

Patrick Krecker

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To whom it may concern:

It the previous few years it seems as though people have suddenly discovered that they can make Windows do whatever they want it to by writing a fairly simple program . This has snowballed into a huge issue that is global in scale. These programs are separated into two categories: virii (collectively any program which propogates by attaching itself to other executables and/or causes damage to a user's system) and spyware (collectively any program which collects information about a user and/or displays advertisements on a user's computer). The issue of virii has been legally dealt with and any person distributing such a program is subject to federal punishment. However, spyware programs are able to propogate freely throughout the internet, burdened only by the few who have created programs that can detect and eliminate them. The government has had a huge problem dealing with virii because their creators are able to remain anonymous. However, any spyware program must either send or get data from a centralized server. This means that it would be very easy to legally eliminate this problem. Since the distribution of spyware is driven forth by those who seek to make money, the FTC are the ones concerned with its elimination. I implore you to take immediate legal action to halt the distribution and execution of any spyware program so as to protect the users of the internet. Many manufacturers protest that their rights would be restricted by a law that prohibits spyware. I must disagree. Any person who feels that it is their right to invade on the personal privacy of anyone whom they feel adequate is sorely mistaken.

The FTC has been the consumer's advocate in many critical times. I feel that, being a government of the people, you must listen to the people and propose the above said law.

Sincerely,

Patrick Krecker