

f you're scanned.

If your computer is on a dedicated connection, odds are good you'll be scanned sooner or later. For example, my laptop at school is on a dedicated line. In one 24 hour period, 4 scans were detected. However, getting scanned is not necessarily a reason to panic.

Some people are just curious about what's out there, and go scanning ports for their own amusement. Your ISP or company may also scan ports, looking for inappropriate servers or other problems. These aren't the kind of scans you need to worry about.

However, if you notice frequent scanning, particularly from similar addresses or across multiple ports, you may want to report the problem. This is easy to do. Just go to the TrashScan main screen, then click the "Export" button. You will be prompted to save the file. The exported data contains information about the time and origin of the scan, and should be forwarded on to your ISP or connectivity provider, along with a short note explaining what you're sending. Your ISP can probably make better judgements about the nature of the scans, and in the end, they are the ones who can help you anyway.

If you notice a problem, it is imperative that you export the logfile before quitting. TrashScan does not maintain an ongoing logfile of all incidents.

And remember, just because you were scanned, does not mean you've been hacked!

If you would prefer to take more immediate action, TrashScan has a built-in

reporting utility. Just double-click on the record you wish to report in the quick log window.

This will bring up a new window. TrashScan will automatically attempt a reverse lookup on the IP address in question, then try to get a contact email address from the Network Abuse Clearinghouse. If everything goes as planned, you will have a nice, concise email message constructed for you. Otherwise, you will receive error messages to help you in your quest.

Remember, the email address listed is not the email address of the person who scanned you! Rather, it is a contact address for the administrator of that person's network.