Title:
Spyware: Protect Your Privacy

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Summary:
What is Spyware? I have lost count of the number of times that we have been called out to repa

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Article Body:
What is Spyware?

 I have lost count of the number of times that we have been called out to repair a personal co

Advertising Spyware is software that is installed alongside other software or via ActiveX cont

 In addition to privacy and security concerns, resource-hogging Adware and Spyware can cause s

 Here are a couple of scenarios indicating a Spyware "infection".

 -        Scenario 1:

Your search engine is New: Google. You visit the Google website and do your search. All of a s

This scenario illustrates how Spyware can be extremely annoying. But worse, consider the secur

 -        Scenario 2:

You start your computer in the morning. The PC was never the fastest on the block to boot up a

The second scenario illustrates not only the privacy and security issues mentioned in scenario

How to Identify a Spyware "Infestation"

 There are some clues that indicate spyware could be installed on a computer.
You are bombarded with pop-up ads every time you use the web browser.
The PC is showing sluggishness and increased disk activity is noticed.
The PC becomes increasingly unstable and more prone to crashes and blue screens.
Icons appear in the taskbar tray that weren't there before.
Network activity is observed when the computer is not being used.
An increase in the amount and frequency of email spam is observed.

There are many freeware titles available that install Spyware on your system. One of the most
Date Manager tray icon

Precision Time tray icon

How Spyware is Installed

Some Internet websites utilize additional software to enable special features available on the

Now this is where it gets confusing. Have a look at the figure 2-5 and 2-6 below. Not much dif

How to Prevent Spyware "Infection"

The chance of keeping a PC free of Spyware infection is greatly increased by following a few s
Ensure that your internet browser settings are set to at least default levels. Internet Explor
Read all security warnings before hitting the Yes button. If you are unsure, choose No. If it
Avoid using peer-to-peer file sharing services such as Kazaa. They are notorious for packaging
Check your start menu, desktop, and Add/Remove Programs module for unknown installed applicati
Regularly clean out the internet browsers temporary files and cookie cache. This can be perfor
Whenever possible, close advertising pop-ups using the Close "X" in the top right corner of th
Use a firewall product that monitors and prevents unauthorized applications and data from both
Use Spyware cleaning software such as New: AdAware from New: Lavasoft. Scan for Spyware regula
In a corporate environment it is good practice to disable a users ability to install software
Educate yourself and other users about what Spyware is and how it can be prevented.
Have your computer examined by a qualified computer technician who can access vulnerabilities

In Conclusion

There are millions of useful websites on the Internet that survive exclusively due to their us

A lot of the targeted advertising is possible because of Spyware software. Spyware is a tool t

Advertising pop-ups, system instability, sluggishness, and increased hard drive and network ac

To prevent Spyware "infestations" there are some simple rules that a user should follow. They

For a thorough examination of your system and its vulnerabilities contact a qualified computer

Glossary

ActiveX Control - A control using ActiveX technologies. An ActiveX control can be automaticall

Cookie - A message given to a Web browser by a Web server. The browser stores the message in a

Shockwave - A technology developed by Macromedia, Inc. that enables Web pages to include multi

Spyware - Also called adware , spyware is any software that covertly gathers user information

For the Full Figured article: <a href="http://www.oneit.ca/ONEWeb/WebsiteArticles/spyware-arti