

Parasites... In a computer?... No Way!

This seems to be a fairly new term that is becoming more and more common and creating lots of frustration! Do you get lots of pop-up ads on every site you go to on the internet? If the answer is yes, you may be infected with parasites. Had a computer just the other day that had 42 pop-ups every time they went on the internet!

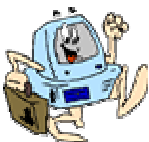
Parasites are applications that installed on your computer without your knowledge or consent for the purpose of commercial advertising. They track where you go and what you look at on the internet for the sole purpose of popping-up advertising you may be interested in. They can also alter the web links you see on a site's page and compromise the security of your computer. Just like a parasite it feeds off of your computer decreasing its productivity and slowing it down and you closing all those windows! This is not a virus so your Antivirus Software will not detect it.

To remove this there is a program called Ad-aware that does a wonderful job! But you need to use this program with CAUTION. I recommend uninstalling all the parasite programs in the control panel with add/remove programs before using Ad-aware. This should be a tool to clean up what is leftover from your uninstall. What programs do I uninstall? Here is a list of the most common ones I have seen around:

- BDE
- Browser Toolbar
- Click The Button
- Comet Cursor
- Download Receiver
- DownloadWare
- Gator
- HotBar
- IEAccess
- IEPlugin
- NetPal
- Network Essentials
- NewDotNet
- SaveNow
- webHancer
- Xupiter

Learn more about Parasites at <http://allentech.net/parasite/index.phtml> where they also group them into categories by what they do: spyware, scumware, and adware.

Download and read about Ad-aware 6.0 <http://download.com.com/3000-2144-10186632.html> and remember to use this with CAUTION! Just deleting some of these programs CAN MESS UP YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION! That is why you must remember to uninstall all that you can first. Even after you run Ad-aware, look through the list to see what is on it and make sure none are on your add/remove software list! Then you can always cancel that scan and come back and scan it a second time.



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