

Steer Clear of Viruses & Spyware

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Viruses and spyware can be a problem for us all. Even if you have antivirus software installed, you're responsible for ensuring your computer doesn't become infected. Malware can be tricky, so we've prepared these key points to help.

WHAT IS SPYWARE?

Spyware is software installed on a personal computer without your knowledge. Like viruses, spyware can collect personal information, change computer settings and cause problems with a computer's software or Internet browser. Many spyware programs are accompanied by pop-up windows and infection notices that ask the user to purchase malicious software.

HOW CAN I AVOID SPYWARE/VIRUSES?

1. When you click *Yes*, *OK*, or *Allow* on any program or pop-up box, you've given that program permission to infiltrate your system. Some programs come bundled with spyware, while others are disguised as security software. Think twice before allowing any unfamiliar program to run, including:

AntiVirus 360
Windows Police Pro
Kazaa

WinAntiVirus Pro 2006
Antivirus 2008/9
EDonkey2000

Privacy Center
Total Security
Limewire downloads

2. Be cautious about suspicious web pages and notices that appear within your browser. A single visit to a malicious site could exploit security holes in your browser. Internet Explorer is the most targeted browser. Browsers such as Firefox, Safari or Chrome are less susceptible to security threats.

3. Do not click on unknown links from social networking sites. Spyware can be distributed through social networking messages or links, such as on Facebook or MySpace.

4. If you receive a popup saying your computer is infected and needs scans, it is most likely untrue. Immediately close all browser windows and do not click on anything. Turning on your browser's popup blocker can help prevent these kind of attacks.

5. Never give your personal information to a company claiming to sell security software unless you are for sure it is legitimate. See the list below for some **legitimate** security software choices.

McAfee Antivirus
NOD32
MalwareBytes

Kaspersky Antivirus
Microsoft Security Essentials
Spybot

Symantec Norton Antivirus
Trend Micro Internet Security
SuperAntiSpyware

WHAT IF MY COMPUTER STILL GETS INFECTED?

You can first try running one of the recognized legitimate anti-malware programs. However, many forms of spyware are difficult to remove. Kent State Students, faculty and staff may visit The Tech Spot @ ResNet computer service center for virus and spyware removal (fees may apply).