



Spyware and Ad-Aware SE Professional

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Overview

- ✓ What is spyware and why should we worry about it?
- ✓ Spyware Checklist
- ✓ Expectations
- ✓ Using Ad-Aware SE Professional

What is Spyware?

Spyware is malicious software that can track your computer's Web usage, slow your system to a halt, and in some cases even report personal information like passwords and credit card numbers to unauthorized sites.

What is Spyware continued?

Spyware is different than viruses, and is spread differently. However, like viruses, spyware most frequently targets the Windows family of operating systems.

Why should we worry about it?

Audit in May 2005 by Earthlink/Webroot

“State of Spyware Report”

Scanned 60,000 systems

80% had some unwanted program

This report for the first quarter of 2005 entirely confirmed what had become as clear as day in 2004 -- spyware has grown from being not much more than a nuisance for PC users, into one of the major threats to information security and user privacy



✓ What is spyware and why should we worry about it?

✓ Spyware Checklist

Spyware Checklist

- Never deliberately download software to your workstation or desktop from the Internet, no matter how helpful or interesting it may appear.
- Stay away from any questionable sites
- Whenever an unwanted or unexpected pop-window appears, shut it down immediately by clicking on the "x" in the upper right hand corner of the window.

Spyware Checklist continued

- Be suspicious if endless pop-up windows start opening simultaneously, or if the performance of your workstation turns into a crawl.
- If you're using Internet Explorer as your browser, change its settings to block Active X objects.
- If your workstation is running Windows XP SP2, then turn on the pop-up blocker feature in Internet Explorer and activate the firewall.



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Expectations for Ad-Aware

It will effectively remove most spyware

Easy to use

Can be automated to run

Includes 3 different applications

Ad-Aware, Ad-Watch, Process-Watch

Things you should know

Pop-up blocking must be disabled to use Illinois Compass and Business Objects 6.5

Dial up users issues

Use Windows task scheduler

Personal Firewalls may be an issue

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Download and Installation

Configure to update and scan automatically

Manual update and scan

Removing spyware

Scheduling update and scan

Ad-Watch

“Skins”