

# How to use VirusTotal to Measure Website Trust

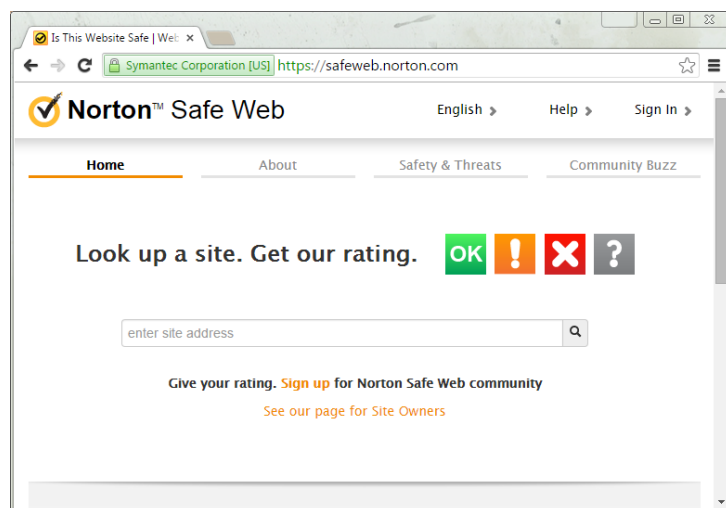
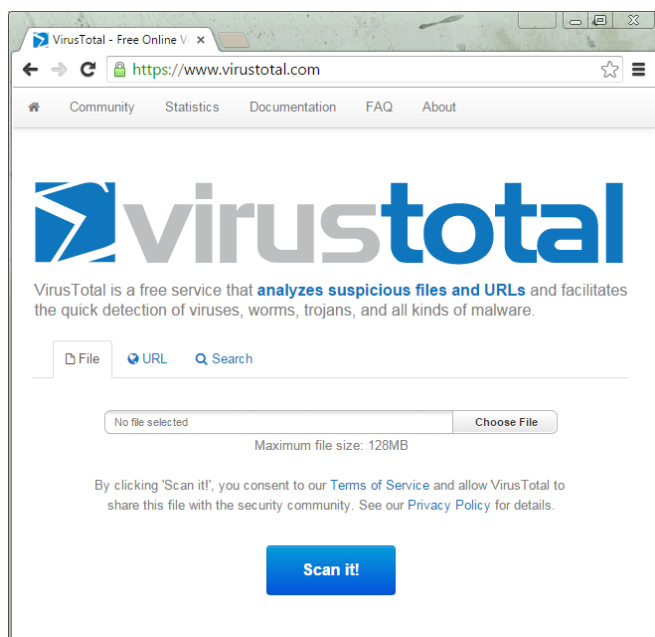
McAfee published a report, "[The Web's Most Dangerous Search Terms](#)" where they explain how hackers are most successful when they can attack a large number of victims online in one fell swoop like during hot trending topics, celebrity meltdowns, natural disasters, holidays and around popular music.

Hackers also target particular subject matter and build websites that purposely host malicious software such as exploits, dialers, Trojans, and other malware. Most often the unsuspecting victim will download a computer file or program that comes with a malicious piece of code capable of copying itself and corrupting the system or destroying data.

The best way to avoid falling victim to this senseless type of cybercrime is to not download, but that is unrealistic. And if you ask McAfee what their suggestion would be obviously it would be to buy their antivirus software. But another way to measure the trustworthiness of a website before you even click onto it is to use a couple of free websites; VirusTotal.com and Norton.com.

