From: Posted At: Monday, March 22, 2004 3:36 PM Posted To: spywareworkshop2004 Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509 Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

FTC,

I use Spybot freeware download (but I donated \$10.00 per seat) to help keep about 15 pcs free and clean from spyware and other malware. I do not want outsiders to know which web sites our staff may visit. On the other hand, I do not want spyware on the pcs, as it slows processing speed, mostly can not be removed via Add/Remove Programs in Windows Control Panel, and allows confidential information to be gathered transparent to the pc user.

Mostly, I object to someone placing or installing programs on my pcs without my knowledge. How do I troubleshoot problems, if I have no control over what is being installed on the pcs? Dishonest people/programs install such software without asking for permission from the user to do so. Otherwise, they would freely ask for permission to install the spyware and explain how they would use any information that is gathered. Instead, to give the give some legitimacy, they include the information in the EULA. (End Users License Agreement that no one reads, because you have to go to another web site to open it for viewing.)

I would like to have the same privileges. Let me spy on my neighbors, politicians, the police, and that cute woman down the street. Well, not really, but you get the point. If it is good enough for them to spy on me without impunity, then the government should allow me to spy on other people without impunity.

Regards,

Russell Shmerl (Jr.)

Itec Refining and Marketing Company Ltd. Barrington, IL