

Adware/Spyware Products & Recommendations

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Agenda

- *What is Adware/Spyware*
- *Known Adware/Spyware Products*
- *Anti Adware/Spyware Removal Product Comparisons*
- *Tips & Recommendations*

Adware

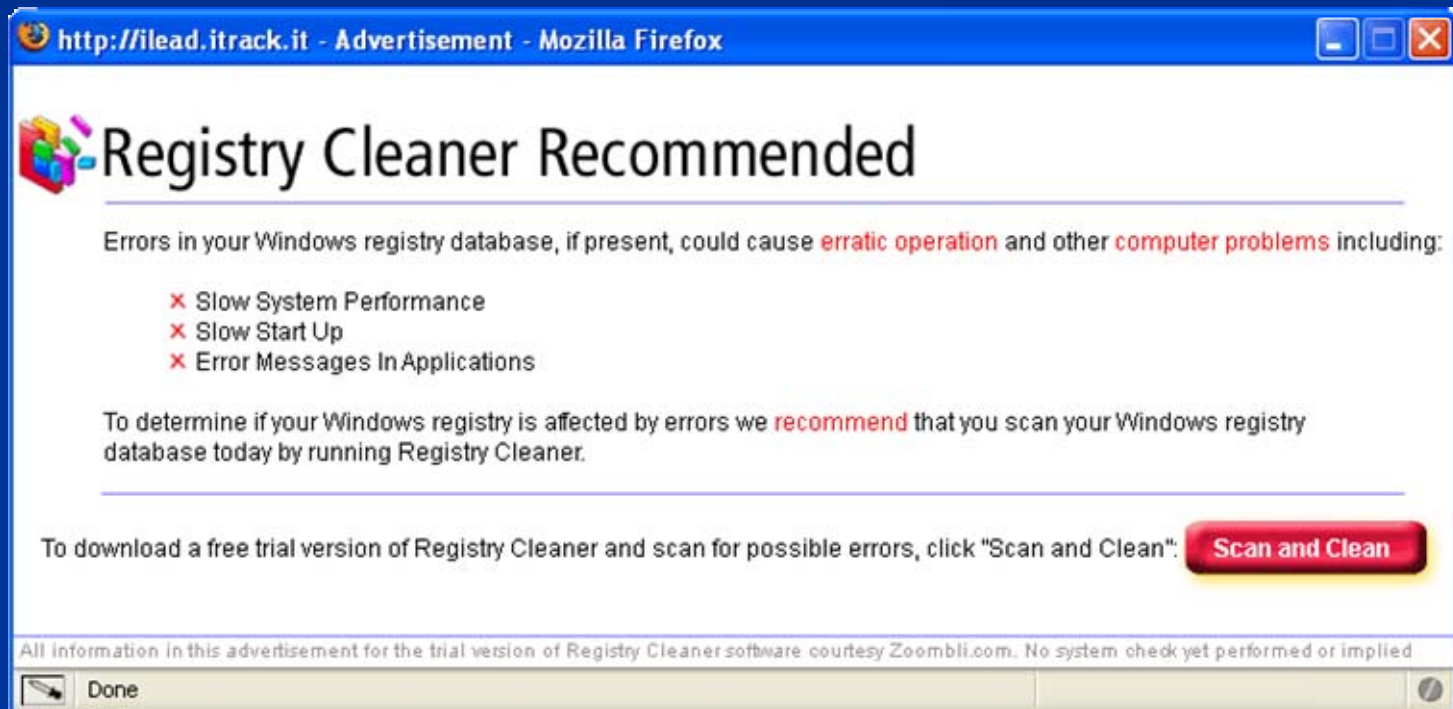
- **Adware** can be software that generates advertisements such as pop-up windows or hotlinks on web pages.
- It may add links to your favorites and your desktop.
- It can change your home page and your search engine to sites that earn income from various advertisers.
- Source
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/community/columns/adware.mspx>

Adware Examples

- What?! My computer is infected! Or is it?



Adware Examples



http://ilead.itrack.it - Advertisement - Mozilla Firefox

Registry Cleaner Recommended

Errors in your Windows registry database, if present, could cause **erratic operation** and other **computer problems** including:

- ✗ Slow System Performance
- ✗ Slow Start Up
- ✗ Error Messages In Applications

To determine if your Windows registry is affected by errors we **recommend** that you scan your Windows registry database today by running Registry Cleaner.