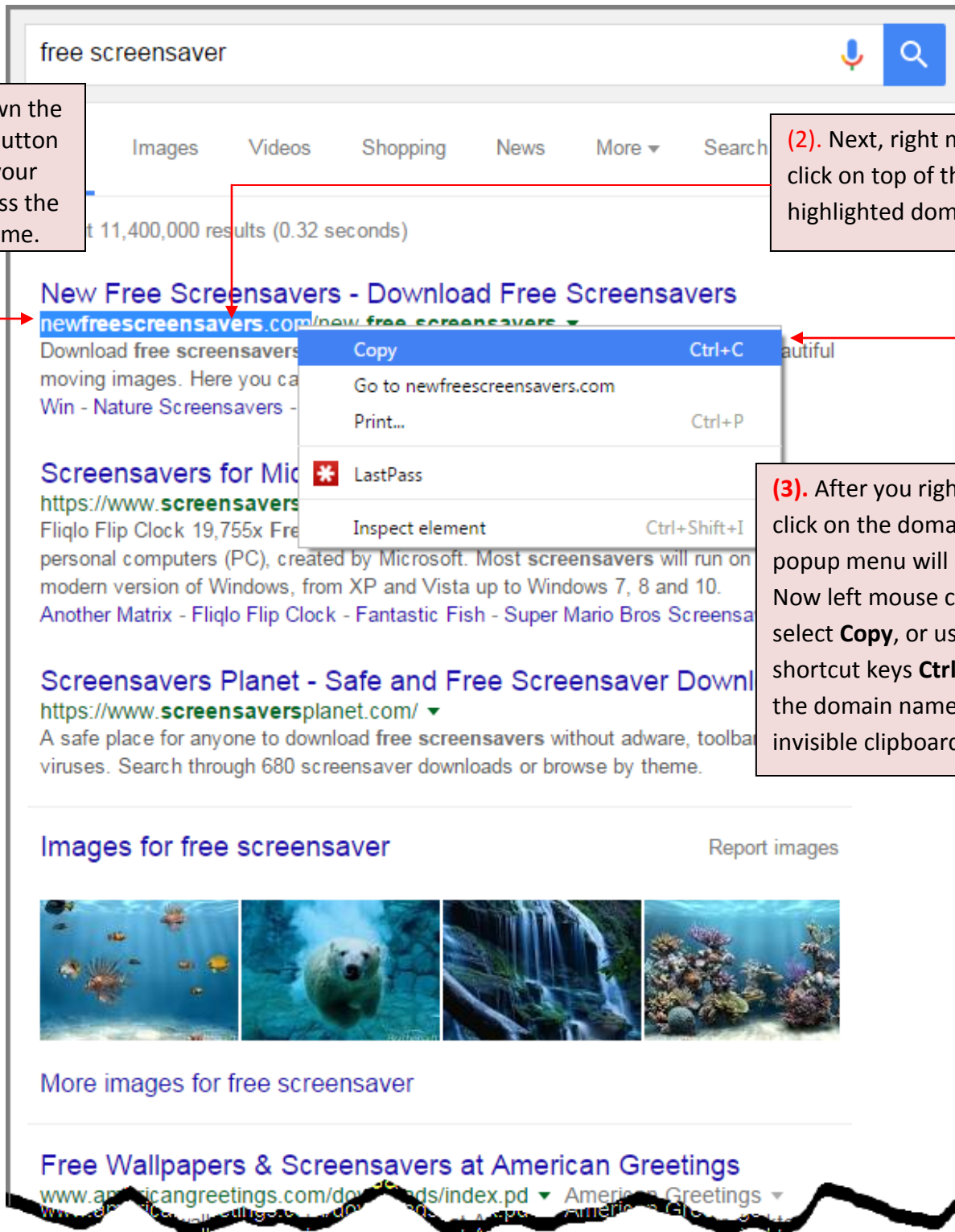
[VirusTotal.com](https://www.virustotal.com)

[SafeWeb.Norton.com.](https://safeweb.norton.com)



## How to use VirusTotal

Once a search has been performed, highlight and copy the domain name of one of the websites.

