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Posted To: spywareworkshop2004
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

Sirs:

I would like to weigh in on the spyware/adware issue as a typical internet user.

The problem with adware/spyware is that most consumers have no idea that they have "acquired" this type of software, have no idea what it is doing, and are unaware of the effects of the software on their system performance and stability.

I firmly believe that, prior to installing these programs on their computer, if consumers were advised in plain English, in a prominent and unambiguous manner, of the nature and intent of these programs (e.g. to monitor web surfing habits, to deliver tailored advertisements, etc), very few people would be willing to install the application. I have found that most spyware/adware is either installed without explicit permission or the true nature of the software is obscured, buried in legaleze, or otherwise hidden from the consumer. Uninstalling the spyware/adware is often difficult even if the consumer becomes aware of the problem.

I currently use two antispyspyware/adware programs, ad-aware and spybot, running each of them several times per month, and I still find unintentional installs of spyware/adware on my computer (thankfully very few now that I am "immunized" by spybot.

Please consider adopting legislation prohibiting this predatory practice.

Sincerely,

Daniel Chernoff