



Prevent or Remove Spyware

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Spyware usually only affects Windows users. Mac users are largely immune from this threat.

The best way to prevent spyware is to lower the size of your Internet Explorer web cache, control the type and number of cookies in Internet Explorer, do not agree to have anything installed when you are surfing the web, and run anti-spyware tools, such as Windows Defender or Ad-Aware.

Instructions for how to lower the size of your Internet Explorer web cache and control cookies are available here:

SEE ALSO:

[What is a Computer Virus?
What is Spyware?](#)

[Configure Internet Explorer
to Limit Spyware](#)

[What to Do If Your Computer
Is Infected with a Virus](#)

[MacOS X Operating System &
Viruses](#)

[Configure Internet Explorer to Limit Spyware](#)

If Internet Explorer asks you if you would like to install something while you are surfing the web, be sure to not install it unless you are absolutely sure that you trust the website you are on and you know exactly what will be installed. Pay particular attention when on shopping, coupon, gaming, file trading, and news sites, and do not ever install any applications from those sites.

You should be aware the spyware can be installed on your computer as part of installing an otherwise legitimate program. For example, if you install a weather tracking program that will let you know the current temperature and forecast, other applications that would be considered spyware may also be installed with or without your knowledge. In many cases, you may be able to remove the initial application but not the spyware applications that were installed beside it. Therefore, if you can avoid it in any way, do not install any applications via Internet Explorer or any other method unless you are absolutely sure you know what you are doing and what applications, if any, will also be installed at the same time.

Installing an anti-spyware application, such as Windows Defender or Ad-Aware, can help prevent spyware from being installed on your system and remove spyware already on your system. Staff and faculty at Rhodes must request that ITS install this software on your computer, but students are free (and even encouraged) to install it on their personal computers. Information and download links for three free and excellent anti-spyware programs are available here. We recommend you install more than one.

[Windows Defender](#)
[Ad-Aware](#)
[Spybot Search & Destroy](#)

Anti-spyware applications work in a similar way as anti-virus applications, as they use a list of spyware definitions to detect the spyware and remove it. Like anti-virus applications, you must update your spyware definitions in the anti-spyware applications often to get the most use out of the program.

Please note that not all types of spyware can be removed from a computer using anti-spyware tools such as Ad-Aware. You may have to remove spyware manually from the filesystem and

registry. In some extreme cases, it is actually easier to reinstall the operating system on the computer than remove the spyware installed.

The ITS Helpdesk may be able to help you remove spyware from your computer. Contact us at x3890 or helpdesk@rhodes.edu