



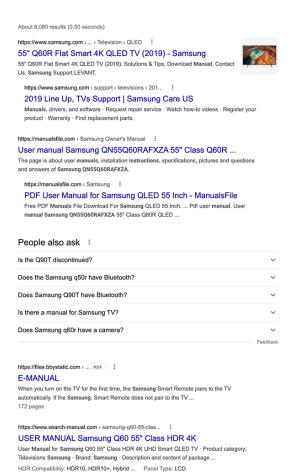




Using any internet connection potentially exposes the user to bad actors. Turning off the internet would be ideal, but with today's world it would be impossible to accomplish one's job. However, by using good judgment a user can mitigate searching the internet to a minimal risk. If you must search the web, be extra cautious and be aware of the risks described below.

Have you ever purchased an electronic and then misplaced or lost the user manual? For instance, you just purchased a new big screen TV, a Samsung, model number QN55Q60RAFXZA and need to figure out how to hook up your surround sound.

Not having the paper manual can be problematic for trouble shooting problems. Thankfully, a quick search on the internet for "Samsung QN55Q60RAFXZA manual" yields the following:



Missing: en55e60refyze | Must include: gn55g60rafyza

The first search result is for Samsung's own website. While this seems like a legitimate source of a Samsung product manual, you must still be careful when opening or downloading documents from websites. Opportunistic attackers can target legitimate websites.

The other results should be questioned. Are these legitimate websites? How did they obtain a copy of the manual? Did the website owner upload the manual? Is this a website where anonymous users can upload a file?

Not being able to verify the source of these files means there are dangers when downloading and opening them. Luckily, the TV is fairly new, and since Samsung still provides the manual directly through their product support, your best bet is to call Samsung and ask for a copy via email or ask that they provide the direct link to the manual.

The manual storage websites and other similar websites can be an amazing resource for older, rare electronics or manuals. Need a wiring diagram for a 1974 Yamaha motorcycle? They have that! The manuals may be completely harmless, and the document providers may be enthusiasts looking only to support fellow enthusiast.

Using these types of websites does create opportunity for a watering hole attack. Documents from these types of websites may be loaded with malicious code or potentially not be a document at all; instead, it may be an executable file containing malware.

The important thing to remember is to mitigate risk. If you are looking for a form or document do NOT just search and click. Be cognizant of the website you are using. Only trust websites you know, and always be careful when downloading documents from the internet.

If you cannot find a document through a known and trusted site that produced the form, do not take the risk of downloading from another site. Criminals target forms they know people — and more importantly settlement agents — commonly search for online. Then, they create their own documents to meet the demand — complete with malicious code.

In addition, be aware no website is immune from attack. Criminals have succeeded in uploading malicious files to known and trusted websites, blindsiding users. If you are downloading a form, make sure to look at the file extension to ensure it is, in fact, the document file type you are looking for, such as ".pdf," ".docx" or ".xlsx."

If it is any other file type, such as ".exe," do NOT download or open it. If the document asks to run macros or some other program, do NOT allow it. If you have opened a suspicious file, contact your local IT and shut off your computer immediately.

Watering hole attacks tempt us all to avoid the internet, however this is not always an option. If you are unable to find a document within your escrow processing system, always check the Company's intranet or ask management, title or National Escrow Administration if they have the document you need.

If you must search the web, be extra cautious and aware of the risks. Know there are criminals out there hoping you download their document (instead of a safe one).

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