From: Wendy Frederick
Posted At: Sunday, May 16, 2004 11:38 AM
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

Dear Sirs,
I have a home graphics business that relies on computer communication to send letters, text, photos and proofs through email.

I recently did some searching on Google and clicked on the topmost result that came up. Suddenly there were all kinds of thing loading and installing on my computer. I was never asked if I wanted to install anything. As a result my computer was virtually useless for 3 days because everything I tried to do was interupted by pop-up ads even when I was offline. I lost 3 days of work and had to spend those 3 days sitting at the computer trying to clean it up. I am still having some pop-ups that I cannot remove because they are so embedded I cannot locate them. This is more than just annoying it is expensive, especially to a small business that has no IT person.

I equate this form of advertising to vandalism. If someone threw advertising flyers through my front window wouldn't that be vandalism? That is exactly what these ads are like. They interupt your business, cause damage that you have to repair (or pay to have repaired) and destroy your ability to conduct business. Computers are a neccessary part of many businesses and they are expensive to buy, take time to set up to your business needs and contain vital, and sometimes sensitive, information belonging to the business or business clients. Allowing these so-called "advertisers" to continue to alter settings on peoples computers without their express permission and consent is simply criminal. This MUST stop.

Sincerely,

Wendy Noel Frederick
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