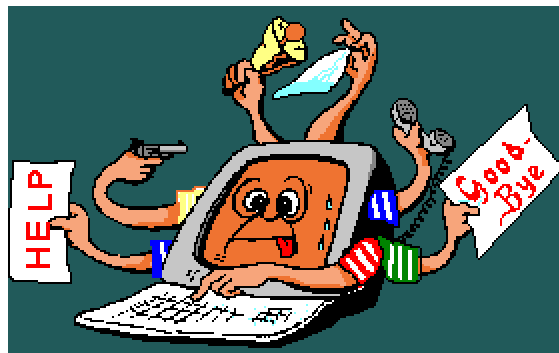


Win the War with Spyware!

By Mike Burstein



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Win the War with Spyware!

How to Repair & Protect Your Computer – for Little or NO Cost!

By Mike Burstein

1. What is spyware?

As you surf the World Wide Web, many times you encounter offers that seem to be harmless. Programs, screensavers, backgrounds and a multitude of other computer related items are available to download from the Internet for “Free”.

Are they really free? Maybe free of cost but if people took the time to read the licensing agreement (EULA), they would find that the offer is not free of strings. Of course, not all authors of spyware include the information in their EULA that even warns the user of the additional programs that come with the “free” download.

These strings can include tracking programs to determine the sites you visit on the web, trojans and worms that can be used to call “home” and run continually on your PC, programs that will provide unscrupulous marketers with all of the email address in your address book so they can be spammed, annoying pop-up ads, dialers, browser hijackers that will redirect your browser to a new home page or search engine, and many other nefarious malware programs that bog down or crash your computer.

Another side effect of spyware is that much of the code is poorly written and is the most prevalent reason for computing problems on PC's today. System lockups, unexpected reboot, the blue screen of death, the inability to shutdown, extremely slow processing speeds, the inability to connect to the Internet and a host of other problems can be directly traced to spyware.

What can you do to protect yourself and your PC? Are there tools available to help repair and protect your computer and your personal information from these spyware pirates?

Fortunately, these are numerous ways to protect your computer, most of which are truly free! No strings attached! The trick is knowing what they are and how to use them.

This eBook was written for precisely that purpose – to allow you to protect yourself and your computer from spyware. If you will take the time to read this eBook completely and implement the strategies offered, your time on the web won't be spoiled by spyware.

The majority of these free tools require an Internet connection to use them effectively.

If you prefer to have the information and programs referenced in this eBook on CD (or you are not able to connect your computer to the Internet), you will find the CD available at <http://RepairCD.DominionRepair.com> .

This self-running CD contains all of the tools discussed in this eBook in addition to other critical preventative resources and recommendations to make your time on the Internet safer from intrusion.

2. Microsoft AntiSpyware

Microsoft finally joined the fray against spyware when they purchased a leading anti-spyware tool developed by Giant Software.

Currently, this extremely effective tool is being offered for free by Microsoft.

The tool offers real time protection in addition to being the most effective program available to remove existing spyware from your computer.

Updates can be configured to download and install daily and a scan can also be scheduled to run daily, all with no user intervention.

Download the tool at (copy and paste the URL into your browser):

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=321cd7a2-6a57-4c57-a8bd-dbf62eda9671&displaylang=en&Hash=P4RGFD8>

3. The Ad-aware Weapon

One of the easiest to use spyware removal tools is Ad-aware by Lavasoft Software. This program can be downloaded from the author's website at no charge.

The URL is: <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>

Find the link to download the free edition or you can purchase the Professional version.

After you download and install Ad-aware, be sure to use the *Check for Updates Now* utility before you scan for problems; this will download the most current definition file.

After running Ad-aware and removing all spyware entries that were identified, verify that you are able to connect to the Internet.

If you are unable to connect, go to chapter 4 and use the recommended TCP/IP repair tool.

4. The SpyBot Search and Destroy Weapon

After running Ad-aware, the next step to clean up your PC and protect it in the future is to download SpyBot Search and Destroy.

Patrick M. Kolla offers an outstanding free tool at: <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>

Once again, after you download and install SpyBot Search and Destroy, use the update utility to get the latest definition file.

After running SpyBot Search and Destroy and removing all spyware entries that were identified, verify that you are able to connect to the Internet.

Another nice feature is the immunize program that will block a large database of known spyware sites. It is recommended that you immunize your computer after each definition file update.

If you are unable to connect, go to chapter 4 and use the recommended TCP/IP repair tool.

Many of the authors of the free tools recommended in this eBook accept and appreciate donations for their tools.

5. TCP/IP Stack Repair Tool

Many of the poorly written spyware programs end up corrupting the TCP/IP stack on your PC – this is the networking protocol that allows your PC to connect to the Internet.

This handy tool can get you back online quickly after you have removed spyware from your PC.

WinSockFix by Explicit Software Solutions can be downloaded from the following sites:

<http://www.tacktech.com/display.cfm?ttid=257>

<http://www.itc.virginia.edu/desktop/central/display/versions.php3?softwareID=67&nav=title>

After downloading the program, click WinsockFix.exe and then click the Fix button.

After the program finishes running, reboot your computer and you should be able to connect to the Internet.

6. On Patrol with WinPatrol

WinPatrol is another layer in the defense systems you need to use on your PC. This neat little program will alert you to any changes that occur to critical system resources on your computer without your knowledge.

Download this free tool at: <http://www.winpatrol.com/>

Scotty is the tool in this program that will alert you to a nefarious program's attempt to install itself on your PC. Scotty's bark is an invaluable defender of your computer.

WinPatrol's author also offers an enhanced version for a nominal cost.

7. Preventative Measures

After you finish cleaning the spyware off of your computer, it becomes an easy task to keep it that way.

Begin a weekly preventative maintenance schedule to run Ad-aware and SpyBot Search and Destroy (run them immediately if you stumble into a hornets nest of spyware) in addition to the daily scan run by Microsoft AntiSpyware. Always download the most current definition files before scanning.

Pay attention to any alerts that Scotty (WinPatrol) brings to your attention – unless you are installing a program, you should always answer no to Scotty's question, "Is it OK to install _____".

Using these tools, in conjunction with an updated *Anti-Virus* program, will allow you to enjoy your Internet experiences with few or no problems.

If you prefer to have the information and programs referenced in this eBook on CD, you will find it available at <http://RepairCD.DominionRepair.com> .

This self-running CD contains all of the tools discussed in this eBook in addition to other critical preventative resources and recommendations to make your time on the Internet safe from intrusion.

8. Reprint Information

You are invited to use this eBook, in its entirety, in your publication or website. The only requirement is the inclusion of the following at the end of this article:

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