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PICKING APART THE WINDOWS EXPIRY PHONE SCAM

www.pcninja.us

We've written about phone scams in a [previous blog](#), but we wanted to alert to you of a call making its rounds now. The other day at the office we received an automated phone call that said, "Your Windows license is about to expire." Ironic, isn't it, that a computer services shop is receiving external notices about technical issues? Which of our many computers with Windows licenses were they referring to? None, of course. There were so many signs that this wasn't a legitimate call. Let's take a look at the obvious problems with the Windows expiry phone scam.

- The caller ID read "800 Service." That alone should immediately put you on your guard.
- The quality of the automated call was very poor. It was evident throughout the recording that it was computer-generated, with mispronunciation of words and odd inclusions of words and phrases like "dot" that weren't supposed to be read.
- Grammar was also poor, indicating that this scam probably originated out of the country. One line said, "some foreign people *are having* access to your computer."
- Speaking of people having access to your computer, what does that have to do with the Windows license expiring, which was the original purpose of the call?

Windows Licenses Don't Expire

As for a Windows license expiring, that's not something that happens. The Windows operating system on your

computer is not a subscription that expires.



Your System Is (NOT) 72.6% Infected

At one point in the automated call, the voice said to pull up the command prompt and type something in. The command line would supposedly show you how many people had access to your computer and how infected the network was. Apparently, the computer they were calling us about was 72.6% infected. How do you calculate that? Obviously, this is all made up. Whatever appears in the command line are normal computer processes. The scammers try to scare the average user into believing these ridiculous claims by showing them screens they doesn't understand. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated.

Just Hang Up

In conclusion, any time someone calls you, live or automated, with a message that your computer is infected, hacked, about to expire, or otherwise compromised, just hang up.

Facebook keyboard shortcuts you didn't know existed

www.komando.com

The News Feed is where you can catch up on what your friends are doing and post your own items. For most people, every time they log into Facebook there are many items to scroll through.

If you're just skimming, your mouse's scroll wheel works great. However, if you take a more deliberate approach, or you don't have a mouse with a scroll wheel, **just hit the letter "j."** Each time you hit it, you'll jump down to the next post.

Want to go back a story? **Hit the letter "k."** You'll see a blue border showing which post you have selected (it will gradually fade away). And once a story is selected, you can use a few other shortcuts.

Hint: If you're using the mouse, you can also click at the top of a post next to poster's name to select it (you'll see a dotted border around the post).



When a post is selected, i.e. has a blue or dotted border around it, **just hit "l"** (as in "like") to like it. The first time you do this it will ask for confirmation. You can approve it and turn off future confirmations.

To comment on a selected post, tap "c" to bring up the comment box, then tap "c" again and start typing. Hit enter to post your comment and then hit "j" to move to the next post. If you want to move on without leaving the comment, hit the Esc key on the keyboard, then press "j" to move to the next post..

Zoom Internet Pages

The quickest and easiest shortcut for reading web pages is:

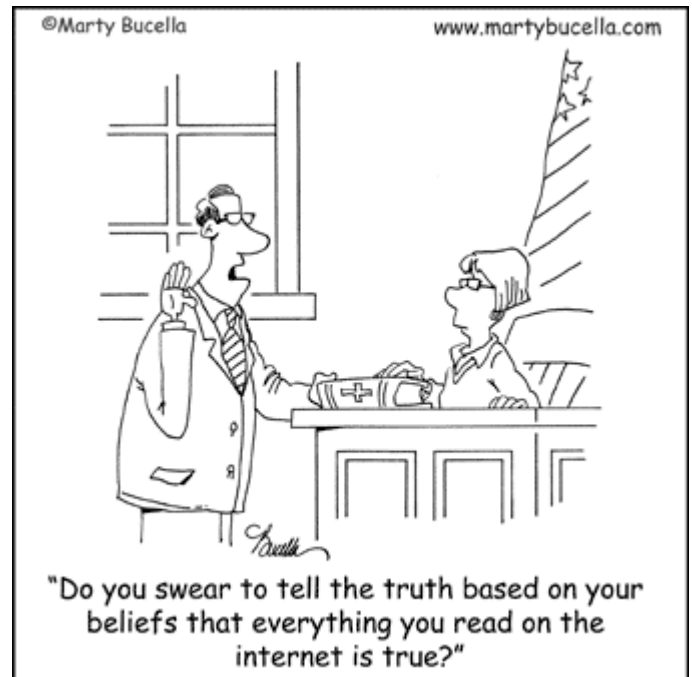


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