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Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of federal legislation to prevent or deter the use of spyware or adware in software.

As someone who works regularly with computers at home and in the office, I have found spyware and adware to be a serious problem. The company I work for provides technical support for a real estate software company, as well as the occasional support for individual clients. Spyware and adware are frequent problems for which we have to provide support. While we can readily find the tools to take care of these problems, the solutions can be time consuming.

I respect others' rights, but at the same time, the right of the corporations using spyware and adware to do so is seriously impeding the average consumers' rights. One's right to privacy should not be surrendered, often unwittingly, when one chooses to use a personal computer in the privacy of one's own home. Unfortunately, many companies making use of spyware and adware will either not inform consumers of the hidden tracking software or will place the information within often lengthy and confusing end user license agreements that frequently go unread or insufficiently scrutinized.

I urge you to implement regulations to prevent companies from exploiting the average, non-technical consumers (who rely on others to build, maintain and repair their home computers) and invading their privacy. It is illegal for hackers to leave a back door in a computer system. Spyware and adware is akin to such back doors, and it only follows logically that companies should not be permitted to use tactics for which a hacker would be arrested.

Respectfully,
Jamie Cadorette
Plymouth, NH