

## **HELP IN REMOVING SPYWARE AND ADWARE FROM PC's**

Spyware and adware can cause a variety of bizarre problems with your PC – from sluggish performance to unusual activity. It's important to keep these malicious programs off your PC, and there are many free tools to help in the battle.

Many times problems accessing websites with Internet Explorer may be the result of spyware / adware infecting a PC. The information below should be used to help rid your PC of these problems. While no single program is perfect at finding every known spyware / adware issue, using a combination of the tools below often does the trick.

In addition, it is **critical** that PCs have an up to date antivirus program running. Many times PCs come with a trial version of an antivirus program such as Norton Antivirus and users don't notice that it has expired. At this point your PC is wide open to viruses. If an antivirus program is needed, Grisoft's AVG offers an excellent free version of its antivirus software. It can be downloaded from their website at:

<http://free.grisoft.com/doc/2/Ing/us/tpl/v5>

*It is highly recommended you review the tutorial for each program before running the software.* Links to each tutorial are noted.

### **LAVASOFT AD AWARE SE**

This popular freeware application has been a favorite in the fight against rogue programs for years.

DOWNLOAD HERE:

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/support/download/>

EXCELLENT TUTORIAL HERE:

<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/forums/index.php?showtutorial=48>

### **MICROSOFT ANTI-SPYWARE**

Microsoft recently purchased Giant Software, which was the company that made this Anti-spyware tool. They have now put it out as a Microsoft product. The software is currently in beta, meaning it is not the 100% final version just yet. It is free and has the added benefit of helping to stop spyware before it happens with a real time blocker. Microsoft has already announced the final version of this software will also be free.

**NOTE:** Works only on Windows XP or Windows 2000.

DOWNLOAD HERE:

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.msp>

EXCELLENT TUTORIAL HERE:

<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/forums/tutorial98.html>

### **SPYBOT – SEARCH & DESTROY**

Another long running freeware application used to fight spyware and adware apps.

DOWNLOAD HERE:

<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/download/index.html>

EXCELLENT TUTORIAL HERE:

<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/forums/tutorial43.html>

## **TRY USING A DIFFERENT BROWSER**

If unable to resolve an issue viewing a website in Internet Explorer with the above solutions, test viewing the site with a different browser. At the very least, this may help pinpoint the problem. Internet Explorer is very susceptible to problems created by spyware and other rogue problems.

There are several good free browser alternatives. Try **Firefox** from Mozilla. This is very similar to the look and feel of Netscape Navigator.

DOWNLOAD HERE:

<http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/>

SUPPORT AND TUTORIALS HERE:

<http://www.mozilla.org/support/firefox/>