



## You've Got SpyWare!

Is your computer acting strangely? Does it seem slow? Have your settings mysteriously changed? You may have "SpyWare"! Spyware is software that performs certain behaviors such as advertising, collecting personal information, or changing the configuration of your computer, without your knowledge. Spyware is often associated with software that displays advertisements (called adware).

There are a number of ways spyware and other unwanted software can get on your system. A common trick is to install the software during the installation of other software that you do want such as a music or gaming program. Whenever you are installing something on your computer, make sure you carefully read all disclosures, including the license agreement and privacy statement. Sometimes the inclusion of unwanted software in a given software installation is documented, but it may appear at the end of a license agreement or privacy statement. People, especially kids, who use music sharing, file swapping and gaming programs are especially prone to coming up with spyware.

How Can You Tell? These quick signs may indicate you have spyware.

**I see pop-up advertisements all the time.** These ads are often for adult or other Web sites you may find objectionable. If you see pop-up ads as soon as you turn on your computer or when you're not even browsing the Web, you may have spyware or other unwanted software on your computer.

**My computer settings have changed and I can't change them back to the way they were.**

The start page when you open your Internet browser or the default "search" page may change to something that you don't recognize. Even if you know how to adjust these settings, you may find that they revert back every time you restart your computer.

**My Web browser or program groups contains additional components that I don't remember downloading.** Spyware and other unwanted software can add additional toolbars to your Web browser or new program icons that you don't want or need. Even if you know how to remove these items, they may return each time you restart your computer.

**My computer seems sluggish.** If you notice a sudden increase in the number of times a certain program crashes, or if your computer is slower than normal at performing routine tasks, you may have spyware or other unwanted software on your machine.

Visit our website at <http://www.ntb-group.com> to find out more about how to find and eliminate spyware!

So call Paula Lerner on (772) 538 - 1921 or email her at [paula@ntb-group.com](mailto:paula@ntb-group.com) to get your problems fixed.