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Posted At: Tuesday, April 13, 2004 1:24 AM
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

To Whom this may concern;

I'm writing to add my comments regarding spyware programs. All of the spyware programs that exist, present significant ethical violations on many levels, most of which the average consumer isn't even aware of.

Violations of Personal Privacy - It's widely known among those that do business on the internet that these programs exist solely to monitor the user's internet behavior, gather information about him/her, and send it back to the company, purportedly for advertising purposes. The average internet user, however, is not usually aware of the program's existence on their computer, nor of the fact that it's reporting their activity to a company.

No permission is given for the company to track their behavior and use it for their own purposes. It's all done very deceptively and in many cases, it's done to children under the legal age of consent. But children rarely live alone, and now the spyware is there to track all the users on that computer, including their siblings and parents; none of those people were even given the opportunity to accept or decline the monitoring of their internet activity.

Unfair Business Practices - After all they do to violate the consumer, these companies then turn around and use the information they've gathered to violate the business owners on the internet.

Most of the websites on the internet are owned and operated by individuals seeking to make a living on the internet, but the spyware companies' primary source of business is these websites. They hover like vultures waiting for the consumer to click on an advertisement from one of these sites, then they swoop down to throw an ad for another, competing company, in the consumer's face, oftentimes obliterating the view of the site the consumer wanted to go to. In the real world.

Regards

Ian Ross