

Subject: Spyware

You will hear this story thousands of times.

Last fall, my young daughter downloaded a fun goody from the internet (some cute smilies for her emails), and within hours, our computer was virtually inoperable. We were suddenly infested with popup ads, some of them pornographic. Our homepage was "hijacked". The computer froze when more than one window was open. It took seemingly forever for pages to load. We were unable to use the word processor at all.

The machine was old, so i figured it had finally "broken" and was seriously considering purchasing a new one. Fortunately, I stumbled across spywareinfo.com. (As you know, there are several sites which help victims like me, and my comments below apply to all of them.) The good folks at spywareinfo patiently held my hand through the clean-up process -- free of charge -- and my computer ended up running like new.

I felt absolutely violated when I finally understood what had happened. My daughter, by clicking something or other, may (or may not) have TECHNICALLY approved the near-ruination of our computer. But we certainly never would have INVITED these **xxxxxxx** in, had we known what they would do. And they know this, because they enter by stealth, and they stay by stealth (spyware makes itself almost impossible to remove without expert help).

As you undoubtedly know, the heroes of this story (spywareinfo et al) were recently hit with a massive DDoS attack. It's not difficult to figure out that the attackers are the parties who are being hurt by their work, namely the distributors of spyware and the companies that pay them.

"The business of America is business," and advertising is a regrettable fact of life. But what has happened to me and millions of others IS NOT ADVERTISING. IT IS AN INVASION! In my opinion, it should be illegal.

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