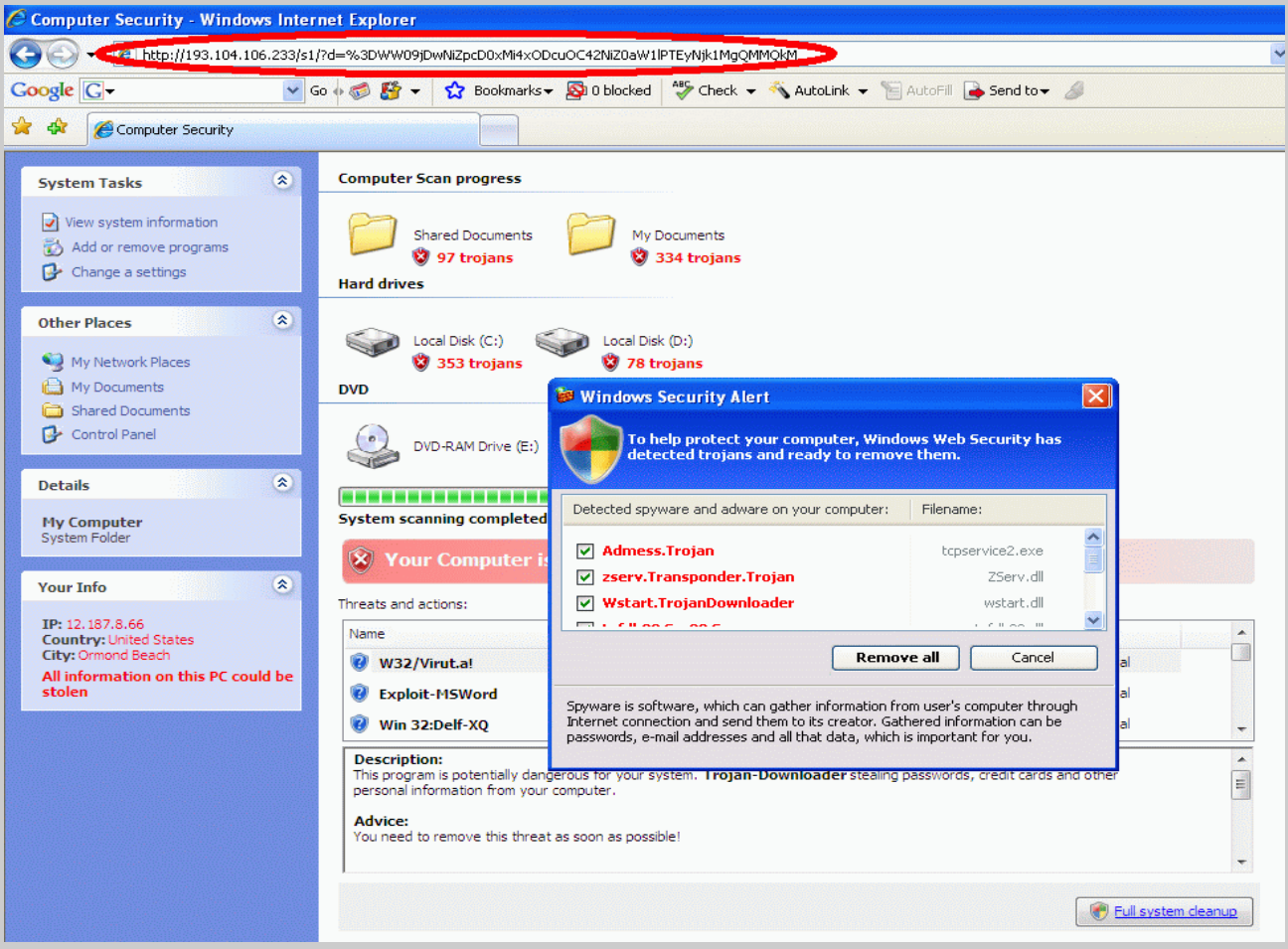
Call us today at (406) 272-1571 or email bruce@compwehelp.com

Anti-virus

I read an article recently that an on-line virus scanning service had noted that 48% of the computers requesting to be scanned were infected. If there is a most-important aspect of keeping your computer running well, then preventing computer viruses and malware top the list.

Do you have a good anti-virus program for your PC? Is it up to date and do you regularly scan your computer to keep it clean? If you have an expired or trial-version of some anti-virus program on your computer it's probably now useless and your computer may already be infected. Does it run slow and did that change happen abruptly? Does it shut down periodically without you requesting it? These are signs of infection. Have you ever seen this on your computer?



Over 200,000 websites are infected on the internet and just going to one of them will trigger something like this. What you see is completely bogus and if you click on any of the buttons on that screen then you'll actually be infecting your computer and most anti-virus programs won't stop it. If you see a screen like this simply close the window by clicking on the “X” in the upper-right corner. If messages like this persist, you are infected.

It's important to keep your home computer clean because maybe you do on-line purchasing, bill-paying or banking on it and so vital information about you could fall into the wrong hands. The big two commercial programs are Norton/Symantec or McAffee but there are others and some are even free. I have used Avira AntiVir Personal Edition and Microsoft Security Essentials on my home computers and have found both to be good. Don't install more than one anti-virus program on a computer or they may actually interfere with each-other. Make sure that whatever program you use is getting daily updates and scan your computer on a weekly basis.

I've also used Malwarebytes and Microsoft Security Scanner to clean infection that gets past the anti-virus software and it works very well. It is free for home use and you can install MWB without it causing problems with your existing anti-virus software. It's free for home use and you can't beat that!

Other tips are to switch from Internet Explorer to Chrome or FireFox as your web browser and install WOT (Web of Trust) or AVG Link-Scanner into it. Consider also using OpenDNS to help protect you from accessing infected websites. All these are free for home use.

If you have a Mac they are not immune to virus infection. Either Avast free Antivirus or ClamXav are recommended and free for Macs and Chrome is a safer web browser than Safari.