

ELITE Series: How to avoid annoying pop-up ads, e-mails

Laura Cunningham

Reporter

Elon students are constantly connected – connected to the Internet, that is. The Internet has become a significant part of college life and is the fastest way to stay on top of the news, play games, listen to music and chat with friends.

With virus attacks, pop-up ads, and spam added to the picture, the Internet has lost some appeal. Before losing all hope in new technology, learn more about your options to avoid excessive pop-ups, mass e-mails and other potentially harmful problems.

Viruses are an ever growing issue with the Internet. The secret to protecting yourself is simple – update your anti-virus protection and know what you're clicking on.

Virus protection software such as Norton Antivirus (<http://www.norton.com>) and McAfee (<http://www.mcafee.com>) can be purchased from Student Computing Services on Williamson Avenue. Students on the campus networks

not using anti-virus software could face a \$50 fine if their computers become infected.

Pop-up ads cause more problems for regular Internet users. You start to search the Elon Web site when, out of no where, a pop-up ad for Viagra appears. You close the window, trying to ignore the message. A few seconds later, a Visa credit card advertisement takes its place. This continuous pop-up catastrophe can continue for hours under certain circumstances.

If your computer is experiencing excessive pop-ups, you are most likely infected with an Internet parasite. Pop-ups are more than a simple annoyance.

Your activity on the Internet is watched through spyware, and spyware installs software on your machine that you did not consent to. There are several solutions to lessen the amount of the ads and to reduce the threats to your security and privacy.

Unfortunately, there is no real solution for the annoying pop-up ads because they are a legal form of

advertising. Free software is available to combat some of these problems though. Ad-Aware, Pop-Up Stoppers, and Spybot are three popular programs. Each can be downloaded for free at <http://www.download.com>.

Ad-Aware scans your RAM, registry, hard drives and external storage devices (basically, your computer) for known tracking and advertising components. Then, with your instruction, it removes these components from your computer. Pop-up ads often come from tracking components which have been routed in your computer from previously visited sites or downloads.

Ad-Aware minimizes the amount of pop-ups because it eliminates many of the tracking components that allow these ads to recognize your computer system.

Pop-Up Stopper blocks any types of pop-up screens on the Internet, therefore eliminating all pop-up ads. In certain situations, when the pop-up is wanted, you can simply hold the control or shift key to allow the pop-up



Kristen Sween / Photographer

Pop-up ads are becoming a more prevalent problem among Internet users. Fortunately, there are various solutions that can help reduce the number of such annoyances while you are surfing the web.

windows to show.

Spybot scans your computer for spyware software and deletes these programs with your permission. This will ultimately provide you with more security in using the Internet.

Downloading and running these

programs on a weekly basis will help your computer run better, provide you with more security protection and ultimately make your Internet surfing more enjoyable.

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Student organizations gain recognition through Web site design

Group sites provide easy communication with members, the public and prospective Elon students

Andrew Baker

Reporter

There is always something going on around a college campus. A lot of this has to do with the fact that there are numerous student organizations on every college campus in America.

Now that more and more college students are spending a lot of time on the Internet, these organizations need a presence on the World Wide Web.

Here at Elon, there are more than 100 student organizations, many of which have Web sites. Many of these Web sites are very helpful in communicating with current members, recruiting new ones and getting their message out to the public.

Three organizations on campus that strive to send out their message to students through their Web sites include Hillel, Sweet Signatures and Alpha Xi Delta.

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tive freshmen and their parents the opportunity to learn about Hillel and Jewish life at Elon,” said Lisa Beuerle, faculty adviser for Hillel. “In fact, we get several e-mails a week from prospective students who have visited our site.”

Beuerle also said that a primary goal of the organization is to “foster and promote relations between students and faculty.”

The Hillel Web site gives viewers the chance to visit other Jewish organizations sites on its links page, view photos from group activities and find out some general information about the organization.

Sweet Signatures, Elon's only all-female a cappella group, is another

student organization on campus that uses its Web site to its advantage.

“It is hard to get all 15 of us together as a group at one time unless we are at a concert, so this Web site allows people to see all of us and put faces with names,” said Virginia Galvez, Sweet Signatures' vice president.

There are two other big advantages to having a Sweet Signatures Web site. Since Sweet Signatures is a music group, it can sell its CDs online, and the Web site gives consumers the information they need, such as where to send checks and how much CDs cost. Site visitors can even listen to sample tracks

before they purchase the CDs.

The group's Web site also allows any other group or organization to contact the musical ensemble about scheduling singing gigs by listing contact information.

The Alpha Xi Delta sorority also manages a Web site. Their Web site is important to the sorority because it is full of information about its history, photos, recruitment and philanthropy.

“Our Web site really benefited Alpha Xi Delta during rush this year,” said Kate Freeman, a member of the sorority. “It really helps the young girls put a face with the members of the organization. These faces that match up with the name

of Alpha Xi Delta really help the girls feel more comfortable about our organization.”

The sorority's site is also important because it allows chapters nationwide to see what the women of Alpha Xi Delta are doing at Elon.

None of the student organizations on campus would be able to have Web sites if they did not have their webmasters. These are the people who put their time into these sites for their organizations and maintain the sites.

How much time each one spends really depends on what type of organization is involved and how much the group wants to include online.

“It isn't a difficult responsibility as long as you know how to use the programs and have good resources for problems you encounter,” said Megan Karrenbauer, Alpha Xi Delta's webmaster.

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