

Posted At:
Friday, May 14, 2004 2:18 PM
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004

Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

Dear FTC:

I was provided this link by PCPit Stop's Newsletter to provide spyware/adware comments to you. I don't believe I've ever picked up any spyware although Spybot S&D detected Alexa which it deleted. I wish I could offer a suggestion on what to do about it. But I do have a comment. I do not file share. I do not download music. The only thing I had downloaded was a screensaver from Annie Reb's site when one of these listed showed up on my computer. Something may have been from the screensaver but don't know which one. The others I definitely picked up as "drive by". I was given absolutely no warning that anything was being downloaded and had no opt-out choices. Who would want to intentionally download adware anyway. These are some I picked up:

There were more but I deleted them out of the Spybot S&D log. Some other ones were deleted on Spyware Guide.com which I don't remember.

I also had WhenU detected by Spyware Guide.com which removed it. I was never warned about this and have no idea where I got it. This was within the last couple months during which the only things I downloaded and installed was Norton's updates and Windows Update. So where did it come from. Spyware Guide deleted Web Search, which I was not warned was downloading from somewhere.

As for the others, Norton AntiVirus was only able to delete Second Thought. For all the rest I had to go to Spyware Guide.com to get manual removal instructions. Which, for Portal Scan (or Portal Searching), it did not work. I could not get rid of it. It kept coming back. I spent a whole weekend trying to get rid of it. I had even used removal instructions from a blog, wish I could remember which one, for Portal Search which finally worked after deleting registry keys. I wasn't getting any popups from this stuff because I have EarthLink's popup blocker. But every time I would search it would take me to a site Portal Searching. And something changed my search engine to MSN search from Yahoo search.

SeekSeek, BetterInternet and NCase I deleted using Spybot Search & Destroy, and this stuff kept coming back. I couldn't get it off my computer. I finally had to restore Windows XP.

I hope this can help in some way in your fight to stop these people. If they claim to give us warnings, I'd sure like to know where it was because I never saw it. No popup window explained this. Nothing explained their downloading this stuff to my computer without my permission.

Regards,
Judy Ericson