

## What is Spyware?

Spyware is a way for shareware authors to make money from a product, other than by selling it to the users. There are several large media companies that offer to place banner ads in their products in exchange for a portion of the revenue from banner sales. This way, you don't have to pay for the software and the developers are still getting paid.

While this may be a great concept, the downside is that the advertising companies also install additional tracking software on your system, which is continuously "calling home", using your Internet connection and reports statistical data to the "mother ship."

While according to the privacy policies of the companies, there will be no sensitive or identifying data collected from your system and you shall remain anonymous, the fact still remains, that you have a "live" server sitting on your PC that is sending information about you and your surfing habits to a remote and basically unknown location.

So, unbeknownst to you, there can be several spyware programs residing on your computer, slowing it down to a snail's pace with all of the reporting back that is going on and maybe even causing it to crash or otherwise act "funny."

There is a solution for all of this intrusive software being on your computer. Download and install a program called Ad-Aware by Lavasoft. It is a free program that searches and deletes any known spyware software from your computer. Just point your browser to [www.lavasoftusa.com](http://www.lavasoftusa.com) to download the latest version 5.83.

In today's Internet world, good spyware detection software such as Ad-Aware is as essential to safe computing as a good anti-virus program. Download it today.

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