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Awareness of risks and information on how to prevent or minimise them, while carrying out your various activities on the Internet could well be the key to ensuring its secure use.

- [Windows Vista: Increased Security!](#)
- [Consequences of using the latest version of Skype on various sites, including millenniumbcp.pt](#)

In this edition, in **Highlights**, as in the coming editions of the Security Newsletters, we shall publish some of the functions underlying the new version of Windows in the area of security.

Get to know the consequences of using Skype on the Millennium bcp Portugal in **Basic Safety Principles**.

Remember that security failures are always related with "disguises". This month, according to the calendar, the only diguises allowed is the Carnival fancy dress. Make good use of our suggestions, therefore.



Highlights



Windows Vista: Increased Security!

On January 29 Microsoft launched its latest version of Windows in Portugal. Known as Vista, this new version contains several novelties, particularly in the field of security.

As mentioned, we are pleased to provided information on some of the new functions.

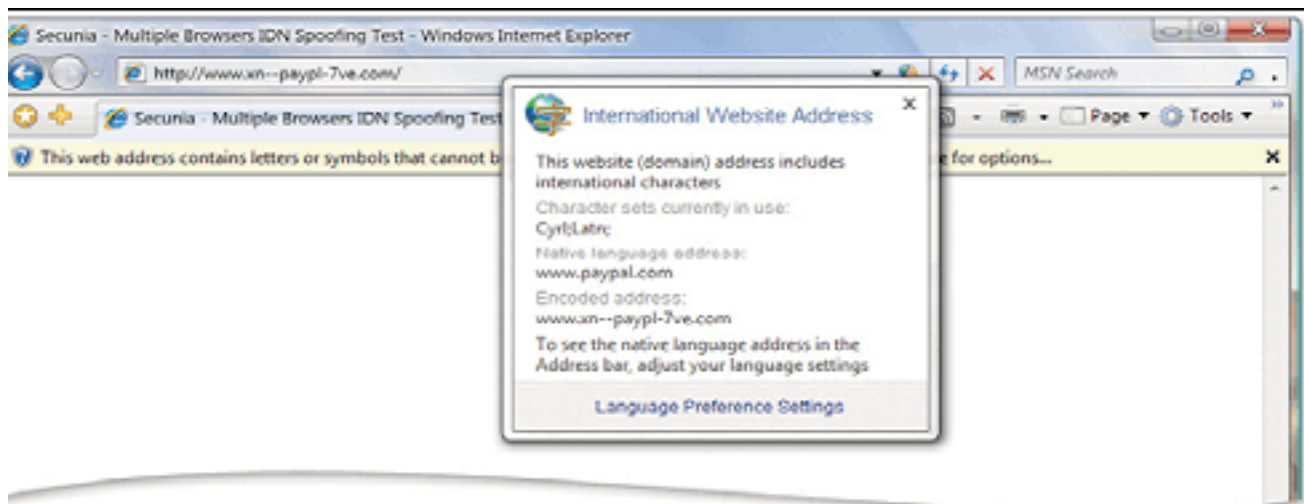
URL (Universal Resource Locator*) Presentation Protection

Generally speaking, malicious users try to mislead Internet users by leading them to believe they are consulting information from a known, trustworthy source, while hiding the real information about the URL. Internet Explorer 7 denies these intentions with the help of two extremely efficient visual tools:

- **An Address Bar in every window.** With Internet Explorer 7, every window of the browser must have an Address Bar, which means that even pop-up windows must clearly identify the site that sends them; and
- **Support for International Domain Names.** Operators of malicious Web sites may use characters other than Latin ones, which may be presented in a different way if the

respective alphabet is not installed. This is another means of hiding the true name of the domain of the Web site. Internet Explorer 7 warns you if characters from an alphabet you haven't installed are being used.

* The URL is the link or address of a Web page or the path of a network, e.g. of a printer, etc.



Basic Security Principles



Consequences of using the latest version of Skype on various sites, including millenniumbcp.pt

As a result of installing the latest version of Skype - software allowing conversation over the Internet at no cost - a plug-in is also installed in some browsers (e.g. Internet Explorer or Firefox) which alters the phone numbers seen on Internet pages so you can call them directly without having to type them in.

Use of this plug-in means that pages containing a set of numbers that the programme interprets as telephone numbers are "replaced" by others to which a prefix (PT +351 XXXXXXXXX in the case of Portugal) and a link to allow automatic connection are added. This is a function that Skype provides to its users to simplify communications.

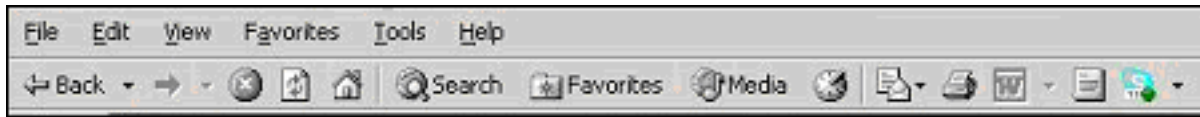
It's not a weak point of the millenniumbcp.pt portal but rather a BHO (Browser Helper Object (*)) resulting from an option the user took on installing all the components of the latest version of Skype, often without being fully aware of the implications.

