

## **SPYWARE ON THE WEB**

**Spyware** is computer software that is installed surreptitiously on a personal computer to collect information about a user, their computer or browsing habits without the user's informed consent. This malicious software is known to change computer settings, resulting in different home pages, slowing down or loss of Internet connection speeds or functionality of other programs. Unlike viruses and worms, spyware does not usually self-replicate. However spyware by design exploits infected computers for commercial gain. Typical tactics for achieving this goal include delivery of unsought pop-up advertisements, theft of personal information, monitoring of Web-browsing activity for marketing purposes.

I would like to mainly concentrate on following areas among others like

- Where is spyware located or routes of infection?
- What kinds of threats does spyware pose?
- Most common spyware programs on web
- How is the spyware threat changing over time?

### **Motivation**

I always feel insecure to perform online bank transactions in unsecured networks offered by some public places like Airports, Restaurants etc. and to provide my credit card details to some third-party sites which popular sites like [www.deals2buy.com](http://www.deals2buy.com) redirect to. So I was always interested to perform a detailed study in this area. That motivated me to select the topic.

### **Research Paper**

I would like to write a paper on this topic. I feel it would give me enough scope to put all the important aspects of my study in detail which I may not be able to cover during presentation.