Remove Kaspersky Software

For years *Best Buy* gave away a free copy of *Kaspersky* security software with the purchase of a new computer (they stopped this practice and stopped selling *Kaspersky* software altogether). For a few years, a couple of years ago, I was recommending *Kaspersky* software as an alternative, but I have changed my mind. If you still have *Kaspersky* security software installed on your computer consider replacing it with another security product. The US government has banned using *Kaspersky* software on all government computers. They have evidence that *Kaspersky* software spies on the computer looking for documents that are "Top Secret". Some experts in the field say that *Kaspersky* software is "probably" fine for home use, but why take a chance. There are other security software suites available that are not Russian made, and quite frankly, the way Russia is behaving these days, poisoning people on the streets of England, meddling in US elections, doping scandals, corruption, why give any Russian firm any business? Yes I know, US spies do despicable things around the world too, but Russia seems to be particularly fragrant these days that I for one don't want to give them any of my business.

Alternative Security Suites

I think it is becoming clear that everyone is better off with a robust security suite for their computer. If your needs are simple and you don't have anything on the computer that you care much about, then maybe basic security software (*Microsoft Windows Defender*) or none at all (note to *Mac* users) is perfectly fine for you. But for the rest of us I think using one of the top security suites is a safer practice.

Every year *PC Magazine* rates the top security suites and once again *Norton* is on top of the list. I have used *Norton* products on and off for over 30 years now and I can safely say that I have very little problems with their software these days. Strangely, you will also see that *Kaspersky* is still a *PC Magazine* "Editor's Choice", but never mind that :-). The good news is that if you are a *Comcast* (*Xfinity*) customer you can get *Norton* for free. Here are the links:

- Comcast (Xfinity) Norton Security Suite for PC (Windows XP, Vista, 7-10)
- Comcast (Xfinity) Norton Internet Security for Mac (Mac OS X 10.6-10.12)

If you are not a Comcast (Xfinity) customer, or you have the latest Mac OS X 10.13, you can get Norton Security Deluxe for 5 devices for only $25 at Amazon.

If you do decide to replace *Kaspersky* with *Norton* just remember to remove *Kaspersky* first, reboot the computer, and then install *Norton*. If you are currently using *Microsoft Windows Defender* and want to start using *Norton* then all you have to do is install *Norton* and it will simply turn off *Windows Defender*, no need to uninstall *Windows Defender* first. If you need help with any of this please let me know.
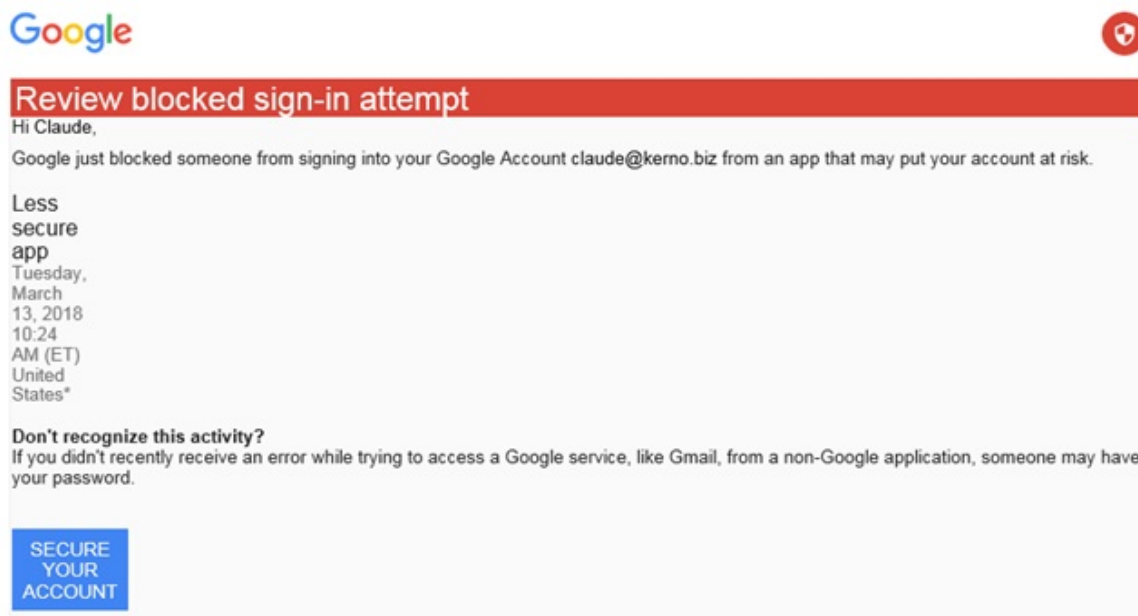
Google Blocked Sign-in Message

From time to time *Google* may email you about a "blocked sign-in attempt". If you have seen this email and have been wondering what this means here is the explanation:

Google gets to decide which apps (*Apple Mail, Microsoft Outlook or Windows Live Mail*) or which devices (new *iPhones* and *iPads* verses older *iPhones* and *iPads*) are "secure" or not. Older devices and older versions of apps can cause the message. So this is why we always have to perform software updates on our computers and devices when they

become available. If you are still using an older device with an older version of an email app, and it can no longer be updated, that can cause the message and there is nothing you can do but stop using the older device.

> "*Google* will continue to block sign-in attempts from the app you're using because it has known security problems or is out of date. You can continue to use this app by allowing access to less secure apps, but this may leave your account vulnerable."

So if all your devices are working anyway then just ignore the message. If something stops working and you want to continue using it then we can change a setting to "allow less secure apps", but we want to avoid doing that if possible.

More info:
[Homeland Security - DHS Statement on the Issuance of Binding Operational Directive 17-01](#)

[ZD Net - Kaspersky says NSA hacking tools obtained after malware was found](#)

[Reuters - Kaspersky says it obtained suspected NSA hacking code from U.S. computer](#)

[Tom's Guide - Kaspersky Russian Spying Rumors: Should You Use This Antivirus?](#)

[The Guardian - Russian Doping Scandal](#)

[The Hill - Four things you won't see in Russia's presidential elections](#)

[PC Magazine - The Best Security Suites of 2018](#)

[Comcast (Xfinity) Norton Security Suite for PC](#)

[Comcast (Xfinity) Norton Internet Security for Mac](#)

[Amazon - Norton Security Deluxe for 5 devices for $25](#)

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Some of my clients do not realize that my business has expanded to all mobile devices. In fact, any consumer electronic product that you can purchase I can help you with. So if you would like help setting up or syncing your new smartphone or tablet or connecting your new WiFi TV to the Internet, just let me know.

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