How to detect this situation?

The best way is to check whether the Skype icon appears on your browser (Internet Explorer):



(*) A Browser Helper Object (BHO) is a component that interacts with Internet Explorer (IE), allowing functions to be added to the browser.

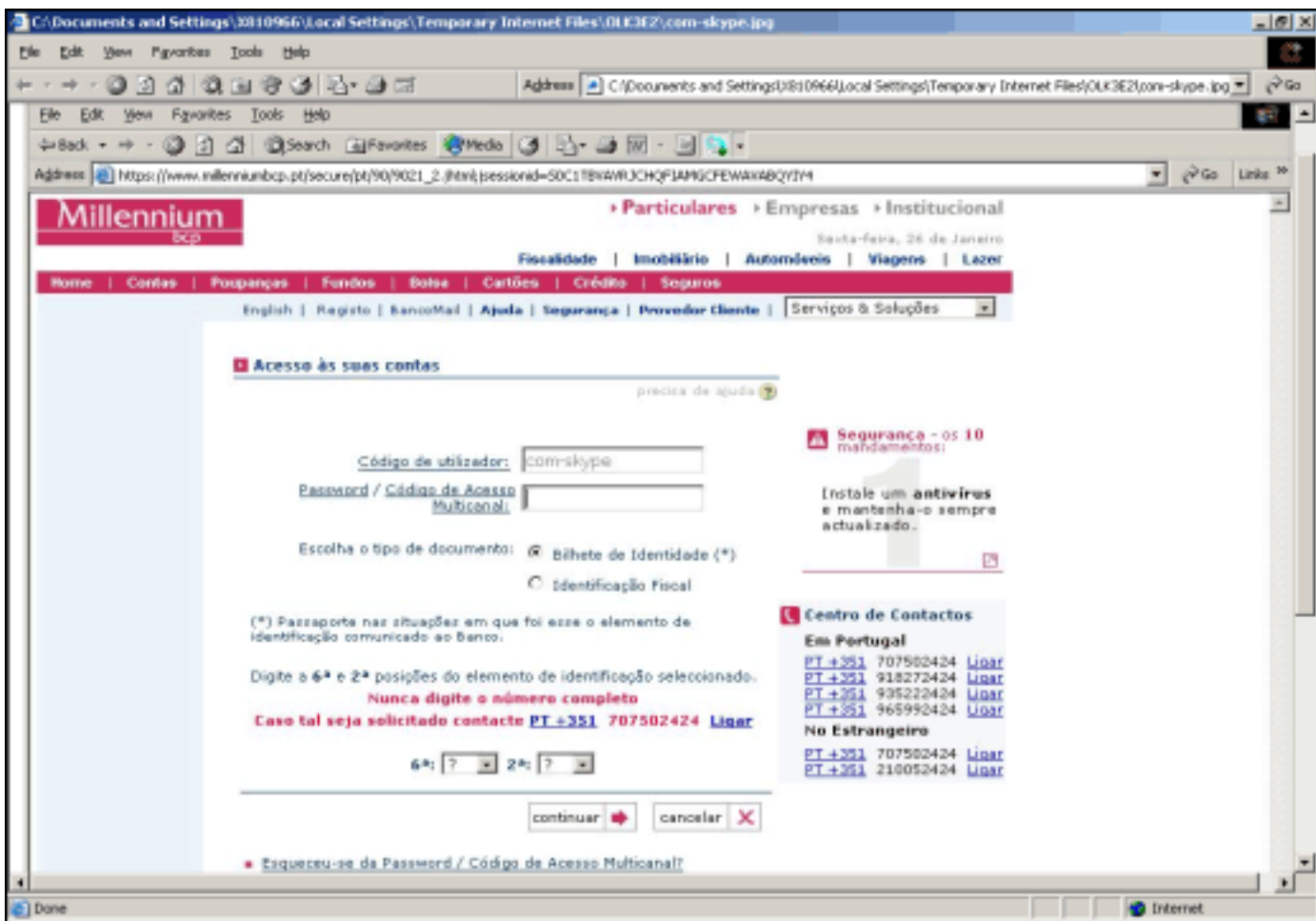


If it's a BHO (Browser Helper Object) shouldn't your warn you of the fact? Yes, really. But, though detecting it, some AntiSpyware programmes either don't report it or they classify it as 'benign'.

What are the implications in accessing some of the Millennium bcp screens using Internet Explorer?

If the latest version of Skype is installed and should the screen you are consulting have a set of numbers that the programme interprets as a telephone number, then the pages is altered through the addition of the prefix PT +351 plus a link.

