

3 Easy Steps To A Spyware-Free Computer



Paul Asadoorian
Lead IT Security Specialist
Brown University

Outline

- Why is Spyware Bad?
- Using a Different Browser 
- Anti-Spyware Tools
- Develop Good Habits

Why is Spyware bad?

- Slows down computer
- Leaks personal information
- Constantly sends pop-ups
- Causes computer to crash

Why is Spyware bad?

- Installs toolbars difficult to remove
- Can install viruses and malware
- Leads to complete system compromise
- May even have to rebuild computer

Using a different browser

- Change your default browser
- For *General Web Browsing* only!
- Still may need to use IE
 - Bookmark sites you need

Using a different browser

- Mozilla Project <http://www.mozilla.org>
 - Mozilla
 - Firefox
- Opera <http://www.opera.com/>
 - Opera Web Browser

Using a different browser

- Firefox
 - Trimmed down version of Mozilla
 - Tabbed Browsing
 - Pop-up blocker
 - Themes and Extensions...

Using a different browser

- IEView Extension

- Right click and open link in IE

- <http://update.mozilla.org/extensions/moreinfo.php?application=firefox&id=35&vid=145>

- Single Window Extension

- Open all new windows as tabs

- <http://update.mozilla.org/extensions/moreinfo.php?application=firefox&id=50&vid=53>

Using a different browser

- Bookmark toolbar, supports folders
- Nice download manager
- Works with most web sites, applications, and appliances

Anti-Spyware Tools

- Read instructions carefully
- Backup existing files and/or registry
- Run in Safe-Mode for best results
- Run on a regular basis

Anti-Spyware Tools

- Spybot (Free)
 - <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>
- Ad-Aware (Free for personal use)
 - <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>
- HijackThis (Free)
 - <http://www.spychecker.com/program/hijackthis.html>

Develop Good Habits

- Use extreme caution when using IE (or Outlook)
 - Read the HTML or other code before clicking
- Only open attachments from trusted sources
- Follow Paul's Top Ten Security Tips...

Paul's Top Ten Security Tips

1. Patch Your Machine
2. Use a Firewall
3. Use Anti-Virus Software
4. Use good passwords
5. Don't Use Internet Explorer for everything
6. Use a separate credit card for online purchasing
7. Secure your wireless
8. Use Anti-Spyware tools
9. Don't open email attachments
10. Monitor Children's Usage

Symantec Anti-Virus 9.0

- Claims to:
 - Recognize unwanted applications such as spyware and adware
 - Identify the source of blended threat attacks that spread via open file shares
 - Detect Outbound email worms
 - Email Attachment Scanning for POP3 mail clients such as Microsoft® Outlook®, Eudora®, and Netscape Mail
 - In-Memory Scanning detects threats and can terminate suspect processes in memory before they cause damage

Upgrade Today! <http://software.brown.edu/dist/w-sav9.html>

/* The End */

Spyware Links

- Good source to lookup Spyware.
 - <http://www.spywareguide.com/>
- Excellent Spyware resource.
 - <http://grc.com/optout.htm>
- Microsoft's take on Spyware
 - <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/deviuoussoftware.mspx>
- CERT write-up on Spyware
 - <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST04-016.html>
- This Presentation
 - <http://pauldotcom.com/Spyware.pdf>