

PURBECK PC SERVICES

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So what is the difference between SPYWARE AND VIRUSES!

Well, apart from them both being a complete pain, they do both share similarities?

Both have the ability to capture and destroy data, decrease performance and cause massive disruption.

Both are delivered by web-visits and downloads and e-mail attachments to name but a few.

Both are malware. Uninvited obtrusive or destructive software.

Key Distinctions

Perhaps the main difference between viruses and spyware is economic.

Viruses are created to cause maximum disruption to as many victims as possible and to spread as fast as possible.

Spyware is developed primarily for financial gain. Its main focus is to extract personal information from a victims computer.

Spyware can be much harder to remove from a computer.

The information gathered is then automatically processed, sold, or used to target you for advertisements, spam, adult content and a variety of illegal and immoral issues.

How do I know when my computer is infected?

Well, most PC's connected to the internet are already infected to a lesser or greater degree. So unless you already have a routine in place to scan and remove and protect against spyware, you may like to consider installing the following pieces of free software to check.

Pay particular attention if you have noticed a decrease in your PC's performance or are getting a lot of unusual activity when you are online.

Windows Defender

www.microsoft.com

Ad-Aware SE www.lavasoftusa.com

Spybot S&D www.safernetworking.org

Install, update and scan, as you would with an Anti-virus product.

A few tips to avoid spyware.

- Install software carefully. Read each dialogue to ensure you are not installing "extras" like browser toolbars, that you don't need.
- Avoid Peer-to-Peer downloading software.
- Remove junk mail without reading it.
- Don't install anything without knowing EXACTLY what it is. read the EULA to make sure you aren't installing other things as well. Check independent sources too, as some EULA's won't tell you about spyware.
- Check your browsers security settings. Set to at least medium.
- Deny any ActiveX permission requests that you haven't requested.

If you would like any further advice, please contact Andy on **07816 483448** or by e-mail andy@purbeckpcservices.co.uk