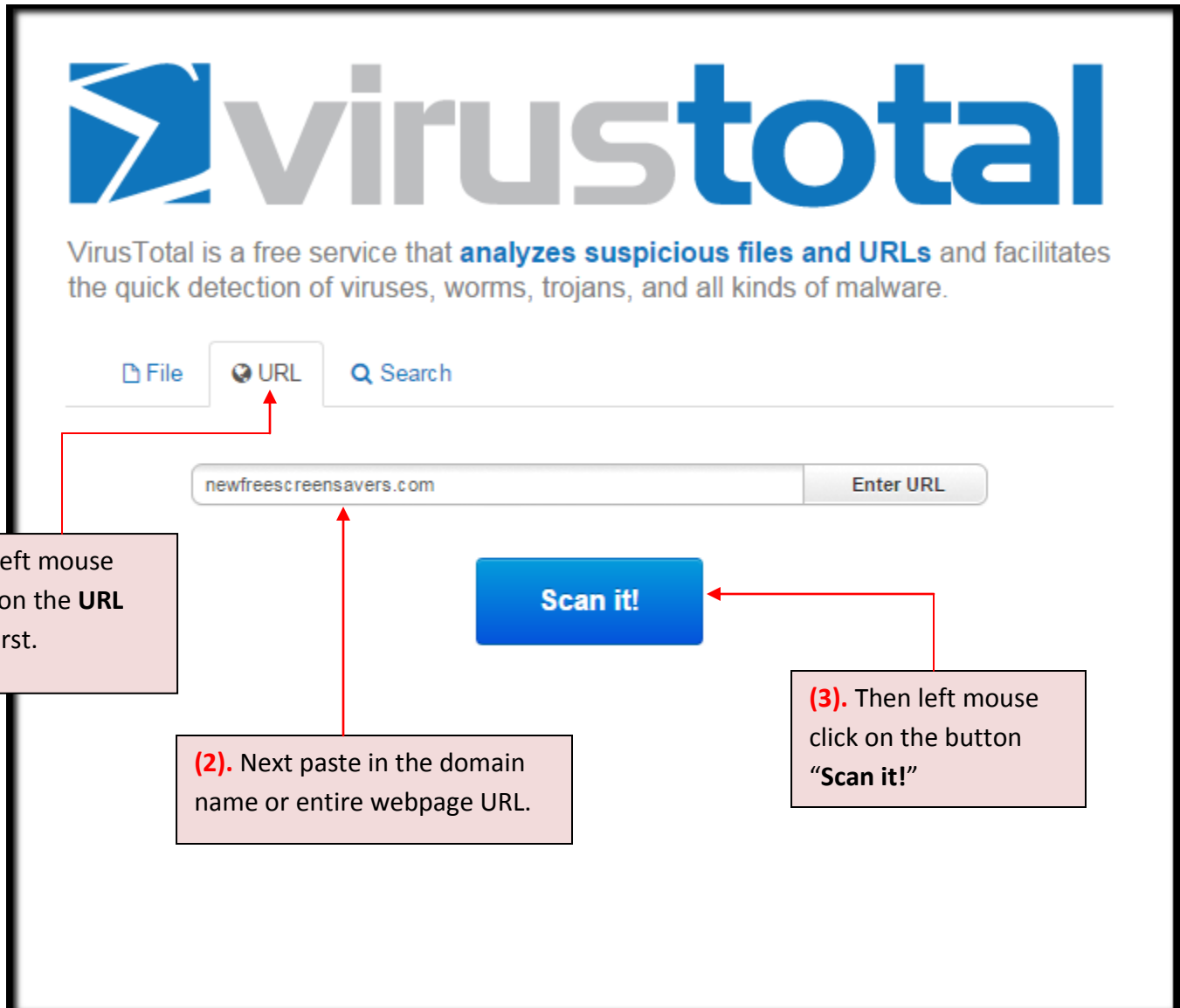


(1). Hold down the left mouse button and drag your pointer across the domain name.

