

From: bolt
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Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
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Sirs,

I am a technology worker in higher ed. Any program designed to collect any information about any of my activities on any part of the internet and report it to anyone without my explicit prior approval is spyware. Approval cannot be given by agreement with terms of service when you install programs. Any program that installs spyware should state it in a very prominent way so that a person can plainly see that they are installing spyware. Countless hours are wasted in our organization as spyware unknowingly get installed by people. Once the spyware malfunctions, as it always does, then man hours and productivity are affected until a technician can remove it. Even though I am an expert user and I try to avoid spyware at all costs, I can still unknowingly install programs on my machines that are spyware. It is because of spyware that I have employed heroic efforts both at home and in the office to eliminate it and its negative effects. Examples of current spyware include software available at the Claria Corporation website (<http://www.claria.com/>) and Search Web Now (<http://www.lop.com/>). Both of these programs are notoriously insidious often leaving parts of themselves behind to report information even after they have been uninstalled.

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