

From: Rob Brown  
Posted At: Monday, March 22, 2004 12:45 PM  
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Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509  
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

Ladies and Gentleman,

Spyware, adware, and in many cases cookies themselves (many cookies will launch pop-up after pop-up just by launching a browser session) are a very serious problem for consumers and companies alike.

Now, that said, I don't know that enacting NEW legislation is the answer. There are several other approaches using existing laws that could most likely be just as effective. One, off the top of my head, is Truth in Advertising.

As a network administrator for over 15 years this problem has just exploded and it is just about to the point that I need to hire staff to do nothing but clean these types of programs off my staff computers. The culprits are getting more creative, and underhanded in how they deliver these programs, and who they contract with to slip their little programs in with, and are intentionally making it difficult to even know that their programs are being installed on a victims computer.

Yes, something does need to be done, but more regulation is not the answer, enforcing the laws that are already in place would be a better starting point. Identifying the culprits, slapping them with large fines and/or jail time, or some other form of legal ramification would make a start and get the 'minor' players out of the game so that concentrated efforts could then be placed on the 'major' players.

This is just my personal feelings and opinions.

Rob Brown

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