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Adware and spyware applications that overwrite affiliate ad ID's (cookies) amount to a violation of copyright and also outright theft. The adware and spyware companies claim that they should be allowed to continue this violation and theft in order to protect the computer users "freedom" to download whatever they wish on to their own computer, provided they have a way to remove the software if they wish. Here is a low-tech analogy:

I run an "Adware" company that offers consumer a free item of a \$20 value (perhaps a gift certificate to a merchant of their choice). All I ask from the consumer is that they agree to have my "special" newspaper substituted for their regular newspaper. Each morning a special paper boy or girl will swing by their home, and do the switch, thus eliminating any special effort on the part of the consumer. This "special" paper contains exactly the same articles and even the ads look identical, yet a very minor adjustment in each ad directs the income from that ad away from the newspaper publisher and to me, the Adware company. The consumer willingly agreed to this arrangement and was even happy to obtain the free gift, and if desired, the consumer can switch back to the old newspaper, but why bother?

So how is this low-tech analogy any different from the high-tech analogy that is stealing money from internet publishers that spend many hours developing content, and spend money in hosting fees, pay-per-click advertising, and search-engine marketing?

Adware applications that steal affiliate commissions are theft, they are a violation of copyright, and need to cease immediately!

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