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Conversation: Understanding the difference and threats spy-ware/ad-ware pose.

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I would first like to commend the FTC for the opportunity to explain a little about the fastest growing threats to those who use the Internet, which involves unscrupulous actions taken by companies and in certain cases individual people with the intent to spy on users with ill intent in mind. To answer the question of what spy ware/ad-ware is it is best to understand the difference between spy-ware and ad-ware.

Spy-ware: is an application or operation used to monitor an individual/company from a low threat level to a high threat level perspective, it is centered around the use of gaining important information varying from sensitive information about the individual/company to those which involve such serious threats as credit card numbers and even identity theft in some cases with little if any consent by the individual undergoing the monitoring. This is centered around gaining information solely for the use of profit in either a monetary form or other applicable nature.

Ad-ware: is an application/operation which generates revenue by putting software applications which are generally hidden from the individual in the form of pop-up windows, Internet hijacking which forces a viewer to go to a prescribed page without consent, illicit dialers which charge individuals generally a large sum for using a service for which they do not know about or want, and multiple other uses which are used to provide revenue or advertisements of products.

I have dealt with spy-ware/ad-ware for the past few years, not only has it increased in infection and threat, it has also sparked a boom of ineffectual programs which are supposed to resolve spy-ware/ad-ware issues, but which instead turn out to be spy-ware/ad-ware programs which misinform the individual and in some cases installs more spy-ware/ad-ware then actually cleansing it from the system if it even removes the malintent programs at all.

I cannot express however, how important it is to stop these companies/individuals who operate such malicious tools. It threatens every one on the Internet NO ONE is safe as long as those who allow such tools to be used against the consent of the user is allowed to go on unchallenged in one of the fastest and most dangerous Internet threats in history.