

HUMANIZING YOUR DESKTOP/WINDOWS DISPLAY: MAC & PC

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MACs & PCs Share Spyware Woes

Beware! No matter what the computer marketers tell you, neither Macs nor PCs are safe from super-snooping SPYWARE!

What is Spyware? According to Webopedia.com: *Any software that covertly gathers user information through the user's Internet connection without his or her knowledge.*

Spyware are programs that are bundled as a hidden component of freeware or shareware programs downloaded to a computer from the Internet. Once installed, the Spyware monitors your computer activity off and on the Internet and transmits your personal information: e-mail information, passwords, and credit card numbers to someone else who will either use it for advertising/marketing or sinister purposes. Bejeezers!!

Spyware is similar to a "Trojan Horse": users unwittingly install the Spyware product when they install something else. Because Spyware exists as invisible programming, it monitors your typed keyboard strokes, scans files on your hard drive, snoops on chat programs and word processors, and it can change the default home page on the Web browsers (Internet Explorer and Safari).

A common way to become a victim of Spyware is to join a "free" Peer-to-Peer network. Peer-to-Peer means one computer is internet-connected to another computer. Chances are it's connected to a computer that's contaminated with deadly computer virus, or that's peeking inside and tracking personal information. The most common peer-to-peer networks are gaming and music sites such as Limewire and Runescape. Avoid "all" porn and subtle-voyeur dating sites, too!

One hedge against Spyware on Peer-to-Peer nets is to subscribe-for-use net. Also, you can check up on a site before visiting it by using a search engine named ALEXA.com. ALEXA checks traffic rankings of all sites on the Internet. You can also use Google: type the site name followed by the word "review". Google will display the results from user forums voicing views and opinions.

Here's how to find software to get protected:

Seek information about free Mac Spyware downloads:

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Spyware---Now-a-Problem-for-Mac-Users-as-Well&id=88374>

Download a free PC version of Spybot Search & Destroy:

<http://www.tucows.com/preview/310138>

Happy Computing!!

MENTOR FRANK HARE, M.A., manages Colorado-based BeyondTech, LCC: IN-HOME SERVICES Offered: Repairs – Networking - Spyware & Virus Removal - 24/7 – Powerful Custom-Built Computers & Tutoring
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