To download a free trial version of Registry Cleaner and scan for possible errors, click "Scan and Clean". [Scan and Clean](#)

All information in this advertisement for the trial version of Registry Cleaner software courtesy Zoombli.com. No system check yet performed or implied

Done

Well-known Adware Programs to Avoid

- Hotbar (Add-ons)
 - Adds graphical skins to Browser and Email clients
 - Adds toolbars and search button
- BlockChecker
- ClipGenie
- Comet Cursor
- Gator
- WinFixer
- StumbleUpon
- WeatherBug

Spyware

- **Spyware** is computer software that collects personal information about a user of a computer without their informed consent.
- Spyware utilizes a range of techniques in order to record personal information, including logging keystrokes, recording Internet web browsing history, and scanning documents on the computer's hard disk.
- Source - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spyware>

Spyware Examples

- Some common ways Spyware can be installed on your computer.
- **Bundled Applications**
Spyware software contained inside the install packages of other Internet software downloads. The most common form of bundling occurs with Peer-to-Peer (P2P) software applications such as Kazaa.
- Spyware software can also be installed on a computer through download of:
 - some less-reputable Internet Explorer browser toolbars
 - some so-called "agent" or "personal assistant" software like Gator, BonziBuddy and Comet Cursor

Well-known Spyware Programs to Avoid

- Gator
 - Monitors Internet activity
 - Monitors site visits
 - Tracks forms and passwords
 - Sells customer information to Advertisement companies
- Bonzi Buddy
- Dope Wars
- ErrorGuard
- Grokster
- Kazaa
- Morpheus

What you should know:

- Adware/Spyware is installed in the background
- Avoid installing **unknown** freeware software.
- Avoid web links and attachments you are unfamiliar with as they could be embedded with malicious code

Prevention

- Anti Adware/Spyware Programs have been created to remove Adware/Spyware from your computer.
- Most are free to download.

Features & Comparisons

Products	Cost	Ease of Use (Poor/Fair/Good)	Real-Time Protection	Performance CPU Utilization (Poor/Fair/Good)	Effective Scanning (Registry/Memory)	Scheduled Scanning
Lavasoft Ad-Aware SE	Free & Paid	Good	Only with Ad Watch	Good	Yes	Not available in free version
Spybot Search & Destroy	Free	Good	Yes - Resident TeaTimer	Good	Yes	Yes (Advanced Mode)
Microsoft Windows Defender (Beta)	Free	Fair	Yes	Fair/Good	Yes	Yes
Webroot Spy Sweeper	Free – UCLA Site License	Good	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes

Webroot Spy Sweeper

- <http://www.bol.ucla.edu/software/spysweeper>
- Free to UCLA staff/faculty
- Protects against both Adware and Spyware

Webroot Spy Sweeper

The screenshot shows the Webroot Spy Sweeper application window. The title bar reads "Spy Sweeper". On the left is a vertical navigation pane with buttons for Home, Sweep, Shields, Quarantine, Options, Alerts, and Help. The main content area features the Webroot logo and the product name "Spy Sweeper". It is divided into several sections: "Sweep for Potentially Unwanted Programs" with a "Start Full Sweep" button; "Shields Ongoing Protection" showing 12 of 12 shields are on; "Updates Definitions and Program" with a "Check for Updates" link; "Antivirus Protection" with checkboxes for "Sweep for Viruses" and "Virus Shields"; "Subscription Status" showing an active subscription through 11/14/2009; and "Alerts and News" with a link to "Spy News™".

Home
Sweep
Shields
Quarantine
Options
Alerts
Help

webroot® Spy Sweeper™

Sweep for Potentially Unwanted Programs [Edit](#)

✓ Last full sweep: 1 day ago
[Next sweep:](#) None scheduled
Items Removed: 0

[Start Full Sweep](#)

Shields Ongoing Protection [Edit](#)

✓ 12 of 12 Recommended Shields are ON
Items Blocked: 2

Updates Definitions and Program [Edit](#)

✗ Last check for updates: Never
Automatic Updates: ON
[Check for Updates](#)

Antivirus Protection

Sweep for Viruses
 Virus Shields

[Add antivirus protection to your subscription](#)

Subscription Status

Active Through: 11/14/2009
[Check Status](#)
[About Spy Sweeper](#)

Alerts and News

Alerts
You have no alerts

[Spy News™](#)
Updated news available

Webroot Spy Sweeper Tips & Recommendations

- Program Updates
- Definition Updates (Once a week)
- Weekly Scans – Full System or All Files & Local Drives
- Quarantine items should be deleted
- Activate Shields
 - Browser Hijacking
 - Hosts File
 - Windows System
- Disable Scanning on Startup (this can dramatically slow down your computer if not done)

More Info

- **Adware vs Spyware**

http://www.whenu.com/pc_adware_spyware.html

- **Recognize Your Wares: Spyware vs Adware**

http://searchwindowssecurity.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid45_gci1102643,00.html