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Hello,

I am encouraged that the FTC has taken the first steps to understand spyware and adware. However, after reviewing the many news articles relating to the spyware and adware workshop, I'm afraid that two major problems with adware have been getting little to no well deserved attention.

1. The first issue I'm speaking of is the unfair and deceptive business practices that so called legitimate adware programs employ to generate revenues. Whether or not a piece of software collects user data, or has ample opt in / opt out procedures as discussed at the spyware workshop, misses the point that nearly all adware programs not only display pop-up ads to users, but use software embedded within the web browser to overwrite affiliate tracking cookies, stealing sales from other businesses. In nearly every case the merchant's paying commissions through affiliate networks, are not aware that this is occurring. This is an unfair practice to internet affiliate businesses, and deceptive and unfair to the merchants who unknowingly are paying for their activities. Additionally nearly all internet advertising networks are greatly supplementing their traffic numbers through the use of adware. This has become a major hurdle for successful trade on the internet, and has become not just limited to affiliate businesses but trade on the internet in general, and therefore the Federal Trade Commission should be taking a much greater interest in this activity.

2. One of the most common and major distribution methods of adware is the use of peer to peer network's like Kazaa.com. While the activities of these P2P network's may be hard for the US government to curtail, many US based adware firms are the major benefactors of illegal file sharing activities.

Good luck and thanks for listening.
John Downey