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To Whom It May Concern:

I have had email for over 10 years, Internet access for almost 10, and high speed (cable modem) access for 4 years. I am on the Internet daily as a requirement of my job and I have experienced many of the problems Eric Howe describes.

I was not aware of these spyware programs until about 6 months ago. I was having problems connecting to the Internet, Microsoft Explorer would crash regularly, my home page occasionally changed seemingly on its own, and my computer became slower and slower over time. At the time I attributed this to viruses, lack of memory, and my ISP. I contacted Time Warner and a technician found the spyware on my PC and told me about anti-spyware software. I was not aware that the spyware was on my computer and was never asked for permission to install it.

I find it appalling that there is no penalty for installing spyware on a personal computer without the owners full knowledge and consent. This is an invasion of privacy and a matter of personal property rights. Since this spyware can be used to track a person's activity I do not see how this is any different than tapping a person's phone. At a minimum, putting it in the context of advertising, it is like Nielson tracking viewer activity without the viewer's knowledge or permission.

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