



Beware of Google Ads

Not all ads you see at the top of search results are created equal. In fact, some are downright dangerous. Phishers and fakers are increasingly buying advertising from Google for popular search words or phrases and some of those ad links can contain malicious code that can infect your computer.

The screenshot shows a Google search for 'youtube'. The search results include several organic results and two AdWords ads. The first AdWords ad is for 'Youtube Channel' with the URL 'www.youtube.com/'. A red box highlights this ad, and a red arrow points from it to a blue BSOD screen. The BSOD screen displays the following text:

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0x000000CE DRIVER_UNLOADED_WITHOUT_CANCELLING_PENDING_OPERATIONS

WINDOWS HEALTH IS CRITICAL
DO NOT RESTART

PLEASE CONTACT MICROSOFT TECHNICIANS

BSOD : Error 333 Registry Failure of
operating system - Host :
BLUE SCREEN ERROR 0x000000CE

Please contact Microsoft Technicians At Toll Free :
1-844-396-3227

To Immediately Rectify issue to prevent Data Loss
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The BSOD screen also includes social media links for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and a 'Feedback' link at the bottom right.

Image by Malware Bytes: Malvertising Via Google AdWords Leads to Fake BSOD

Be wary of paid advertising. Unless you know a site is safe, always choose the first non-paid result in a search query.