(2). Next, right mouse click on top of the highlighted domain

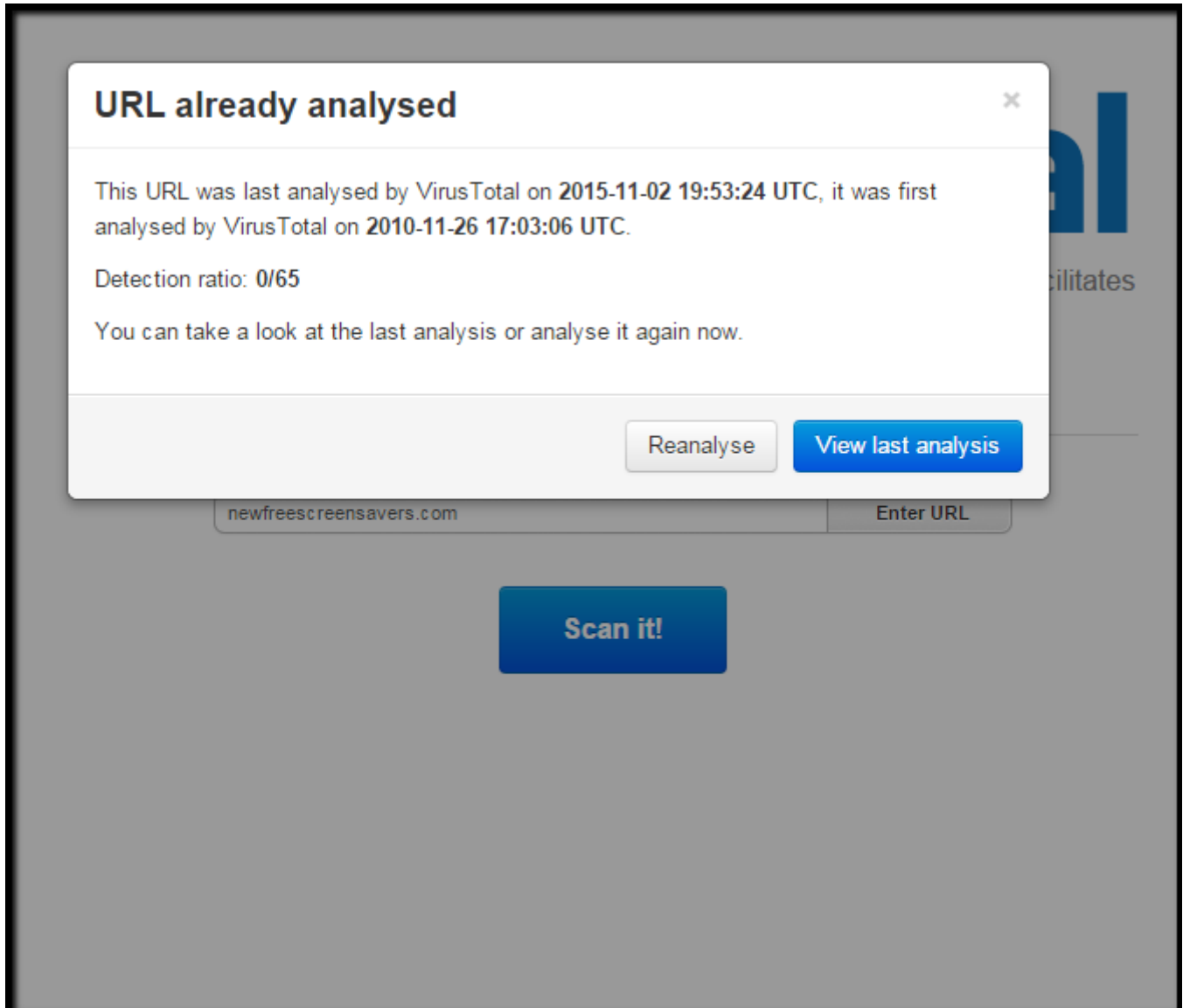
(3). After you right mouse click on the domain name, a popup menu will appear. Now left mouse click to select **Copy**, or use the shortcut keys **Ctrl+C** to copy the domain name onto your invisible clipboard.

Now that you've copied one of the search results domain names to your clipboard, go to [VirusTotal.com](https://www.virustotal.com) and paste it into the VirusTotal URL bar. Here you can either paste in the domain name or the entire URL address of a webpage.



The image shows the VirusTotal website interface. At the top, the VirusTotal logo is displayed. Below the logo, a description states: "VirusTotal is a free service that analyzes suspicious files and URLs and facilitates the quick detection of viruses, worms, trojans, and all kinds of malware." The interface features three tabs: "File", "URL", and "Search". The "URL" tab is selected. Below the tabs is a search bar containing the text "newfreescreensavers.com" and a button labeled "Enter URL". To the right of the search bar is a blue button labeled "Scan it!". Three callout boxes provide instructions: (1) "Left mouse click on the URL tab first." with an arrow pointing to the "URL" tab; (2) "Next paste in the domain name or entire webpage URL." with an arrow pointing to the search bar; and (3) "Then left mouse click on the button 'Scan it!'" with an arrow pointing to the "Scan it!" button.

