

I have Norton so how did I get infected?

I've heard this a hundred times before. No security system is a guaranty, it's more like a flu shot. Are you better off getting one? Can you still get the flu if you get the shot? The answer to both is yes. So how did you get infected?

There are several ways people get infected with a virus or adware. The most common are: Accepting without reading, for example: 1-while browsing the Internet, an Internet advertisement or window appears that says your computer is infected or that a unique plug-in is required. Without fully understanding what it is you're getting, you accept the prompt 2- When installing or updating a program, you're prompted (often checkboxes already checked) if it's ok to install additional programs. This is very common and most adware and a high percentage of virus programs are distributed in this fashion. It's just too easy to click on through.

Opening an email attachment from an unknown source is also a common source of infection. Airlines, UPS, Fedex, etc. do not send you attachments in email. You may get an email confirmation but not an attachment. Around the holidays we tend to see a lot of bogus email from what appears to be an airline. They are not from an airline, it's just appears that way. Don't open an attachment from someone you don't know. It's a good idea to download all attachments and run them against your protection software first.

Another method is called a drive-by. You go to a malicious site and bam, you're infected. McAfee has a good free site advisor tool available online to help with that. It's available at www.siteadvisor.com and I highly recommend it. If you frequent porn or gambling sites, you will get infected, period!

So how do you prevent infections: 1- Keep current with updates for Microsoft, Java, and Adobe. 2- Scan all downloads before installing them 3-Make sure your anti-virus program is up to date and run a full scan weekly 4- Use a little common sense, most infections are self-inflicted.