

SpyWare - Protecting your computer

Spyware infection causes more visits to professional computer repairers than any other single cause. You could be infected with spyware and not even know it!

The following are signs of a spyware infection:

- * Computer is running slower than normal
- * Computer boots slowly
- * Slow internet access
- * Trouble getting to websites
- * Your homepage changed by itself
- * Lots and lots of popup advertisements
- * Computer crashes or freezes
- * New search bars on your desktop or in Internet Explorer

Where does spyware come from?

Spyware and adware is all over the Internet today - and you can get spyware on your computer from many different places. That cute Christmas screen saver - Spyware! Those sweet smiley faces you add to your email message - Spyware! That new song you downloaded last night using Kazaa - Spyware!

It is important to keep these programs updated, just like your anti-virus software. After all, a program cannot protect you from threats it doesn't know about. Included are links to (2) free spyware removal programs that are used by the RSA to clean infected computers.

Spybot Search and Destroy:

<http://www.safer-networking.org>

Ad-Aware SE:

<http://www.spychecker.com/adaware.html>