After you've clicked on the **{Scan it!}** button, a popup window may appear notifying you that the URL has already been analyzed. At this point you may either click on the **{Reanalyse}** button or click on the **{View last analysis}** button. My advice is to click on **{Reanalyse}** each time until you have become more familiar with this website.



VirusTotal will now analyze your request through 65 antivirus engines and website scanners for viruses, worms, trojans and other kinds of malicious content. Scroll down through the **Result** column in search of any “Suspicious site” warnings. If you discover any warnings consider that a red-flag and avoid that website.

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal interface for the URL <http://www.americangreetings.com/>. The detection ratio is 0 / 65, and the analysis date is 2015-11-02 21:57:04 UTC (0 minutes ago). A voting section shows 13 'malicious' votes (evil icon) and 5 'good' votes (good icon). A table lists the results from 14 different scanners.

URL Scanner	Result
Quttera	Suspicious site
CloudStat	Clean site
ADMINUSLabs	Clean site
AegisLab WebGuard	Clean site
AlienVault	Clean site
Antiy-AVL	Clean site
Avira	Clean site
Baidu-International	Clean site
BitDefender	Clean site
Blueliv	Clean site
C-SIRT	Clean site
CLEAN MX	Clean site

Annotations in the image include:

- A red bracket pointing to the voting icons and the 'Vote as malicious' popup window.
- A red arrow pointing from the 'Vote as malicious' popup to the 'Suspicious site' result in the table.
- A red arrow pointing from the 'Suspicious site' result to a text box explaining the voting icons.
- A red arrow pointing from the 'Results' column header to a text box instructing to scroll down for warnings.

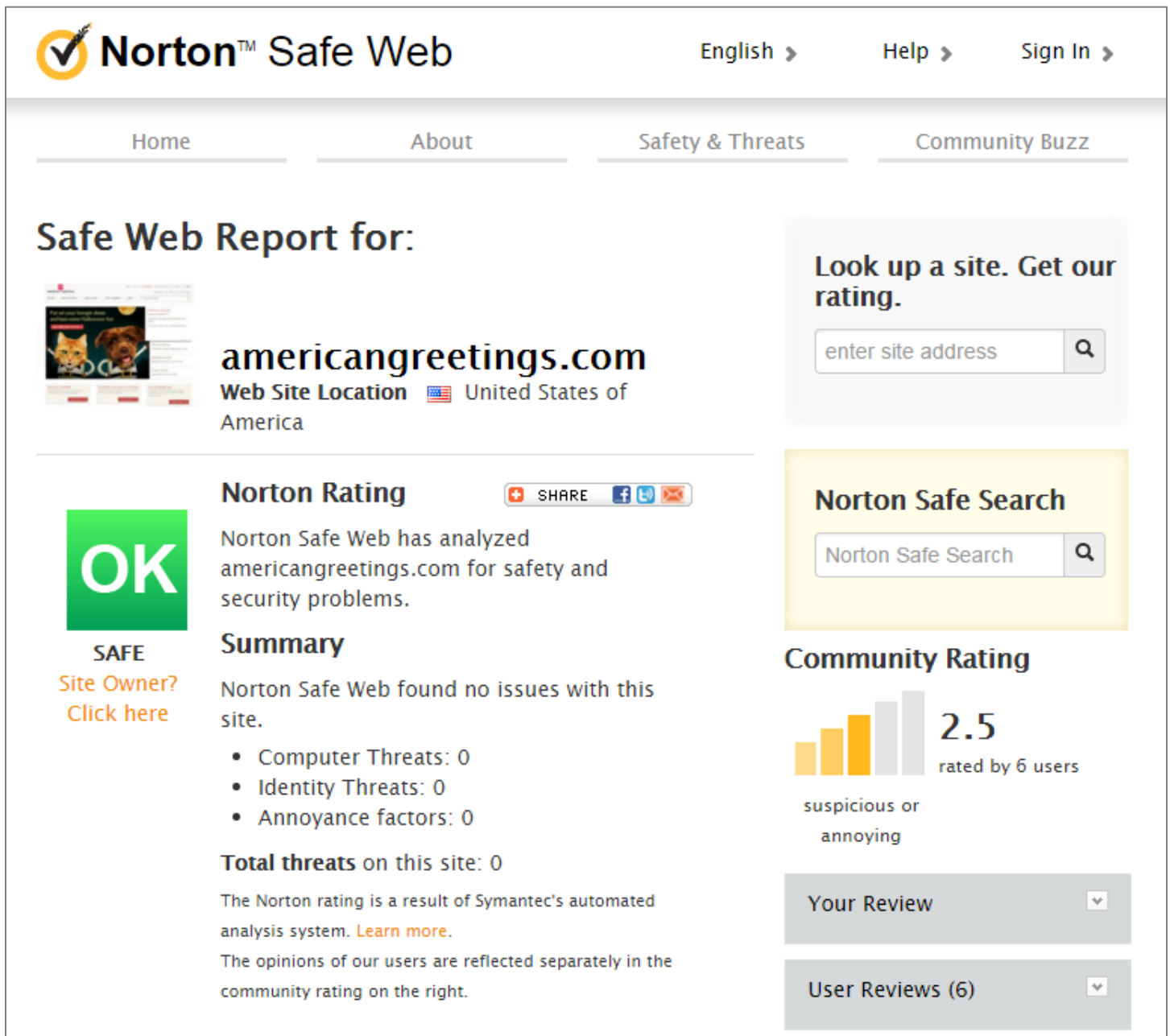
If you would like a second opinion about the risk of a website, you can go to [SafeWeb.Norton.com](http://SafeWeb.Norton.com) and paste a website name or URL address into their antivirus engine.

