

## **SAFE Alert!**Coronavirus Map Scams



Scammers are coming out in force, feeding on our fears and the need for information on how to keep our families safe from the Coronavirus (COVID-19), what the latest updates are, and our desire to track the spread of the virus.

The latest scam is a coronavirus map app to avoid (found at www.Corona-Virus-Map[.]com) purports to show where the current outbreaks of confirmed cases are world-wide, deaths and recoveries by country, and claims to use the resources and data of the legitimate Johns Hopkins University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering. However, it also has an added malicious feature, some information-stealing malware called AZORult, that will infect your computer if you download the app, and you might not even know it!

This is not the only malicious coronavirus map that has shown up, and it won't be the last. But there are steps you can take to try to avoid these and all the other scams trying to trip you up online, on your phone, and in your email.

## What can you do?

- First, take the time to go to legitimate sites to get your information.
  - » Don't click on links from sources you don't know; it could download viruses onto your computer or mobile devices.
  - » If you get an email from the CDC or some 'expert' providing information you didn't request, don't click on any link or document in the email. Just delete it.
  - When you are doing searches online don't use the links provided. Research where they are coming from and type in the legitimate addresses to those organizations or government agencies yourself.
- Finally, always remember to be on the lookout for anything unusual, suspicious, or unknown, and pay attention to anything that causes strong reactions, like fear or urgency. These emotions will cause you to react before you've had time to think clearly.