

It's a jungle out there.

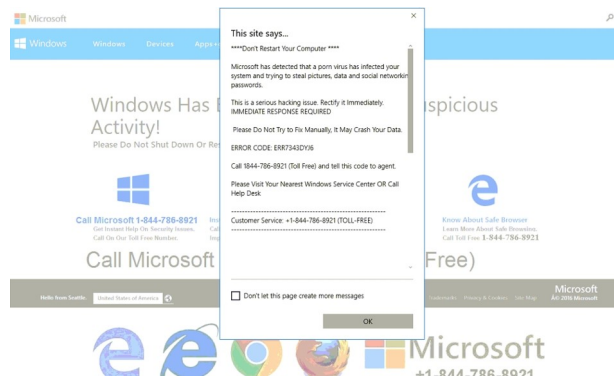
We seniors find ourselves targeted by dishonest people in all aspects of life. We are judged to be soft targets, due to our perceived decline in cognitive ability and our unfamiliarity in using the on line tools of the modern world. There are ways to protect ourselves. It takes a little caution and following a few basic rules. Most importantly, **DO NOT TALK TO STRANGERS!** We have to remember what we told our kids.

Here are just a few examples of the scams that are ready for us to fall prey to.

- **Phishing, including Spear Phishing**
- **Romance Scams**
- **Tech Support Scams**
- **Fake Job Scams**
- **Sweepstakes and lottery scams**

In the next article, we can discuss each in detail but here is an actual history of a resident's experience.

Browsing the Internet, an image like this appeared and the PC seemed to be locked. This is very common and many of us, including the author, have encountered something like this.



Now, this is scary stuff. Porn virus on my PC? The resident called the toll free number (obviously not Microsoft), gave some information and was charged \$800.00. Months later, they came back for more. Personal information was taken and a lot of effort was expended to get things safe again. This variation on the Tech. Support scam is the scariest looking, yet the easiest to defeat. It has not locked the PC as it would like you to believe. It has controlled the browser only. If encountered, remember, **DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS!** Don't call, give nothing away and seek technical help. Closing the browser, made difficult by these criminals, will solve the immediate issue. Email the author at jgf6217@gmail.com for instructions on how to do that.

Basic rules to stay safe include:

- **Do not click on links in emails or text messages from people you do not know.**
- **Be suspicious of any email or text message that asks for personal information, such as your Social Security number or credit card number.**
- **Never pay for anything to claim a prize or lottery winnings.**
- **Do your research before applying for a job.**
- **Be careful about what information you share on social media.**