

Banish Malware and Reclaim Your Computer!

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Has this happened to you?

- 'Computer Arthritis' – it seems to run a little more slowly every day
- Browser takes you places you don't want to go
- Pop-ups and more pop-ups
- Mysterious desktop icons
- Dire warnings of spyware infestation
- and on, and on, and on...

Identifying the Problem

Your computer may have more than one:

- Spyware
- Adware
- Browser Hijacker
- Keylogger
- Malware

Or be cluttered with:

- Temporary files
- Orphan files

What does it all mean?

http://www.spywareterminator.com/help/what_is_spyware.aspx

Many terms, many definitions, but basically:

Software installed without the user's informed consent, performing actions of which the user is unaware.

On the Agenda

- Safety and awareness
- General cleanup
- Scanning and removal of unwanted applications
- Protection and prevention
- Routine maintenance

WARNING!

The tools and solutions presented here have been used successfully, but may not be appropriate for all situations.

Licensing Issues

Some tools are free for everyone, others are free **ONLY** for private, personal use.

Some have paid versions with added functionalities.

Permissions

Many applications require administrative rights to install. In a school or library environment, you may not have these rights.

In this situation, report problems to your supervisor or IT staff; they may have other procedures to address the issues.

Unintended Consequences

Use with care and common sense. If you are uncomfortable with a procedure, stop and ask for help.

At home, you bear all the responsibility.

At work, your actions may affect others, or could create situations that take a lot of time to fix, or that are impossible to correct!

We'll begin with

The Basics

The Basics

Develop Safe Online Habits

- Be aware
- Don't click links in pop-up windows
- Be skeptical about downloading
- Don't fall victim to phishing emails

The Basics

Clean Your Browsers

(Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.)

- Delete temporary files
- Delete cookies
- Clear history

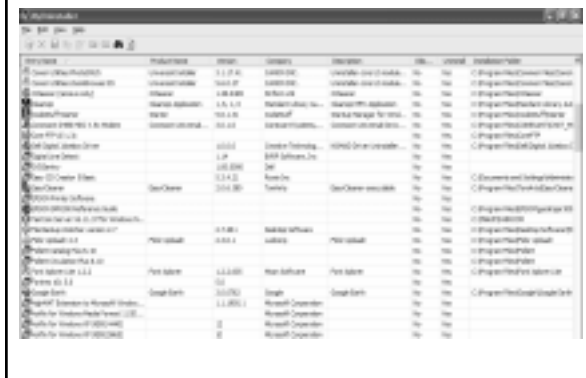
FREE alternative

MyUninstaller

<http://www.nirsoft.net/utills/myuninst.html>

- Displays much more information
- Shows items not found on Add/Remove
- Can be run from CD or USB flash drive, without installation

MyUninstaller

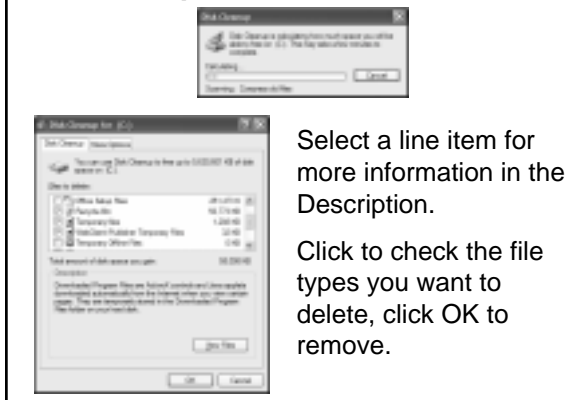


Windows Tool

Disk Cleanup

- Start > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Disk Cleanup
- Scans your hard drive (usually C: drive) for temporary files, recycle bin, etc.
- Offers to compress old files to create more space.

Disk Cleanup



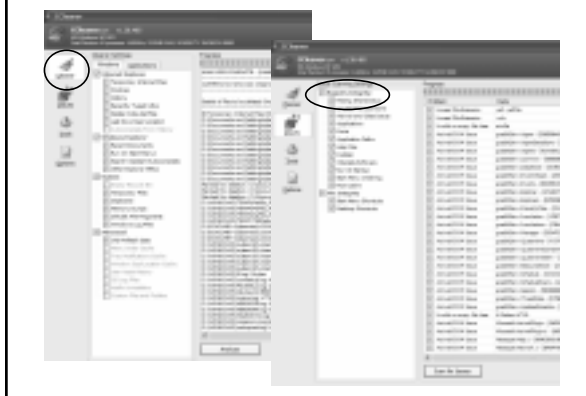
FREE alternative

CCleaner

<http://www.ccleaner.com>

- Scans for and removes more than Disk Cleanup
- Also scans and cleans up registry (DO accept the 'backup the registry' offer!)
- Uninstalls applications
- Faster than Windows utilities

CCleaner

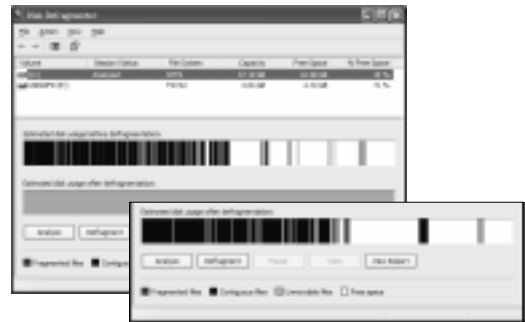


Windows Tool

Disk Defragmenter

- Start > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Disk Defragmenter
- Analyzes your hard drive for fragmented files
- Moves them so they are grouped for most efficient access

Disk Defragmenter



FREE alternative

Auslogics Disk Defrag

<http://auslogics.com/disk-defrag/index.php>

- Free
- Includes Real-Time protection
 - Can be disabled/enabled
- Easy to use
- Faster than Windows defrag (12 min.)

