

SECURITY - *Now ...more than ever!*

Cyber Security - Disaster Recovery - Continuity of Government



DTI eSecurity News - Ever get the feeling that you're being watched?



What are the symptoms?

You may be infected with spyware if:

- Your computer is running unusually slowly.
- New icons or toolbars appear that you do not recognize.
- Your default homepage has been changed.
- Your search engine has changed.
- Strange random error messages appear.
- Pop-up windows appear even when your computer is idle.



How can Spyware be removed?

Some recommended tools are below.

- **Microsoft Windows Defender**
<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.msp>
- **Spybot Search and Destroy**
<http://www.safer-networking.org>
- **Lavasoft's AdAware**
<https://www.lavasoftusa.com>

What is Spyware?

Spyware is a term that was created by the advertising industry. It is also referred to as "adware". It is a category of software that is installed without your knowledge and consent. Often times, it is bundled with another application, such as a screensaver, a game, or weather program. However, it may also be installed by simply clicking on an image or link on a website.

What does Spyware do and why is it dangerous?

There are a wide range of consequences from being infected with spyware. Some of the most common types of spyware will create pop-up advertisement windows while you are browsing the Internet. Sometimes, it changes your default homepage to an advertising website. Spyware can also record the types of websites you visit and target you with specific advertisements. When multiple instances of spyware exist on your computer at the same time, it may cause your computer to run very slowly or make it unusable.

The more dangerous types of spyware record your keystrokes, creating a log that ultimately gets sent back to the spyware's creators. The information gathered could include usernames and passwords, social security numbers, credit card numbers, or other financial information that criminals can use to steal your identity themselves or sell your information to others.

Think you can spot Spyware?

McAfee recently conducted a survey of web users, using an online quiz which challenged users to spot the site that would infect their computer.

65% of those surveyed would have been infected **multiple times**.

The survey was part of the launch of McAfee's new SiteAdvisor tool designed to alert users of potential risks at websites.

Take the quiz yourself at:
<http://www.siteadvisor.com/spywarequiz>.

Questions or comments?
E-mail us at eSecurity@state.de.us