

About Spyware & Adware

Spyware and adware are programs installed on your system, in most cases without your knowledge, and that operate in the background. Typically, these applications will cause performance issues on your system.

Spyware programs "spy" on your internet browsing routine and other system activities and may send this information to marketing organizations, resulting in junk email and pop-up ads.

Adware includes applications such as Gator, GAIN or Bonzai Buddy. They are installed without warning and load system applications you may not need.

Avoiding Spyware & Adware

The best way to keep adware and spyware off your computer is to maintain the security of your system and only run trusted files. Stay away from "free" Internet downloads and "free" versions of p2p applications. If a pop-up window asks you to OK something you've never heard of, be suspicious. Don't agree to download or install unknown files.

Detection

Although these programs may not be evident, there are some signs you may notice. If there are any changes to your Web browser that you did not make (for example extra toolbars, a different homepage, modified favorites or security settings), you could have spyware.

Other indications are pop-up ads or advertisements when you're not online, hyperlinks that do not work when clicked (or go to a different site), a slower system, slower internet browsing or your system taking longer than usual to load the Windows desktop.

Removal Tools

The tools below are free and can be downloaded from the link specified. Similar to Antivirus programs, these also require to be updated for better results.

Ad-Aware <http://www.lavasoft.com>

Spybots Search & Destroy <http://www.safer-networking.org>

Windows Defender

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.msp>

More Info

About Secure Personal Computing:

<http://www.cert.org/homeusers/HomeComputerSecurity>

More about Spyware:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spyware>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adware>

Getting Help

Go to

<http://www.law.uconn.edu/infosys/help>

- or -

Call **860-570-5158**