

Computer Spyware Will Likely Spike After Christmas

By Matt Gephardt

(KUTV) P.C. Laptops owner Dan Young is committed to keeping crooks out of your hard drive whether you're a P.C. Laptops customer or not. He does so by offering free virus scans to anyone that brings in their desktop or laptop computer no matter where the machine was purchased.

Young says most infected computers will show signs. Two of the biggies are when a computer runs slowly or has lots of random pop-ups. And while that might seem like a mere nuisance, the end results of having an infected computer can be nasty.

"It can farm your personal information," Young says.

Fighting cybercrime is a year round battle but Young says it's especially prevalent in the days after Christmas. His observations are consistent with national trends.

According to SpyWareRemove.com, malware infections on computers will likely spike more than 30% in the days after Christmas. It's a trend the group has been tracking for several years.

"We have every reason to believe that traffic will spike once again this year," said Alvin Estevez, editor of SpyWareRemove.com and CEO of Enigma Software Group.

Estevez says the biggest reason for the spike in malware comes from people getting new computers for Christmas and immediately surfing without installing anti-virus protection. He says scammers will also take advantage of people searching for the software that goes with a new gadget they might get under the tree and trick victims into downloading bogus programs and viruses.

At P.C. Laptops, they say they see a lot of infected machines.

"About 95% of the computers that we scan that don't have protection have something on there that's some sort of infection," Young said.

That's the bad news. The good news is that viruses and malware are pretty easy to combat with a good antivirus subscription. "If you have good protection, your chances of having an infection are much, much smaller," Young said.

Some of the worst malware can literally hijack your computer and hold it ransom according to www.spywareremove.com

For more, visit www.spywareremove.com

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