

Pop-Ups and Spyware

They go hand in hand and seem to be growing out of control. What can I do to protect my computer? Where does it all come from? Mostly teenagers having fun seeing what everything does. They're learning!

If you have a problem the first thing you need to do is clean up your computer which you can learn to do in my Parasite article at http://www.kayscomputing.com/news_articles.htm and then you're ready to fight them off!

I have been looking for a program that will stop pop-ups. NVC staff has told me how well the google toolbar works. Not only does it stop pop-up ads but has some other handy tools you may enjoy for free. Check it out at <http://toolbar.google.com>

Okay, we have stopped the pop-ups but what about those programs that like to install themselves and secretly take over your browser. Another free utility you may enjoy is at www.wilderssecurity.com/bhblaster.html and this will pop up a warning that a change is about to take place with Internet Explorer and let you decide if it should happen. Or if a change did happen it lets you revert back and undo the change. Ever get a bunch of search bars and no idea how they came about? They are taking over!

Last but not least my favorite utility these days is Adaware from <http://www.lavasoft.de/software/adaware/> If you purchase Adaware Plus, it will block spyware from ever entering your computer. Thus, you will have minimum problems with pop-ups and browser changes are usually made by spyware. This program can solve many problems from happening but does cost \$26.95.

The best way to solve the problem is to be careful what you click on and read what you are about to install. Some of those pop-up ads sound really official just waiting for your click to install and take over.

As with any computer, be careful not to install so many programs that run all the time and slow your computer down to a crawl; but then that is what the spyware is doing. Have fun checking out all the information and if you would like more information feel free to contact Kay at Kay's Computing, 397-8389 or kay@kayscomputing.com.

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