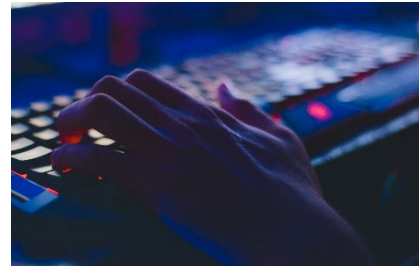


Scareware doesn't have to be scary

In today's digital world, protecting your DCH devices from malware, viruses, and other malicious software has become more critical. Scareware, also known as *fake antivirus*, is malware that masquerades as legitimate antivirus software but is designed to trick users into purchasing useless or harmful software.



Scareware typically presents itself as a pop-up or alert message that claims to have detected viruses or other malware on your computer. The message usually prompts you to call a number or download and install an antivirus program to remove the detected threats. However, once installed, the scareware may fail to remove any actual malware and cause additional damage to your computer.

So, how can you protect your computer from scareware? Here are a few tips:

1. **Keep your operating system and software current:** Regularly connect to the VPN or visit the office to update your system and software with the latest security patches. Updates help prevent malware infections, including scareware.
2. **Be cautious of pop-ups and alerts:** If you see a pop-up or alert claiming your work computer is infected with a virus, immediately close the pop-up and contact the DCH Helpdesk at hrhelp@dch.ga.gov, call (404) 657-7171, or reach out to the Cybersecurity team at dchois@dch.ga.gov.
3. **Beware of free software:** Many scareware programs are often bundled with free software, which can be downloaded from less reputable websites. Always download software from trusted sources and read user reviews before installing any new software.
4. **Back up your important data:** In case your computer is infected with scareware or any other malware, regularly backing up your important data to an external (DCH-provided) hard drive or cloud storage (OneDrive) can help ensure you don't lose any critical files.

Scareware is a serious threat to your DCH system. Remember to stay informed about the latest security threats and trends, so you can take proactive steps to protect your digital content. These simple tips and vigilance can protect your computer from scareware and other types of malware.