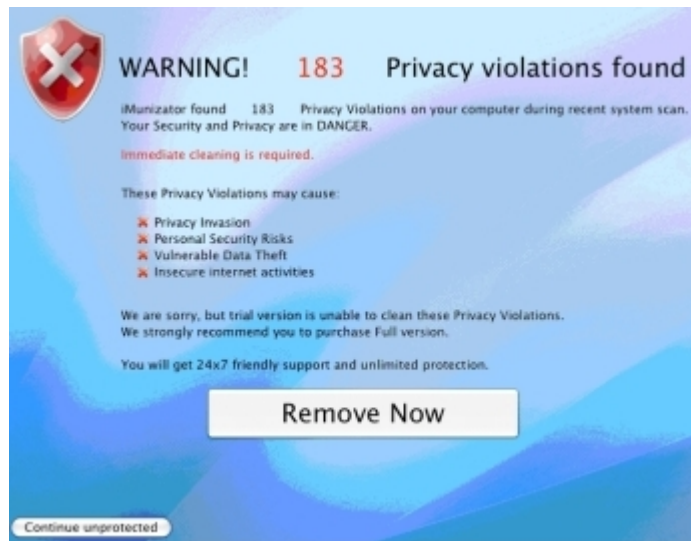


### Beware of "Scareware"

First we had to worry about "[viruses](#)" (computer programs that do bad things to our computers). Then it was "[spyware](#)" (programs that spy on our computer activity). Then it was "[malware](#)" (general category for anything we don't want on our computers). And now it is "[scareware](#)". In the last few months I have seen a sharp rise in calls for help for all sorts of messages stating that a computer is infected with a virus, Trojan or privacy issue and to fix the problem you must purchase an anti-virus program. Turns out these messages are fakes designed to "scare" the user into buying worthless software. Apparently this is a lucrative business. One Ukraine company sold \$163 million dollars of worthless anti-virus software. [Click here to read the story in USA Today.](#)



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My advice is to keep your credit card in your pocket. Never, ever buy anything from messages that pop on your screen, come to you via email or from people who call you on the phone. Simply ignore them. If there is any question just send me an email and ask me if the message you are seeing is legitimate.

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