows for faster access to information that has already been viewed. These are known as Temporary Internet Files, and can be safely deleted on a routine basis.

To clean Internet Explorer's Temporary Internet Files directory, follow the process below:

A. Open up the Internet Explorer software application.

B. Left-click Tools on the menu bar, and then left-click Internet Options.

C. Left-click the Delete Files... button shown circled below, and when prompted to confirm, left-click OK.



5. Another action that can be done within your browser software is to clear the cookies that are stored on your computer. Cookies are pieces of information that some websites place on your computer. These cookies are text files, that allow the website to catalog what pages you've viewed on previous visits to that particular website.

Some advertisers have developed cookies with their pop-up windows, and this information is stored in the computer's cookies file. By eliminating the cookies on your computer, you may help eliminate reoccurring pop-ups from appearing.

PLEASE NOTE: Some cookies on your computer are beneficial to your Internet experience, in that they can assist with remembering passwords on certain websites, and can help speed information to your computer. It is NOT recommended that you disable cookies permanently on your computer. In order to be able to register hardware changes on your account, cookies need to be enabled on your computer.

To clean Internet Explorer's Cookies directory, follow the process below:

- A. Open up the Internet Explorer software application.
- B. Left-click Tools on the menu bar, and then left-click Internet Options.
- C. Left-click the Delete Cookies... button shown circled below, and when prompted to confirm, left-click OK.

