

Browser Notification Scams

Those alarming pop-ups are almost always **browser notification scams** or caused by **adware**. They are designed to scare you into clicking a link, calling a fake tech support number, or downloading malicious software. [\[1, 2, 3, 4, 5\]](#)

These messages primarily originate from:

- **Abused Web Push Notifications:** You likely visited a sketchy or ad-heavy website in the past (like a free streaming site) and accidentally clicked "Allow" when a prompt asked to show notifications. These sites abuse the browser's push feature to send spam directly to your desktop. [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)
- **Malicious Browser Extensions:** Rogue extensions installed alongside free software can inject fake alerts and redirect your browsing. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Adware/PUPs (Potentially Unwanted Programs):** You may have unknowingly downloaded an app that constantly displays aggressive advertisements and fake virus warnings on your device. [\[1, 2\]](#)

Malwarebytes Free Tools:

The screenshot displays the Malwarebytes website. At the top, the Malwarebytes logo is on the left, and navigation links for Products, Pricing, Partners, About, Resources, Help, and a Free Download button are on the right. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column features a large image of a smiling man on a phone, with a 'Real-time protection ON' status bar at the bottom. The middle column, titled 'Solutions', lists Premium security antivirus, Privacy VPN, Identity Theft Protection, Personal Data Remover, Mobile security for iOS and Android, and a link for small business protection. The right column lists 'Free device cleaners' (Malware and virus remover, AdwCleaner, Antivirus trial), 'Free identity and personal data scanners' (Digital footprint scanner, Personal data scanner), and 'Free scam and ad blockers' (Scam Guard, Scam number checker, Browser Guard). A 'See all free tools' link is at the bottom of this column. On the far right, a large blue banner contains the text 'Full digital on, always ur side.' and 'cybersecurity software is trusted d by millions.', followed by 'start your free virus scan.' and an 'Explore plans' button.