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To: spywareworkshop2004
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I'm writing to voice my concern with the increasing problem of malicious adware being installed on my computer without my permission or knowledge. Adware should be made illegal. Unlike radio or television advertising or small magazine like panel advertising on a website adware downloads code to load advertising or report back to its home stealing bandwidth and computer power that I purchased for my private use.

Until I became more knowledgeable about adware I use to reload my system every six month to one year because the performance of the degraded to unacceptable levels. I use to curse Microsoft blaming their operating system when in fact the blame lied with the accumulation of adware, adware that highjack my system denying me the full use of my computer. Reloading my operating system, software and documents is a 16 hour process that takes 4 days for me to complete.

Now that I am more knowledgeable I now use four different pieces of software to sweep my system to remove adware and keep my machine running in good condition. Two programs are free and two are commercial, the commercial software costing approximately \$60. I find that on average for every 8 hours I spend on line I spend 45 minutes cleaning adware from my system. An unacceptable amount of my time for a problem I didn't want or create. Because of my skill with computers I am getting more and more calls, about 2 to 3 per month now, from friends and relatives with computer problems. I found that 98% of the problems are due to the accumulation of adware. Deleting all cookies and running ad removal software clears the problem. In contrast I've only seen three hardware failures and two real software related problems (bad drivers) in the last two years. I had one relative, an uncle, was going to buy a new computer until I cleaned the adware from his 2 year old machine restoring its performance. Adware had taken over his machine preventing his dialup connection from connecting properly. I have since had another friend at work experience the same problem.

In closing adware causes real damage to real people and has to be stopped. I wouldn't allow a business to take my car and use it to deliver goods without my permission or knowledge why do I have to let a business highjack my computer and use it for their purposes?

Mike Huddy