

Computer Tips

Brought to you by

Michael's Computer Services

A Bug In My Computer?

Does your computer seem slow? Do strange screens pop up in front of you while you are working, advertising some Casino or telling you there are dozens of computer errors that must be immediately fixed? Does your PC freeze up regularly, or want you to send error messages off to Microsoft?

If this sounds like your computer, then there is a good chance your PC is infected with Spyware. Spyware is a general term for a group of malicious Internet programs that download and install themselves onto your PC. Spyware, also identified as Malware, or Adware, comes in through your Internet connection, usually without your knowledge. Most Spyware is designed to collect information about your Internet habits, such as which websites you visit, and which search words you most commonly use. These Internet programs then send this information back to the Spyware creators, which they use for advertising revenue, or email spamming. Common programs that do this are GAIN Publishing, Gator, BonziBuddy, MyWebSearch, Smiley Central, FunWebProducts, CoolWWWSearch, Dashbar, HotBar, & Ask Toolbar. These programs usually show up in your web browser as a toolbar, and when seen, should be removed.

A more dangerous type of Spyware however are known as Trojan Horses. These Internet programs usually affect the day to day running of your computer. Some Trojan Horse programs record things like your passwords, your email addresses, and your bank details, and send this information back to the Spyware creators. Some Trojans corrupt your Internet browser, preventing you from accessing secure websites, such as your bank or email accounts. Still other Trojan types affect the operating system itself, making your PC startup incorrectly, or behave erratically, usually to the despair of its owner. Examples of these types of Trojans would be Trojan.Vundo, commonly known as Antivirus 2009, and SpySheriff, a Trojan that falsely warns users of fake spyware infections.

Thankfully, it is possible to remove Spyware and Trojans without the loss of any data. These days, removing spyware, especially Trojans, is best done by a computer technician, due to the fact that Trojan horses embed themselves into the file system of Windows. We often have people come into our workshop who have taken their computer to friends for them to fix, and their friend has formatted their hard drive in an effort to remove the Trojan, and in consequence has lost all their data.

You should never have to lose your data because your PC has spyware or a virus. A Trojan can indeed be difficult to remove at times, but we will always make sure our customer's data is safe. Viruses are often blamed for data loss, when in fact it is more likely to be user error when trying to fix the problem.

Should your computer be infected with spyware or viruses, contact us on 4171 0981, for guaranteed safe removal.



Michael's Computer Services

All your computer needs met in one place!



- PC Repairs & Upgrades
- Virus Removal & Prevention
- New & Used Systems
- PC Hardware & Components
- LCD Monitors
- Printers, Inks & Toners
- Peripherals & Much More

Call Michael or Naomi on: 4171 0981

85 Chester Street, Nanango (cnr Deakin Crescent)