

From: Discount Leather Mart  
Posted At: Thursday, April 08, 2004 3:07 PM  
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004  
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509  
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

Dear FTC:

I have strong feelings about Spyware, Adware and Malware. I spend far too much energy trying to rid my computer system of these downloaded products. My job, career and tax dollars are generated from my computer via web sales. My biggest complaints are:

1. Downloading of material onto my computer system without express consent from me, is the same in my eyes, to a virus being downloaded. Even though the Adware or Spyware may not be malicious, it very easily could and may be.
2. The time spent trying to rid my system from these programs, which can't always be done, takes valuable productive time away from achieving the goals of my business.
3. As a web based business that spends \$1000's per month on advertising with large search engines, the ability of a company to infact steal the search results from one search enging and give results from their own search engine, is hurting my business. It is deceptive to the public to feel they are getting true search results provided by Google, Yahoo or MSN in another search engine that only lists paid advertisers.
4. The "Pop-up" nature of some of these Adware, Spyware and Malware programs without consent is in effect, the same as unwanted telemarketing phone calls.
5. The ability to record not only what sites you visit, but to obtain and remember keystrokes may be an opening into stealing private, confidential information from unsuspecting computer users; users who do not have sophisticated firewalls to prevent Spyware from reporting these items back to their main website over the net.

These are my main objections and I would strongly urge that these items be made criminal with large fines. I would also allow individuals or groups to sue the business' behind these unwanted programs in order to make it financially unfeasable for them to remain in business.

Sincerely,  
Kent Johnson  
owner, K & G Enterprises  
CA

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