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This is not a letter coming out in favor of spyware but rather in favor of fair trade practices. It is true that there are a lot of folks out there who like using the free software enhancements that spyware provides such as smileys in your email or knowing the current temperature in your system tray. But I don't believe folks have been adequately informed concerning the costs to use these software enhancements. Many times folks don't know that their url history is being sent to someone else....This uses bandwidth that the customer may not know is being used....This slows down their total internet experience. As an aside to this, has anyone thought about the possible test in the courtroom where a suspect has used their computer for illegal activities and the district attorney subpoenas the url history from smiley central? Is that an invasion of privacy? It comes down to the basic question that is hot The right to privacy.

Here is a suggestion: Is it possible to require the spyware developer to have an opening screenshot at the beginning of each user session that lets folks know that if they would like to use their smiley faces during this session then their computer will collect and send information about their internet activities to the developer. Create a button to opt out during the specific session. Then maybe after 15 times of the consumer opting "in" the opening screenshot isn't required because the consumer obviously wants it and is informed and willing to pay the price.

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