Auslogics Disk Defrag

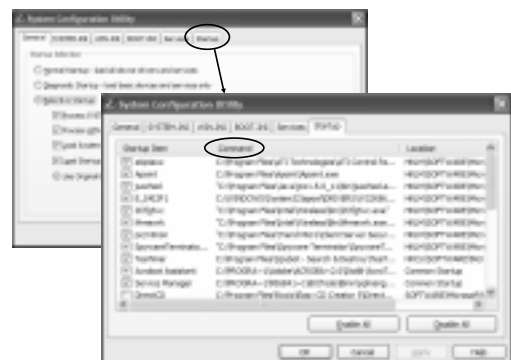


Windows Tool

System Configuration

- Start > Run > msconfig > Startup tab
- Displays (some) applications that run on startup
- Expand the Command column for clues to identify application
- Google filenames for more information
- Uncheck boxes to prevent loading at startup, then set to not display warning

MSconfig

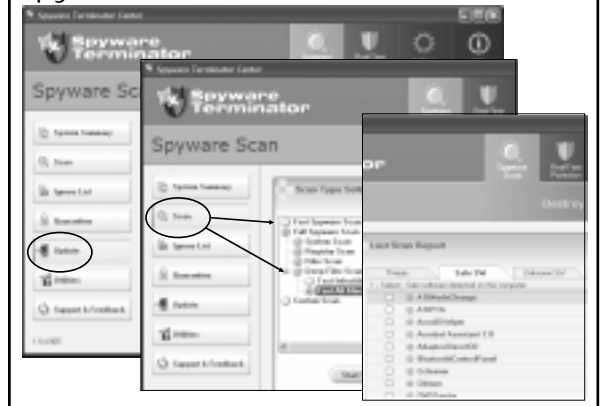


Spyware Terminator

<http://www.spywareterminator.com>

- Free
- Real-time protection
 - Can be disabled/enabled
- Manual or scheduled scan
- Auto updates
- Fast

Spyware Terminator



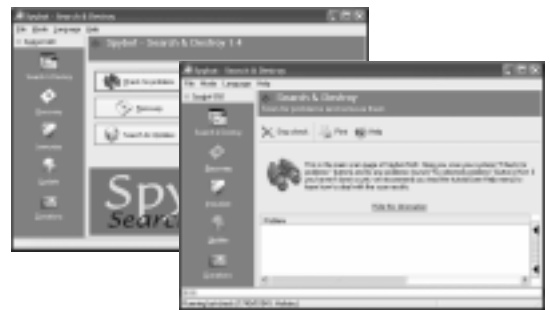
Spybot

<http://www.spybot.info/en/index.html>

- Free
- Good track record
- Immunize function blocks spyware

If 'checksum' error appears when attempting update, choose a different download site

Spybot



Update, Immunize, Scan

Ad-Aware

<http://www.lavasoft.com>

- Free for PERSONAL use
- May use in conjunction with Spybot

Turn off sound??

Ad-Aware



Smitfraud Fix

<http://siri.geekstogo.com/SmitfraudFix.php>

- Free
- Runs in command window
- Can be used in safe mode
- Good for items that cannot be removed because files are open
- 'Second-tier utility'

Smitfraud Fix



CWShredder

http://www.intermute.com/spysubtract/cwshredder_download.html

- Free
- Quick to download & run
- Specific to the many CoolWebSearch browser hijackers
- 'Second-tier utility'

CWShredder

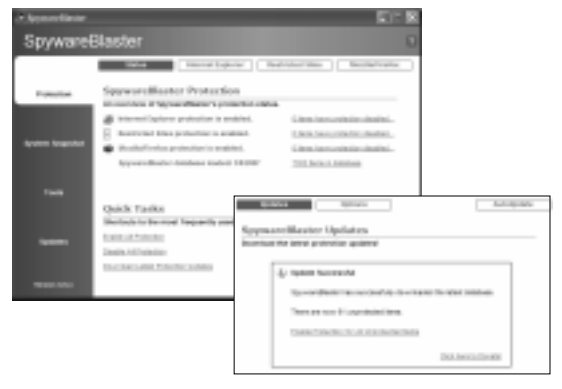


Spyware Blaster

<http://www.javacoolsoftware.com>

- Free for personal & educational use, including public libraries
- Blocks installation (not a scanner)
- Does not run in background
- Auto updates with license purchase

Spyware Blaster



Tech Support Alert

www.techsupportalert.com

- Free online newsletter
- Much info understandable by non-geeks
- See Gizmo's 46 Best Freeware Utilities
- \$10 subscription gets you even more!

Free Download Sites

(caveat emptor!!)

- www.download.com (and C|NET reviews)
- www.majorgeeks.com
- www.deligio.com
- sourceforge.net
 - Open Source software of all kinds
 - Not always for the casual computer user!
- many others

Many of the links in this presentation
can be found at

<http://www.furl.net/members/scklsstaff>

in the Tech Tools
topic

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