

From:

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Posted To: spywareworkshop2004

Conversation: Spyware should be classified as a virus.

Subject: Spyware should be classified as a virus.

I've dealt with the numerous browser hijackings over the years, but recently it has become worse and worse. My most recent bout with spyware from Xupiter.Sqwire has caused me to have to reformat my hard-drive completely and cost me a day and a half of work. Attempting to remove the spyware virus would appear successful, but on reboot it would reinstall itself. If an attempt was made to remove it with SpyBot it would cause Internet Explorer windows to open infinitely until it caused a core dump of my computer.

If the FBI goes after the people who produce viruses, then they should undoubtedly include spyware vendors to their hit list. The software these vendors produce is as harmful to computer users as any other virus. The software installs without permission, or in many cases they actually reverse the buttons on the pop-up box that asks you if you want to install their software. Pushing no has the exact same effect as pushing yes, so it doesn't matter what you do...it still installs on your system. These tactics are unethical and should also be considered criminal. I would prefer this become a criminal matter, so I don't tie up the civil courts, but if all else fails I will start class action suits against these companies for all the billable hours I have to waste cleaning up their nonsense from my computers.

Thanks,

Sean Slaven