



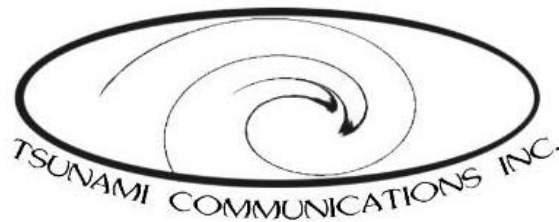
## Protect Yourself from SPYWARE

### What is Spyware and who promotes it?

If you visit web sites or if you install free software programs then your computer activities and Internet usage is likely already being analyzed and tracked for marketing purposes.

Spyware 'agents' are installed on your system, often without your knowledge, when you visit a web site or install a legitimate program, usually something free ('freeware' or 'shareware'). Even the software you install with hardware purchased from certain manufacturers may include spyware agents. There are five main categories of spyware:

1. **Adware Networks:** Ad serving networks that pay the publishers of games, utilities and music/video players to include their ad serving programs in their downloadable products. Examples of ad serving networks are: DoubleClick, Web3000, Radiate, SaveNow and GAIN (Gator).
2. **Stalking Horses:** Some programs that allow the adware networks to function on desktops are bundled in popular programs. Examples include: TopText, Cydoor, OnFlow, Medialoads, Delfin, WebHancer and New.net.
3. **Trojan Horses:** These popular Internet downloads usually come with the ad serving network basic software and at least one stalking horse. They are included in downloads such as: KaZaa, Grokster, Morpheus, Limewire, AudioGalaxy, iMesh and DivX.
4. **Backdoor Santas:** Independent programs that use a similar approach – they don't use the ad serving networks but do collect information from users. Examples include: Alexa, Hotbar, Comet Cursor, eWallet, CuteFTP and BonziBuddy.
5. **Cookies:** Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer will still send out existing cookies even after disabling cookies in the browser settings. You must manually delete any/all cookie files on your system to eliminate being tracked by third-party ad networks or spyware or adware providers.



## Why is Spyware an issue?

Spyware agents can perform various functions once installed on your system. Some can actually modify system settings or even hi-jack your browser and direct you to certain web sites.

Spyware agents can also collect information about you and your surfing habits. By monitoring your keystrokes, running detailed checks of your browser history, scanning files on your drive or installing files to your system, they can send continuous data to the parent advertising or marketing company. This threat to your privacy is the most common technique among spyware.

Spyware agents that open a line of communication to their parent company can leave your system vulnerable to attack by hackers. These agents can even utilize enough of your computer's resources that you will notice a difference in performance.

## How can Spyware be removed and prevented?

Tsunami has had excellent success using Lavasoft's 'Ad Aware' as a Spyware removal tool. A free version is available for download and regular updates are published as new spyware is identified. Running this or any similar program will comprehensively scan your hard drives, memory and registry for known tracking components and other threats.

You can prevent a large percentage of spyware with the following:

1. Don't download programs by companies you are not familiar with.
2. Avoid shareware and freeware and don't download illegal pirated software.
3. Set your browser security to HIGH. (On Internet Explorer, click Tools > Internet Options > then the Security tab and move the slider to MEDIUM or preferably HIGH. The only problem with this is it may block access to some websites you want to see.)

Like your anti-virus software, you will need to keep your spyware removal software up to date with the latest 'signature files'. By keeping your removal tool up to date and by running it regularly you will minimize the instances of spyware on your system.

For more detailed information on how to protect your corporate environment, please contact Tsunami ([contact@tsunami.ca](mailto:contact@tsunami.ca)).

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