

Message From: Dan Bale
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Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004

Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

Spyware has caused my elderly parents to give up on the internet. Their computer constantly crashed, they paid to get it fixed, it worked well again, but the spyware returned. When told that buying a router with a firewall would help, but not necessarily eliminate the problem, my mother threw up her hands in disgust and told me to just "get the xxx computer out of my house!" The irony is that the internet was helping my parents to become more independent by being able to shop & buy online. They also used email extensively to communicate with family & friends all over the country.

I also have to deal with spyware, but my PCs are somewhat protected by firewalls. The few times I have been infected, it has caused me lost time in computer slow down, determining the problem, and fixing the problem.

I am dumbfounded that these spyware & adware companies have the **xxxxxx** to send lawyers to the FTC to protect their sleazy behavior. At least virus writers hide under the cloak of anonymity, but the spyware / adware **xxxxxx** scream for their rights when, it seems to me, that individuals should have more rights than companies. Doesn't the constitution or the Bill of Rights give free speech rights only to individuals?

In case I haven't been clear, let me put it this way: I would shed no tears, unless they were tears of joy, if I were to learn of the demise of any of these xxx, etc. Note that this is **NOT** a threat, but just my reaction to any untimely demise of any of these sub-human creatures.

If the FTC finds it does not have the fortitude to stand up to these xxx by shutting them down, then at least make them liable for damages they cause and make them have to prove that they didn't cause the damage.

Also, like warnings on cigarette packs, any software that is not explicitly requested to be installed must now display a big screen that has an appropriate warning, listing the dangers of letting this be installed. The warning must state what information is being collected. The software must allow the individual to monitor the information being sent to the spyware **xxxxxx**. And, there must be a one-click option to uninstall the software completely. Any violations must be vigorously pursued with actual & punitive damage awards. Again, I would add that the burden of proof falls on the spyware companies.

Please provide **meaningful** relief to PC users!

Regards,
Dan Bale