

Quick Tips

For

Spyware and Adware

What is “Spyware”?

Spyware (also called “Adware”) is nuisance or reporting software that gets installed in your computer during a legitimate software installation, typically without users’ knowledge or permission. Most Spyware is designed to report information about the user to a third party for commercial purposes.

Spyware can invisibly report your information and Internet browsing habits to others, flood your browser with pop-up windows, reset your home page preferences, and spam your email account. Spyware typically results in decreased computer performance.

As Spyware is not intentionally designed to harm data or computer systems, Spyware is not considered a computer virus.

Where Does Spyware Come From?

Spyware is often built into otherwise benign software. Many of the most popular music and file-sharing programs install spyware, which serves custom-tailored ads and monitors your Internet activity.

Most users don’t realize they are installing Spyware along with other software. Worst of all, many Spyware programs will remain even after the original program is uninstalled. You can also pick up Spyware just by browsing the Internet.

How Can I Protect My Computer From Spyware?

Avoiding spyware is not an easy task. Stay away from the known spyware-infested programs. Take some preventive steps - install a spyware-removal program, or run an online scan to rid your computer of the unwelcome additions. The online scanners can be readily found via Google search.

Some popular anti-spyware programs:

- AdAware www.lavasoftusa.com
- SpyBot - Search & Destroy www.download.com