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Posted At: Friday, April 30, 2004 12:48 PM
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

To Whom,

I strongly support anything you can do to protect us from spyware or unwanted pop-up advertising programs being secretly installed into our computers. Both stronger laws and better enforcement are needed in this area. Above and beyond the lost man-hours and nuisance value, there is the matter of companies stealing computing power from thousands of households to use for their own monetary gain. And it can get so disruptive that it becomes necessary for people to spend their own money to buy defenses for their machines or they eventually become so clogged with invasive programs that the machines can not perform even simple tasks. The internet deserves at least as much protection as the telephones, the federal mails or the banking system. If a company put a program in place that only took ten cents a month from everyone who had a bank account they could steal millions of dollars, and they would end up in jail for twenty years. But these spyware people are stealing computing power and personal time that probably has many times that value; and even though they are making large amounts of money by selling the information they steal or the advertising they sneak into my home; they are not facing anything like the same penalties if any.

Clyde Jones