

# Symptoms of Computer Spyware Infection



**Frequent Pop-up advertisements.** These ads are often for adult or other websites you 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 probably have spyware.

**Unusual System Tray Notifications.** Generally, these notifications alert you that your computer is infected and wants you to buy some type of software. No matter what you do to close or stop the notifications, they immediately return within minutes.

**Web Browser Misbehaving.** Your web browser settings have changed and you can't change them back to the way they were. Malware and spyware software can change your home page or search page settings. Even if you try to change these settings, they either prevent you from doing so or you might find that they revert back every time you restart your computer.

**Added components to your web browser.** Spyware and other unwanted software can add toolbars to your web browser that you don't want or need. Even if you remove these toolbars, they probably return each time you restart your computer.

**Sluggish or slow computer performance.** Spyware and malware can rob your computer of performance, causing it to become very slow and producing a lot of hard drive activity even though you aren't doing anything on the computer.

**Strange Links or Software on Your Computer.** You suddenly realize that there are strange links on your desktop or web browser that you didn't put there. Sometimes when you delete them, they reappear when you restart your computer. The links generally lead to websites you've never been to, wanting you to buy something or download something.

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