



COMPUTER TROUBLESHOOTERS

Global NEWS

July 2004

“Local service, global strength”

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“Thousands of businesses around the world depend on Computer Troubleshooters”



Global strength

Newsletter produced by Pat Chesters

www.computertroubleshooters.co.nz

If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is!

It is very common these days to receive e-mails with wonderful “cheap” offers on major software products like Microsoft Office for \$50, Windows XP \$50 or Adobe Photoshop \$50.

If you purchase these products legitimately you could be paying 10 times or more than the asking price in the e-mail. So, what is going on?

If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is! If the software is not being sold by an authorized reseller, it is probably illegal.

So what are the risks :

You could spend your money and get nothing in return.

There is a high risk of having your credit card number stolen. **Note: Many of these software scams are just a front to get your credit card details, you will never see the software, but you will see a lot of spending on your credit card .**

You run the risk of installing a virus or other malicious software.

You will not get user guides or manuals.



You will not get technical support.

Don't expect to get help from the users who paid full price for their legally-obtained software.

You will never qualify for upgrades.

You probably will not be able to install update patches.

You are allowing someone else to profit from your foolishness.

Some of the warning signs when purchasing software:

The price is way out of line from the prices offered by reputable, authorized resellers.

The offer was received by unsolicited email (spam) or posted on an Internet message board.

The product is advertised as an OEM, NFR, or academic version. (OEM software is only to be sold with hardware such as new computer systems. NFR stands for not for resale and is generally distributed for evaluation purposes and beta testing. Academic versions can only be purchased by students, teachers, and education faculty.)

The packaging is inconsistent with the same products offered through reputable sellers.

The product is advertised as a "full version" but states that you will receive only CDs.

The product is advertised as a "backup copy" with serial number.

The Web site address does not use a proper domain name, but a series of numbers instead (i.e. <http://68.33.34.128>).

The company does not provide a full business name, street address, or phone number.

The company offers no warranty or refund policy.

Report Suspected Software Scam Pirates. If you have encountered one of these offers, you can help other unsuspecting victims by reporting the seller to the software publisher or the Business Software Alliance.



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