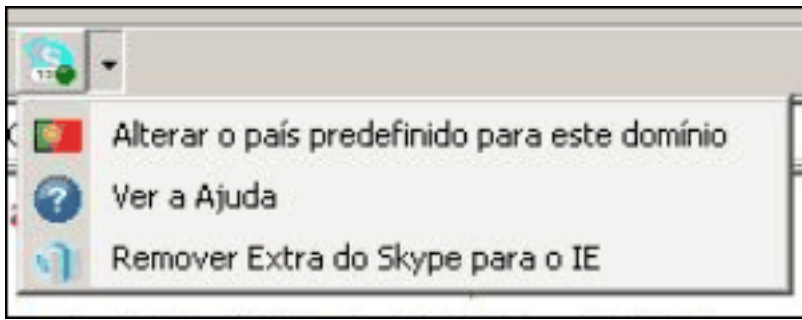
So, when you access the login page it might look like the following:



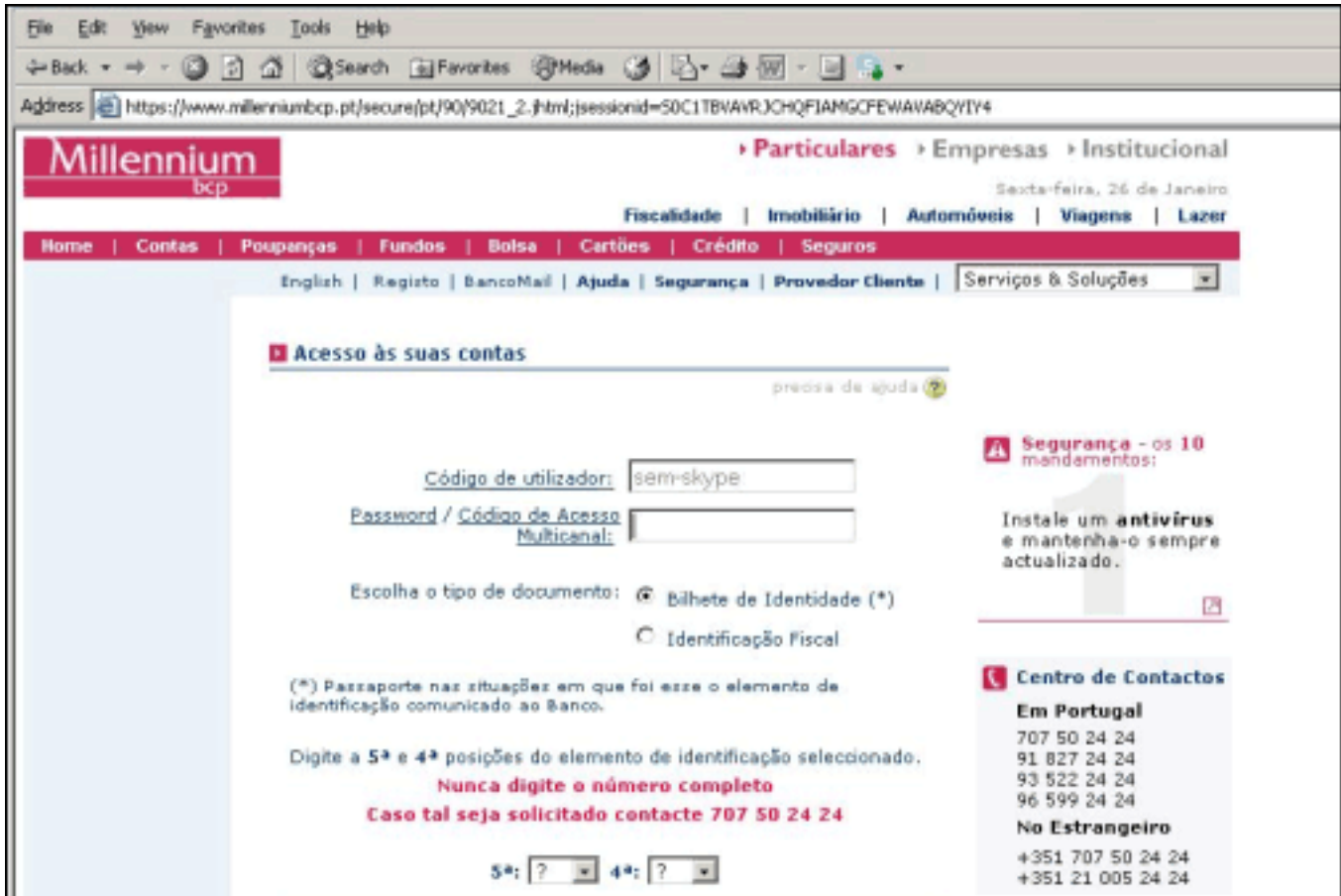
How to get round this?

- To get back to the original page, just **select the Skype icon** on the options bar.
- When the various options appear, select the option **Remove Skype Extra for IE**.





This simple measure will put the page back into its original form and it can now be used safely, while maintaining the Skype functions.



www.millenniumbcp.pt 707 50 24 24 / 91 827 24 24 / 93 522 24 24 / 96 599 24 24



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