

From: DRP  
Posted At: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:14 AM  
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004  
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509  
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

I am writing with regards to the "spyware" problem. I did not know about your conference until this morning when I saw an article in the Kansas City Star so I would appreciate your putting my concerns on file even though the deadline appears to have passed.

The article in the paper said that a big part of the problem related to the fact that much of the "spyware" has been permitted by computer users. That is only part of the problem

An unscrupulous advertiser somehow put some "spyware" on my computer without my knowledge or permission about three months ago. It entered my system and changed my web browser "home page" so that I always went to their site even though I didn't want to.

I use a Norton protection program which came out with an anti-virus update about a day later. I understand that they were swamped with complaints about people who had been similarly scammed by this undesirable advertiser. My point is this: even if you buy Norton or some other service, you have no protection against this outrageous and illegal activity, at least until they have done it enough times for Norton and other companies to identify the problem and correct it.

If this company had come into my home without permission, broken a window to slip in, and stolen something, they would have been put in jail. There is absolutely no difference between someone who breaks a window to get in and someone who circumvents Norton or some other service to steal something. They are trespassing and should be put in jail.

This cost me a lot of time and some money, just as if I had to go to the hardware store, buy a piece of window glass, and replace a window which had been broken by a burglar. There is absolutely no difference except that the cost in time and money was more than if all I'd had to do was to clean up after a break-in.

These people are breaking in, stealing things, and should be treated the same way as any other common criminal. They should be put in jail each time they do this.

I would appreciate your keeping this letter on file as you consider this problem further.

David Peironnet  
Missouri