The screenshot shows the Norton Safe Web homepage. At the top left is the Norton logo and the text "Norton™ Safe Web". To the right are links for "English", "Help", and "Sign In". Below this is a navigation bar with "Home", "About", "Safety & Threats", and "Community Buzz". The main heading reads "Look up a site. Get our rating." followed by four icons: a green "OK", an orange exclamation mark, a red "X", and a grey question mark. A search bar contains the URL "http://www.americangreetings.com/" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, it says "Give your rating. Sign up for Norton Safe Web community" and "See our page for Site Owners". Two callout boxes are present: one on the left with an arrow pointing to the search bar, and one on the right with an arrow pointing to the magnifying glass icon.

**(1).** Paste in a website domain name or webpage URL address then press **Enter**

**(2).** Or click on the magnifying glass to analyze.



Norton will then analyze the website and return back to you their report. Click on the grey box (on the bottom right) to read the **User Reviews**.








**Norton™ Safe Web** English > Help > Sign In >

Home About Safety & Threats Community Buzz

## Safe Web Report for:

 **americangreetings.com**  
Web Site Location  United States of America

**Norton Rating**    

 **SAFE**  
Site Owner?  
[Click here](#)

Norton Safe Web has analyzed americangreetings.com for safety and security problems.

### Summary

Norton Safe Web found no issues with this site.

- Computer Threats: 0
- Identity Threats: 0
- Annoyance factors: 0

**Total threats** on this site: 0


The Norton rating is a result of Symantec's automated analysis system. [Learn more.](#)

The opinions of our users are reflected separately in the community rating on the right.

**Look up a site. Get our rating.**  
enter site address

**Norton Safe Search**  
Norton Safe Search

### Community Rating

 **2.5**  
rated by 6 users

suspicious or annoying

Your Review

User Reviews (6)

The resources provided in this guide are meant to help you avoid clicking into deceitful websites. Always use your best judgment before downloading free programs onto your computer, toolbars especially. Even certain “updates” can be deceiving. Keep in mind that you can also upload files and folders to VirusTotal for analysis before installing them on your computer. Whenever in doubt, you can always call a friend first 😊

[CLICK HERE](#) to be taken  
back to the KCSLAB Blog