



Sunbelt Software

How Effective is Your Antivirus at Detecting Spyware?

Sure, your antivirus software will protect your organization against viruses. It will probably even do a good job against worms. But what about keyloggers, backdoor trojans, adware and spyware?

Recent statistics show the spyware problem is exploding and not going away. In a recent survey, system administrators said spyware had become their Number One security concern for 2005. Many reported it 100% worse compared to the year before. Why? Because there is a lot of money to be made in spyware, both in 'legit' adware but even more in criminal exploitation.

In another spyware survey earlier this year conducted by W2Knews, system administrators indicated that spyware has become a worse problem than viruses. Asked about the level of severity of spyware infections, 1.5% said it was no problem at all, 7.5% said it was a minor problem, 41.3% stated that it was happening more and more, 33% complained it had become a major problem and 16.7% said they were very concerned about this and needed solutions right away. In addition, the survey revealed that existing antivirus tools make an attempt to detect spyware but do not do an acceptable job in removing and quarantining it.

Different code is required for detecting spyware

Over the last year, antivirus companies have attempted to counter the spyware problem but the fact is their code and "signature" files were not built to effectively remove spyware. This has a significant impact on how protected your organization is from spyware. When it comes to viruses, the known "rule" is this: "Keep them out!" To get rid of and actively protect against spyware, much more sophisticated code and scanning mechanisms are required. According to several September 2005 product reviews, many antivirus applications have obvious deficiencies in antispysware cleaning and blocking routines making it difficult to recommend these solutions to companies battling the spyware scourge. At this point in time, antivirus companies aren't quite there.

**COUNTER
SPY™**
ENTERPRISE



In today's marketplace, we see antivirus companies including some type of antispysware functionality into their applications. Some vendors sell patching and spyware combined into one. Others mix it with antivirus. Well, why pay for patching if you get Microsoft WSUS for free? These solutions bundled are not cost effective, and it likely gets you substandard antispysware. Several independent tests have shown that stand-alone antispysware products have been proven to be the most effective.

Robust threat database equals better detection

When it comes right down to it, antivirus or antispysware products are only as good at detection as their databases. To be safe you need to use a proven, best-of-breed solution that is powered by a constantly updated and robust threat database. Additionally, you need to feel confident that your antispysware vendor takes an aggressive approach at categorizing potentially dangerous spyware. Many vendors have downgraded or "delisted" known spyware and adware, ultimately jeopardizing the security of your users' workstations.

One award-winning enterprise antispysware solution is CounterSpy Enterprise™ from Sunbelt Software. It provides a centrally managed solution with real-time protection that detects and removes a broad range of adware, spyware and other malware from corporate networks. It has won several product round-ups for best spyware detection and removal in the industry.

CounterSpy Enterprise benefits from multiple sources for its spyware definition updates, making it the premier antispysware solution to protect your end-users and networks from spyware. Updated frequently, the spyware definition database includes a rapidly growing library of thousands of threat signatures. These multiple sources for the new spyware definitions include Sunbelt's own CounterSpy Research Team and the hundreds of thousands of people that participate in Sunbelt's ThreatNet™ community of opt-in users.

Practically speaking, it has become a necessity to reinforce your layered defense posture with antispysware software. When you consider that dedicated antispysware software developers make protection against the "non-virus" forms of malware their specialty, you can see why antispysware software is so essential.

For more information on how CounterSpy Enterprise can help protect your networks from spyware, contact Sunbelt Software at sales@sunbelt-software.com.

Features are subject to change without notice. All products mentioned are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 2006 Sunbelt Software.

We Keep the Bad Guys Out