

MessageFrom: Thomas Cornett
Posted At: Friday, May 14, 2004 8:14 PM
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004

Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

Dear Sirs;

As a "home PC user" for the last three years I have lost many days and even weeks of time to the removal of spyware and adware.

Trying to find information on the web was almost impossible until I installed some protections, constantly researched the new stratagems used by adware/spyware, and formatted my hard drive to cleanse it. Do you know how long it takes to reinstall 120 GB of copyright protected software with all the attendant reregistering?

Months! But if even one of my credit cards numbers were snagged by spyware... On top of the cost of Norton's Antivirus and PestPatrol, they have their annual fees and upgrade costs.

Many of my friends who asked for my help because of problems with their computer also had spyware and adware hogging their dialup bandwidth, popping up ads, defeating their virus protection and even their firewalls. Some adware was traceable, such as Comet Cursor, yet they lied outright about their "asking permission before install" and their helpful "Removal/Uninstall" file only removed the overt presence yet left the spyware.

It is only recently, since I have become proficient at protecting my computer, that I have been using it for buying online. Yet for my friends who would like to shop online I can only advise against it.

Please put some laws with teeth on the books to stop the theft of privacy, bandwidth and hard drive space. And while you are legislating, could you please hang the spammers?

Thank you;
Thomas Cornett