



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spyware Not Just For Disgruntled Spouses Any More

Nova Scotia -- Sept 20, 2005 -- SpyCop today announced that commercial monitoring spy software is being designed for a broader audience than ever before. Monitoring spyware used to be advertised primarily for keeping children safe, or for law enforcement agencies. Why does a spouse need remote installation capabilities with 128-bit encryption simply for watching their significant other? Answer: They Don't. Technical support exchanges at SpyCop and spyware advertising itself show that commercial spyware is being marketed at a much broader audience, including criminals interested in identity theft. This new breed of monitoring spyware makes it easier for them to steal personal data than ever before, and makes it harder for them to be caught in the act.

There are over 530 commercial spy programs, with about 5 brand new ones appearing each month. Commercial monitoring spyware includes keyloggers, email redirectors, screen recorders and more. It should not be confused with advertising spyware or simply, adware. The Aladdin eSafe Content Security Response Team (CSRT) found that 15 percent of the spyware threats they examined are designed to steal passwords and log keystrokes, while also attempting to steal logged-on user names, the hash of administrator passwords, instant messaging usage and email addresses.

SpyCop founder Grey McKenzie urges users to be proactive about their security. "Monitoring Spyware is more insidious than ever, capable of intercepting Windows API calls to hide itself and prevent removal. It's a lot different than adware because it can literally bring your life to a screeching halt", explains Mr. McKenzie. A quote from the CSRT study specifically says that "Fifteen percent of spyware threats send private information gathered from the end user currently logged on to the infected system: logging the user's keystrokes, logged-on user name, hash of administrator passwords, email addresses, contacts, instant messengers login and usage, and more." This is more than enough capability for an identity theft to take place.

Due to the nature of these often expensive payware monitoring programs, users must rely on more than the freebies that ship with their PCs or ISPs to remain secure. "Free firewalls and spy scanners are easier for spyware writers to get their hands on, because they don't have to pay anything.", says Mr. McKenzie. "They have more opportunity to find weaknesses and design their spyware to get around them - especially the Windows XP built in firewall. Avoid the free personal firewalls - go for something more substantial such as Agnitum Outpost Pro.". A good firewall will help stop a spy program from phoning home, however a dedicated commercial spy scanner is required to find and eradicate the threats from a system.

ABOUT SPYCOP:

SpyCop, LLC is the only company in the security industry to develop DEDICATED software designed to protect the general public from so called "undetectable" commercial surveillance spy software. SpyCop, LLC is a privately held company that has been providing the top surveillance spy detection solution since November 2000. The SpyCop® software for Microsoft Windows continues to be the leading dedicated surveillance scanner on the market.

PRODUCT EVALUATION:

<<http://www.spycop.com/download.htm>>

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