

Ken PETERSON  
Thu 5/20/2004 10:09 AM

Hello,

As a dedicated computer user I'm concerned about spyware and adware. The insidious use of this kind of intrusive code needs to be outlawed.

It is an invasion of privacy to place software on my computer without my consent, and should be viewed as trespassing on my personal computing equipment.

If this were software that was beneficial to me in any way I'm confident it would be clearly stated on an agreement menu which would clearly inform me of the *benefits* to my using this software.

However, that isn't the way it works. Spyware is placed on my computer without my knowledge, and against my will.

In the rare instances where an agreement is offered before one downloads software containing adware or spyware, the mention of this less than friendly code is always buried under about a ton of legal-eze specifically designed to mislead the average consumer. The companies that offer this kind of agreement do so with full knowledge virtually no one reads the agreement before clicking on the "accept" button. And if someone actually goes to the trouble of reading this material it is so convoluted one must be a lawyer to understand its full meaning. I have never seen the words spyware or adware appear in any agreement I've willingly committed to, nor would I agree to let anyone track my activities on the web.

I find it highly unlikely the average consumer feels comfortable having their every click monitored. It isn't that most consumers do anything on the web that is wrong, it is simply the act of being watched that I find disturbing.

This comes very close to being "stocked" on the Internet. We don't allow stocking in any other industry or personal relationship. Why is it being allowed on the Internet?

Sincerely

Ken Peterson