Spyware: The Hidden Evil in YOUR Computer

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CL Tech Solutions, Inc. 2005
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What you don't know CAN hurt you – Companies are illegally tracking your every move and purchase on the internet, along with bombarding you with unnecessary advertisements – without your knowledge or permission! This is the foundation of spyware

What is Spyware?

- Invades Your Privacy
- Slows Down Your PC
- Wastes Your Time/Money

Spyware is the result of an area of marketing known as 'data mining'. In order to maximize sales, companies are willing to pay to get information about how you shop. The most obvious case in point is the discount cards given out at supermarkets. By using your card at the store, grocery stores now know who is buying what and how much. Marketing groups use this data to fine tune the store layout, store promotions, and anything everything the can change that will increase profits. "Pop Up" ads are sometimes the byproducts of spyware also. Pop up ads are those annoying windows that just seem to randomly pop up advertising certain products; such as low priced mortgage rates, pornography, or prescription drugs on line.

Be forewarned though! There is an ever increasing number of spyware pop up ads, that are designed to look more and more like a real window box that would pop up from Microsoft Windows itself. If you see a pop up ad, or any random window suddenly pop up on your screen, and you have no idea where it came from - DO NOT CLICK ON IT OR ANYTHING IN SIDE OF IT, no matter what the box says. To close the box out - press the keyboard combination **ALT + F4**. (see other side for more information)

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Your privacy is being compromised! On the Internet, the game is the same, track where people are going and what they are buying. The big difference is you haven't given permission for anyone to put this tracking software in your machine, and you get no discounts on anything. Unfortunately that doesn't stop malicious attackers from uploading these nasty programs on your computer. This is where the spy in spyware comes from. You don't KNOW you are being watched until either your computer mysteriously runs a LOT slower than usual, randomly crashes, you get lots of pop up ads, or you run a special spyware detection program.

How to solve this problem - run spyware elimination programs on your machine until everything is gone. The three most commonly used spyware detection/elimination programs out there are *Microsoft Anti Spyware (Beta), Spybot - Search and Destroy and Ad aware.* There is a good reason why these two are widely used; they are both **FREE & effective!**

There are **programs that contain spyware**, or attract Spyware also. We recommend uninstalling these programs from your computer. They include but are not limited to: Weatherbug, Hotbar, Gator, MyWebSearch, Virtual Bouncer, Kazaaa, Lime Wire, Blubster, Comedy Planet, MyCoolWeb, etc.

The downside is it is very time consuming for yourself to run these programs, and there's a good possibility spyware could be hidden in startup folders/registry settings that these programs don't/can't scan (but we can manually check!) – why do you need to waste your time for someone else's mischief? **Let us worry about it! Call 610-446-1360 to setup an appointment!**

We also recommend using an alternative web page browser, namely [Firefox](). Firefox is a free browser, developed based on the old Netscape platform. Besides being free, it's open source, which means anyone is allowed to modify/develop for it, which means anyone can fix problems in the code themselves (pending they have the skill to program applications). Benefits that may be common to more people include a much lower vulnerability rate compared to Internet Explorer & AOL for spyware and viruses to attack. Just by using this browser, instead of Internet Explorer, you've already cut down your risk of being infected with spyware significantly. We personally use it, and highly recommend that you do too. The one caveat is there may be certain web sites which are not compatible with Firefox, in which case you must use Internet Explorer for those certain web sites only.

Time for the pro's? - Sometimes these measures aren't enough. If spyware is still a problem, or you'd rather leave it to the professionals, call CL Tech Solutions, Inc for an appointment.

To make an appointment for professional spyware removal, or any other of our services, **call us NOW --** before spyware renders your PC unusable -- **at** *(610) 446-1360.* Service available to residential and business users!