

Where Did That Extra Software Come From?

Ever wonder why a toolbar suddenly appeared in Internet Explorer or from where extra program icons on your desktop came? These “extras” can slow down your computer and clutter your work space. Many times, it will appear as though they installed automatically without your approval, but actually have been installed with your approval in a very sneaky way. You can limit how many of these “extras” get installed on your system by simply watching out for a few small clues as to when they may appear.

- 1) **Watch out during free software installs!** Seemingly innocent software such as AOL Instant Messenger and Yahoo Instant Messenger almost always bundle extra software with them that you don’t need. It is still OK to use these programs, but pay attention during the install. Watch out for the screen that includes checkboxes asking whether or not you want to install the “extras”. They are almost always pre-selected so that if you just click “OK” all the way through the install, they will get installed as well. Clear the checkboxes to avoid installing the “extras”.
- 2) **Watch out for pop-ups on websites!** Some websites include free pictures, games, or other items that are very attractive, but require you install something first to view or obtain them. The installer will be launched by simply clicking a pop-up window or warning box and many times will run silently without being able to view it. If you run across a website like this, simply skip the free stuff and find an alternative.
- 3) **Always be on the lookout for anything unusual!** With computers being utilized in so many different ways now, there are too many different ways to list for others to trick you into installing software you really don’t want. By always remaining vigilant and paying attention to what is really going on when accessing any resource for the first time, you can drastically limit your chances of having “extra” software installed on your computer. Always aware = fewer problems and a happier computing experience!

About Desktop Resources, Inc.

Desktop Resources, Inc. was founded in 1995 by Tony Schafer, and is a leader in helping organizations couple their business initiatives with the technology to address those needs. DRI's "InformIT" managed services offerings proactively manage client infrastructure and strive to prevent problems before they occur. For more details, contact DRI at (317) 596-3650 or <http://www.DesktopResources.com>