



... Created by Mike Bloomfield

'Spyware Exposed!'

September 2004

How to totally defeat Spyware once and for all!

By Mike Bloomfield



Tel: 1300 PC FAST

www.apcgenius.com

What is Spyware?

Spyware or adware is the name given to Advertising Supported software which often has data tracking or data mining software which reports on your use of the Internet for example to a remote server, typically in the U.S., in the hope of cashing in on your surfing habits. Is this intrusive? You bet. Is this legal? I'm afraid so. Do you have Spyware in your computer system? Absolutely, unless you are one of the 1-5% of highly educated Internet users who have also stumbled across some really effective software to conquer such attacks.

Spyware is now as highly recognized a threat as any virus and where this has permanently edited registry keys or is combined with a Trojan virus – which is often an executable program that sits in the system at start up, using up CPU core memory resources to slow down your system and will not allow you to delete it - can totally annihilate your Operating System.

95% of all computers have up to 1800 different references of these types of software in them.



Copyright APCGENIUS 2004

www.apcgenius.com

1300 PCFAST



... Created by Mike Bloomfield

More problems – we have the fix...

A recent and most annoying scam is to send an email or pop up a message reporting that some anonymous, but ingenious surfer has detected Spyware on our system and would kindly like to help us remove the problem for a small fee, usually \$29.00 - \$69.00 U.S. dollars, which involves us purchasing their shonky software. They probably sowed the problem in the first place and while it may fix the problem they caused, their software will not legitimately fix all Spyware problems.

This is a scam in my opinion and the best Spyware tools seem to be mostly free. Do not support this opportunist hoax.

My Start page or Home Page on my Internet Browser has been changed

Another classic intrusion into your registry setting and every time we click on the Internet Explorer we go to about.blank or some very average search engine we never asked for or have ever heard of and sometimes I've even seen 'bad-taste' porn sites, that are seemingly unable to be removed. Some of these alterations can be very complicated to undo and I have witnessed cases where we have done everything from calling the Police to end up begging the offending authors to help us remove the software change, where a format of the drive and losing all the hours invested in our software set-up have not been an option!

More Information

Below follow my favourite links on information and free software to destroy all Spyware intrusions once and for all. Be warned, if you've got a bad dose of Spyware, using these tools could open up a can of worms so to speak, but ultimately you will conquer the offensive intrusions...

<http://www.spychecker.com/spyware.html>

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>

<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>

<http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html>

<http://www.spywareguide.com/>

Download Spybot for free and get the updates and remove all Spyware. The program may ask you to restart the system to finish the clean up process. Download Spywareblaster for free and protect against further intrusion

Also, you may want to re-cap on security issues with our very first article, 'Total Security Check for your PC', which covers all areas of computer attack reasonably thoroughly.





... Created by Mike Bloomfield

How to totally defeat all Spyware

As with human diseases prevention is far simpler than the cure and the same goes with Spyware. If you have a new computer, please immunize it against Spyware with Spywareblaster and Spybot as soon as you are online and it will remain clean indefinitely, with the occasional update and re-run of the same programs!

This is the only way I know of tackling these problems.

I really need help...

If you really get a nasty variety, remember to do intelligent searches in a good search engine like Google, using the advanced options to find solutions in forums etc. Also you may like to try downloading cwshredder, an aggressive and highly effective little tool that repairs nasty registry changes...

<http://www.softpedia.com/public/cat/10/17/10-17-150.shtml>

Other techniques and software I have found most useful are HijackThis from...

http://www.spychecker.com/download/download_hijackthis.html

Run this program and study the registry entries very carefully. You are trying to associate the problems you are experiencing with the names found in the registry. All of these entries have been added after the O/S was installed. Back up the details before attempting to remove them. I have often removed all the registry edits and the worst scenario I have had has been to re-install Internet Explorer, but seek professional advice if you are not sure.

Also, when you find a file that will not let you delete it, or it is embedded or AVG keeps pointing it out as a problem but you can't seem to get rid of it, try coming back up in safe mode and right click on the file and change the ownership of it to your own profile and then you can delete it. Renaming it as filename.txt can also stop it in it's tracks as it can no longer be then used as a Dynamic Link Library file or *.dll.

For the Enthusiast

I like using programs that real-time monitor changes to my system and also use a hardware firewall in my router as well as Zone alarm. The programs that are really good at this are, "The Cleaner"...

<http://www.moosoft.com/>

Also, Spyware Guard from Javacoolsoftware...

<http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/sgdownload.html>

Remember to use a firewall, keep your anti-virus up-to-date and your windows updates current – only install a new service pack after they have debugged it – in other words 2-3 months after the initial release!

Kind Regards,

Mike Bloomfield



Copyright APCGENIUS 2004

www.apcgenius.com

1 300 PCFAST