Browser Hijacker Malware

Browser Hijacker are a certain class of malware. We have found that "**Search Conduit"** based viruses are an epidemic among our members. Perhaps you are one of the infected. If you have a **Conduit** folder in your "C:\Program Files (x86)" folder or your "C:\Program Files" folder, your computer is wide open for the associated virus. Conduit in itself is not a virus, but it allows for silent drive-by download and program installs that bypass all protection systems. The software can easily defeat anti-virus mechanisms. It is getting past Norton Internet Security, Avast, and Microsoft Essentials. None detect it as a problem before the drive by virus installation. Once infected, your installed virus protection may be useless against it.

Conduit is just one of the many browser hijackers. Even if you don't have the Conduit folder, inspect your Internet Explorer, Chrome or Firefox installations for symptoms of infection.

Symptoms of browser hijacker infection

1) Homepage Changes: Your homepage is changed, often to something that looks like Google, but the URL is not Google.

2) New Toolbars: A new toolbar suddenly appears in your browser

3) Proxy Error messages appearing from your virus protection software

4) You can't get to some sites in your browser, especially security sites.

5) When you click on links, you are redirected to random unrelated pages

6) If you choose "Manage Addons" from your Internet Explorer Menu, you see strange search providers or Toolbars, it doesn't matter if they are enabled or disabled.

7) The "Remove" button never appears when you click on a oddball search providers.

8) "Internet Options" is disabled in Internet Explorer's menu.

9) You can't turn on your firewall and have it remain on.

10) Your virus protection isn't updating.

You should ask your technical support advisor for guidance, but we strongly recommend that you remove Search Conduit before you get badly infected.

There are many anti-malware programs that might be able to help. Perhaps your anti-virus software offers a solution. We found that Malwarebytes was very helpful in identifying and removing the Search Conduit and related malware.

If you want to try malwarebytes, make sure you get it from the official site, not some third party site that could add even more malware. Malwarebytes official site is https://www.malwarebytes.org Check to make sure you are getting the HTTPS version and that the site is assigned to malwarebytes.org, as an infection can send you to false pages.