



SCAM ALERT



Beware of Scareware Scams!

Supposed footage of the February 24 fatal Sea World killer whale attack in Florida actually points at sites distributing scareware. The 40 year old trainer at Sea World in Orlando lost her life on February 24 after a killer whale attack, and people are searching the internet for video of the tragedy. What is Scareware? Scareware is deceptive software. The scam is basically a bogus security scanner that pressures the user to buy the phony virus scanner. The scam artists buy ad space on trusted, popular websites. Even though the ads look legitimate and harmless to the website's operator, they actually redirect unsuspecting visitors to a fraudulent website that performs a bogus security scan. The site then causes a barrage of urgent pop-up messages that pressure users into downloading worthless software. According to the Federal Trade Commission, if you're faced with any of the warning signs of a scareware scam or suspect a problem, shut down your browser. Don't click "No" or "Cancel," or even the "x" at the top right corner of the screen. Some scareware is designed so that any of those buttons can activate the program. If you use Windows, press Ctrl + Alt + Delete to open your Task Manager, and click "End Task." If you use a Mac, press Command + Option + Q + Esc to "Force Quit." If you get an offer, check out the program by entering the name in a search engine. The results can help you determine if the program is on the up-and-up.