Hello:

I have a few views on spyware, and browser redirection.

 First I would like to make it clear, that my computer, and its file structures, and software, are all owned and paid for by me. When I use the internet, it is clearly like getting in a car and driving down a public street, with addresses defining the public and private entities along the way.

What is disturbing, are the people who think, freedom of speech, means they can modify my file structures and programs. And make my software and computer, do things without my knowledge or permission. They use the guise of consumer protection, as if they were my advocate, which is very far from the truth.

 If we used the car analogy, by simply parking in a store parking lot, one would not expect thier car to be modified by agents of the store. If I wanted to change a headlamp on the car, I would not expect that the exhaust system would be modified too. If I wanted new seat covers, I would not expect to find the engine modified. If I installed a new stereo in my car, I would not expect that the vendor would place advertising on my hood. But this is exactly what happens on the internet, the vehicle is my computer.

The spyware industry, should be viewed as pirates, they plunder and rob computer resources from the user, and its all done with stealth. If you were to ask consumers if they wanted spyware on thier machine, the answer would be 100% against spyware being placed on their machine. But, if you listen to the spyware industry, they make it sound like they do good things, and there are only a handful of examples of benficial uses for spyware.

The real test of integrity for the spyware industry, that always fails, is the fact that they hide, without any way to remove, software on the consumers computer. The software is always packaged, so the consumer does not know its being installed, and is very difficult to remove. To the average computer user, the only way they detect spyware, is the sudden decrease in thier machines capabilties, and sluggishness associated with the loss of resources. The spyware industry would like to make people think they are operating in the grey, when in practise, the operate in the black.

The spyware industry should be highly regulated, and offenders exacted severe punishment. A single peice of spyware, can cost consumers millions of dollars in repair bills, purchasing removal software, and loss of services due to computer and software crashes. I work on my friends computers frequently, and in the top ten reasons for computer problems, spyware is the number one culprit. The FTC would be doing millions of americans a big favor, by clamping down hard on spyware.

AJW