

## **BEWARE OF COMPUTER REPAIR OFFERS YOU SEE ON THE INTERNET OR ON TV**

Does your computer seem to be slowing down? Does it freeze unexpectedly, or give you cryptic error messages? Do you suspect malware is hogging some of your Internet bandwidth? Computer repair software offered on many Web sites and in late-night TV commercials promises to fix some of these problems. But do they really work?

### **Software to Fix Your Computer Problems?**

You've probably encountered commercials that promise to "double your speed" or repair common problems such as viruses, spam, popups or registry errors. Some of these software programs do the job for free and the rest for a price. The way many computer repair software sites work is this:

- List common symptoms of a poorly-maintained computer
- Raise the fear of viruses, Trojans, and other malware infections
- Offer a free scan of your computer to show you how badly you need computer repair software
- Let you download a free program that fixes only a few of the diagnosed problems
- Sell remedies to the other problems, one remedy at a time
- Sell an expensive all-in-one computer repair software package
- Sell a subscription to periodic updates to keep you protected against future threats

A few of these computer repair software offers are genuine, but more often than not they are wolves in sheep's clothing. You don't really know if the "free scan" report is showing actual problems on your computer or a completely fabricated report designed to inspire panic and a "need" for the company's product. Also, you don't know if the free fix you download actually eliminates malware or infects your computer with even more viruses and spyware, disguised as something helpful.

Research the reputation of any computer repair software vendor you run across before accepting any free downloads from it, let alone giving them your credit card info. A quick search on Google or Bing may turn up red flags that should not be ignored.

Especially steer clear of the ones that advertise on radio or TV, for one simple reason. That kind of advertising is very expensive, so you can be sure those companies will do what they can to recoup their costs and make a tidy profit.

### **Trustworthy Solutions to Computer Problems**

We should have no problem with profit or honest capitalism, but on the other hand, why pay more than you should for software to fix your computer problems? Here are some solutions that work very well, are current (as of July 2016), and are either inexpensive or free.

You may download and install any or all of these products. Just don't have them running in the background. Run each one of them **on demand**.

CCleaner (<http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner>) is another popular, tried-and-true computer repair software package. It cleans and optimizes Windows registry entries to speed up operations and prevent system errors

[Privazer](#) (this is a link). According to nationally recognized tech expert Bob Rankin, PrivaZer is a hard drive clean-up utility on steroids. It gets rid of junk files and wipes away traces of activity that could compromise your privacy. Maybe you think that sounds like some other program you've been using, but according to Rankin, PrivaZer does much more. This is definitely a product you can use with confidence.