



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SPYWARE?

1. A pop-up ad appears on your computer screen offering an “anti-spyware” product. What’s your best course of action?
 - a. Click on the link in the ad, provide your credit card information, and buy the product
 - b. Click on the link in the ad to learn more about the company and its products before you decide
 - c. Close the windows. If you want spyware protection software, get it from a provider you know and trust.

The correct answer is C! Never use software from an unknown source.

2. Individuals or companies can monitor what you do on your computer using “spyware” programs that they secretly install on your computer. How can you tell if your computer is being affected by spyware?
 - a. Look for signs of tampering, such as a missing back panel on your computer, or miniature microphones or cameras hidden nearby
 - b. Watch for odd computer behavior – such as a barrage of pop-up ads, a browser that takes you to sites other than those you type in, changes in your home page or toolbars, non-working keys, or slow performance
 - c. Look on your computer for any file whose name contains the word “spyware.” It may have an icon that looks very similar to others.

The correct answer is B! The most common signs your computer may be infected are sudden changes in its behavior. If you notice such changes, be sure your operating system (Windows, Linux, etc.) is up-to-date, and if you decide to install spyware protection, get it from a provider you know and trust.

3. While surfing the Internet, a pop-up ad takes you to a site offering a free game for your computer. What’s your best course of action?
 - a. Do a little research to decide whether its safe to download the game
 - b. Download it now, and decide later whether to use it or give it to a friend
 - c. Go ahead and download it – you can always uninstall it later if there’s a problem

The correct answer is A! Some free offers bundle other software, including spyware that could leave your computer vulnerable to monitoring or other annoyances. Before you download anything, you should find out what side effects you may experience from installing it.





4. A friend of a friend sends you a link to a site offering anti-spyware software. You've heard that some free downloads come bundled with spyware, but you really want this software. What should you do?
- Check to see if the site includes an end-user license agreement (EULA) for the software. If its hard to find or difficult to understand, think twice about installing the software
 - Hey, is anything really safe these days? Besides, the price is right...so go ahead and install it!
 - Carefully read the site's promotional text. If is sounds like it could help you, try downloading it and see if it works.

The correct answer is A! If a free download comes bundled with spyware, it may be mentioned only in the EULA or in the "terms and conditions." And if the EULA is hard to find or understand, it could mean the provider is trying to sneak the spyware by you.

5. Experts warn of "drive-by" downloads – software that gets downloaded to your computer from an Internet site without your knowledge. What's the best way to prevent it?
- Watch the indicator light on your modem. If it starts to flash or blink, someone may be trying to send you unwanted software
 - Surf fast. If you don't linger on any one page for more than a few seconds, you can reduce your risk of drive-by downloads
 - Make sure that the security setting for your browser is high enough to detect unauthorized downloads (for example, at least the "Medium" setting in Internet Explorer). Also, make sure you have installed the most recent version of your browser software.

The correct answer is C! Like with your anti-virus protection, firewall, and operating system, you should always keep your browser updated.

For more information on Spyware, visit <http://onguardonline.gov>



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