



What is Spyware?

You've probably heard the term "spyware." But what is it, and how does it affect your computer? We've put together some information on spyware to help you protect yourself.

What is spyware?

Spyware is software code that gets onto your computer and gathers information without your knowledge. Spyware can record your keystrokes, passwords, credit card numbers, websites you visit and can even take random screenshots of your activity. **Spyware works even when you're offline.**

Spyware is also known as adware, malware, snoopware, PC surveillance, key logger, system recorders, parental control software, PC recorder, detective software and Internet monitoring software.

How does spyware find you?

You don't have to visit off-the-wall websites to get spyware. Normal Internet use, like these activities listed below, can infect your PC:

- Opening spam e-mail, which automatically installs spyware on your computer.
- Sharing music, files or photos with other users.
- Installing software applications without fully reading license agreements.

How do I know if I'm infected with spyware?

Common symptoms of spyware infection include:

- Sluggish PC performance.
- Increased pop-up ads.
- Unexplained homepage change.
- Mysterious search results.
-

What can I do to prevent spyware on my PC?

Spyware can lead to serious consequences like identity theft. You can remove spyware manually; however, this can be difficult and complicated, even for the most experienced computer user. Spybot is free from Spybot-S&D and Ad-Aware is free from Lavasoft.com