



Computer Corner

Protecting PCs From Spyware

(NAPSA)—Ever wonder if your computer is under surveillance? It could be. Simply by surfing the Web you can pick up spyware. These types of programs can discreetly install themselves on your computer and invisibly monitor your Internet habits.

The more disturbing types can even redirect you to other Web sites against your will, change your computer's software system, or track your personal information.

Spyware is easy to install but often difficult to remove. Fortunately, spyware removal programs can help. But before you download a spyware detection program, be sure to do your research. Not all spyware removal programs are created equal. Reports have surfaced about fake products that claim to identify and remove spyware for free, but actually place spyware on a user's computer and then charge a fee to remove the "detected" applications.

That's why it's a good idea to turn to a well-established brand when protecting your privacy online.

Thankfully, some of the Internet's biggest and most trusted brands are working to provide consumers with more control over their online experience. Yahoo! recently launched a free Anti-Spy product, available via the Yahoo! Toolbar (<http://toolbar.yahoo.com>), that enables users to scan for and manage unwanted spyware or adware that may be on their computer. Anti-Spy conducts a thor-



The right programs can keep your PC from getting hijacked by spyware.

ough check for both spyware and adware, categorizes it, and provides a recommendation to immediately remove or review programs before deleting them. Anti-Spy lets users decide which programs should remain on or be removed from their computers.

This is especially important since users may value certain types of adware programs, which are often used to save personal preferences and/or provide product promotions that a user has requested from a Web site.

According to a recent CNET/Download.com product review, "The new Yahoo Anti-Spy spyware scanner is an excellent addition. With this new protection, Yahoo! has definitely become the toolbar to beat. It quickly scans your system and provides detailed information about any spyware or adware found. You can then easily remove what you want."