

From: Debs
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Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

I am unable to attend the Spyware Workshop but have been keeping on top of the developments and problems resulting from intrusive advertising. People don't understand why their computer is having problems, why it is slow, and why so many popups come in from everywhere, so I placed a page on my site that explains the problem and how to fix it.

I placed a javascript on my site for a period of one week and found that 75% of my visitors were infected with spyware/adware/parasiteware. Of those 75%, 98.5% took the time to read the one page of information and instructions I had posted, spending a minimum of 10 minutes on that page, with the average page time being over 23 minutes! You can view the page here: <http://www.debtsteps.com/spyware-infection.html>

The content on my site is all original content. Months were spent researching, interviewing and gathering the data needed to write good quality content to help people get out of debt. Now if someone has spyware/adware/parasiteware installed on their computer, with their knowledge or without (99% of users are infected without their knowledge and consent), my content is used against me to target ads for these unscrupulous software vendors to my visitors. That means I lose income, and I lose it big time! Not to mention the aggravation visitors have with popups and the feeling they have that my site provides them, when, in fact it doesn't!

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the monopolistic attitude that Symantec has taken with Norton Internet Security. Norton IS when installed has adblocking on by default. When the visitor browser hits my site, Norton IS rewrites my content! Taking my copywritten work and leaving gaps in my pages, making my links unclickable, and violating my copyright. If someone were to opt to adblock I would have no complaint, but to have it on by default is a violation of my rights as a webmaster. Not to mention Norton singles out certain links and domains, and bypasses others that are also known advertising. They auto block Google AdSense, Commission Junction and BeFree links, but let Overture advertisements through.

Here are some great resources that go into more depth on spyware and adblocking:

<http://www.ciac.org/ciac/techbull/CIACTech02-004.shtml>

http://www.webpagesthatsuck.com/bad_ads.html

<http://www.doxdesk.com/parasite/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/admin/help/#q1>

<http://www.5staraffiliateprograms.com/norton-blocks-revenue.html>

<http://abw.infopop.cc/6/ubb.x?a=tpc&s=548608979&f=982601789&m=7126099034&r=1726070634#1726070634>

<http://www.parasiteware.com/>

Best wishes,
Debs, Webmaster

<http://www.DebtSteps.com/>

Where you get answers.