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The only question that I have. What is the difference between spy-ware / adware and a computer virus?

1. Both get put on your system without your knowledge. (Except viruses if you have a virus protection)

2. Both impact your system in some manner. (Memory, processor, network, disk space, system stability)

3. Some spy-ware effects you system worse than a virus. (System slowdowns and other problems)

4. They are spread by systems that you connect to.

I don't have a problem with any application that tells you what it is doing and asks for your permission to be loaded. I my opinion Spy-ware / Adware are just another form of a computer virus and should be treated as such. The only difference is you have a company spreading them instead of some hacker sitting in a closet. I also feel that it is an illegal invasion of my privacy and illegal use of my computer resources.

It would be interesting to see some statistics of the business impact to most major company's network and infrastructure costs because of Spy-ware / Adware problems. I work for a major computer company and at time there is loss of work and system downtime because of the Spy-ware and Adware issues.