

From: Roque, Fred  
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Conversation: My Comments on Spyware  
Subject: My Comments on Spyware

I am a IT professional and would like to relate a personal experience that happened to me the other day.

My son and I were on my personal computer at home looking at some sporting equipment on the internet. While visiting some sites I clicked on a particular link to view some images of the gear we were looking at and something started installing on my PC. In a matter of seconds a window popped up telling me that my computer was being shut down.

I pulled the PC from the network and knowing that I had just been attacked by spyware I booted it back up in safe mode. I ran a scan with my antivirus software and found a key logger program had been installed on my computer. This type of spyware records every key stroke that is made on a computer and sends that information back to the author. This would include bank account information, passwords, Tax information, and basically any private information that could be used in identity theft or worse.

In my opinion if someone installs anything on my computer without my consent it should be a crime. I plan to reload my computer from scratch before putting it back on the internet. I am afraid that my personal data will be sent out without my knowing it.

The process of reloading my computer can take up to 8 hours.

My job is to maintain over 1000 computers. The clients at my company need to have internet access to perform their jobs. One of the major time consuming processes is to clean these computers of spyware. Most is not very harmful but it does slow down the computers and the network. It can also cause other applications to stop functioning.

How can it be legal to allow someone in cyber space to install their software on someone's personal computer without their knowing it.

Thank You, Fred Roque  
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