

# Top Ways to Protect Small Businesses from Spyware

By [Nick Pegley](#)

Take some good advice about spyware and your business' best ways to improve with the top anti-spy solutions.

It's always something. A phrase like this goes without saying, even if it is ridiculous. On the Internet, computers are bombarded with malware and other viruses constantly. As a result, people use anti-virus protections for their email boxes, which are often over-flowing with annoying spam. As a result, people use anti-spam apps. Just when you think you've got it all under control, suddenly you may find out that your computer has many ad and spyware apps running in silence in the background to monitor and report on your computers' activity. Wherever you go, there you are.

The more benevolent sorts of spy and adware apps just monitor your activity, tracking you to the sites you visit so companies can better understand Internet surfing in order to improve their overall marketing efforts. Still, some kinds of spyware go past just the basic tracking and on to watch keystrokes, uncovering your password and other critical computer functions, posing a risk to security. Just how does one gain protection from these pesky little programs? Just like a vampire waits for an invitation into the house, ironically often users agree to install these programs unintentionally. Sometimes just removing these programs can cause your other free and shareware programs to become unusable.

Try these five simple steps in order to detect and avoid programs from your computer:

**1) Watch where you download.** Bad sites often have bad downloads. If you're trying to find a particular free or shareware application, for a specific purpose, it's probably better to go with trusted sites with a good reputation; [www.tucows.com](#) or [www.download.com](#), for example.

**2) Read the End User License Agreement (EULA).** The gibberish and fine print one scrolls through before reaching the "I have read and accept the license terms" may reveal you're agreeing to spyware. At times it's better to scan through the contract to look for terms which may be unacceptable to you. In this case, you may want to answer "No I do not accept the terms."

**3) Before You Click, Read.** When you visit a website, or when a box of text pops up, often users find them an annoyance and quickly click to make the box go away. Clicking affirmatively before reading the text can be like checking the 'would you like to install spyware' box. The pop-up message most likely won't call it spyware, but the opt-in terms could be fishy and not to your liking.

**4) System Protection.** Today's anti-virus applications are named incorrectly. Forms of malicious code are just a little piece in the total web of threats to be protected from. Virus has expanded to include trojans, worms, hoaxes and even exploitations of vulnerability along with spy- and adware. Try AdAware Pro or a similar product to gain protection from spy- and adware in real-time.

**5) System Scanning.** Firewalls, anti-virus and other protection are great, but even so at times spyware gets through to the system. Lavasoft provides several solutions such as AdAware and Spybot Search & Destroy, which is available without cost.

By following the five steps above, you'll be able to keep unwanted spyware off the system, detecting and removing unsavory observational software.