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Today my Toshiba laptop (just over a year old) is in the shop due, I believe to spyware/adware problems. I have spent several weekends trying to remove software that took over my computer. In the end neither I, nor the computer tech could even boot my computer up, even in safe mode. The solution was to re-install my operating system. "Restore" would not solve the problem. Needless to say, I have lost endless family photos, retirement information, addresses, etc.

Some of the first software that I will load to my "new" computer will be Ad-Aware and Spybot-Search & Destroy. I also will look with a jaundiced eye at the free plug-ins that offer fun things. I will no longer pay the price of "free!"

I had done my best to maintain my anti-virus files, but in the end I was probably my own worst enemy.