

From: Lawrence Roberge
Posted At: Friday, March 12, 2004 1:47 PM
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004
Conversation: PUBLIC COMMENTARY REGARDING SPY WARE
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTARY REGARDING SPY WARE
Importance: High

Dear Sirs, Greetings! I have become increasingly aware and concerned over the presence of spy ware with my business and personal computer. Therefore, I am recommending that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) formally begin the process to make such software and business practices illegal unless the consumer is immediately informed prior to the insertion of such spy ware AND that the consumer have the capacity to deny entry of the spy ware into their computer system. Furthermore, I urge heavy criminal fines and imprisonment as penalties for any organization, business, or individual that provides, designs, or distributes spy ware.

In short, spy ware is an intrusion into the consumer's private use of the Internet as well as an invasion of the consumer's (private individual or business) hardware (and even software). This is an invasion of the private property rights of the consumer and must be stopped immediately.

Finally, I would recommend that the FTC order that all spy ware producers cease spy ware activity immediately and that spy ware organizations must provide "clean up" software to eradicate spy ware that has been created by the spy ware company-free of charge- to the consumer. The use and presence of spy ware has created an undue burden to the consumer who now must incur the financial burden of purchasing special spy ware removal software just to remove this intrusive programming from their computer systems. This is a burden that the spy ware producers have thrust upon the unknowing consumer and it must stop.

I must add that it has not missed my notice that the strategies of spy ware can be used for costly hacking processes by corporations or individuals. This "backdoor" of problems and hardware/software damage has lead to further consumer costs and frustration. Action by the FTC would help to remedy this problem.

Please send me a written response as to what actions you will be taking regarding this matter. Thank you.

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Also see:

www.lawrenceroberge.com