

By Becky Roberts

Spyware applications can generate pop-up ads, hijack browser home pages, redirect Web searches, steal Web traffic via DNS poisoning, track Internet activity, and steal personal information. In response to this threat, anti-spyware applications have proliferated—but as the field gets more crowded, choosing the right tools has become increasingly challenging. Here's a rundown of some of the more prominent anti-spyware offerings, with a summary of features and links to product reviews.

Product	Features	OS	Cost	Reviews
<a href="#">Ad-Aware</a> LavaSoft <a href="#">Download free SE Personal Edition</a>	Protects against known insistent advertising, data mining, parasites, scumware, dialers, Trojans, malware, browser hijackers, tracking components and unknowns by using "Code and Sequence Identification". Various configuration options.	98 Me NT 2000 XP 2003	<b>Home:</b> \$24.95—\$49.95 (depending on version) <b>Business:</b> \$31.95 per seat for 10–25 users. \$21.95 per seat for >201 users (Enterprise Edition – other editions with different pricing are available).	<a href="#">About.com</a> <a href="#">Download.com</a> <a href="#">SnapFiles.com</a>
<a href="#">Adware Agent</a> KillerSoftware <a href="#">Download demo here.</a>	Protects and detects spyware, adware, worms. On-demand scans and constant monitoring. Limited configuration options.	95 98 ME NT XP 2000	\$19.95 single	<a href="#">Download.com</a>
<a href="#">Adware Away</a> FlyYaNet Technology Inc. <a href="#">Download trial version.</a>	Detects and removes adware, spyware, browser hijackers, Trojans, and worms. Customized removal tools available.	98 ME NT 2000 XP	\$29.95 single \$130.00 five \$511.00 twenty \$5K unlimited	<a href="#">Download.com</a>
<a href="#">Bazooka</a> Kephyr <a href="#">Free download</a>	Detects spyware, adware, Trojans, key loggers, and trackers. Provides removal instructions or links to instructions.	95 98 ME NT XP 2000	Free	<a href="#">SnapFiles.com</a> <a href="#">NetBloke.com</a>

<a href="#">CounterSpy</a> Sunbelt Software	Protects, detects, quarantines, or removes, with rollback capability.	98 ME 2000 XP 2003	\$19.95 single—includes one-year subscription	<a href="#">AdwareReport.com</a> <a href="#">ConsumerSearch.com</a> <a href="#">HALPC.org</a>
<a href="#">HouseCall</a> TrendMicro Try an <a href="#">online scan or download</a> beta version free.	Free online scan or download the Beta product for free. Includes virus scanning. Does not offer protection, just detection and removal.	95 98 NT 2000 XP	Free (in beta)	
<a href="#">McAfee AntiSpyware</a> McAfee	Detects, protects, and removes PUPs—"Potentially Unwanted Programs". Includes a rollback feature in case of accidental deletion.	98 ME 2000 XP	\$29.99 single (includes 12 months of updates)	<a href="#">PCMag.com</a> <a href="#">AdwareReport.com</a> <a href="#">WinPlanet.com</a>
<a href="#">Microsoft Windows AntiSpyware (beta)</a> Microsoft <a href="#">Download here.</a>	Protects, detects, and removes. Includes rollback capability and automatic updates. Voluntary participation in the "Spynet" community.	2000 XP 2003	Free (in Beta)	<a href="#">WinSuperSite.com</a> <a href="#">SnipTools.com</a> <a href="#">Download.com</a>
<a href="#">NoAdware</a> <a href="#">Download a free trial.</a>	Protects, detects, and removes Trojans, dialers, worms, adware, and spyware. This product has been controversial due to false positives, but version 3.0 claims to have resolved this issue.	3.x 95 98 ME NT 2000 XP 2003 CE	\$29.99 single	<a href="#">CastleCops.com</a> <a href="#">CNet Reviews</a> <a href="#">SpywareWarrior.com</a>
<a href="#">eTrust Pest Patrol</a> Computer Associates <a href="#">Try a free online scan</a>	Detects and removes spyware, adware, key loggers, hijackers, and Trojans.	98 NT ME 2000 XP	\$29.95 single	<a href="#">AustralianIT</a> <a href="#">ITReviews</a> <a href="#">TopTenReviews</a>

<a href="#">Spy Sweeper</a> WebRoot Free <a href="#">online scan</a> Free <a href="#">trial version</a>	Protects and detects. Quarantines potential threats.	98 SE ME 2000 XP	\$29.95 personal edition; includes one year of updates and support	<a href="#">MajorGeeks.com</a> <a href="#">AdWareReport.com</a> <a href="#">TopTenReviews</a>
<a href="#">Spybot Search &amp; Destroy</a> PepiMK Software <a href="#">Download for free</a>	Easy to use on-demand scan and the ability to immunize. Problems are classified by type, such as ClickAgents and HitBox, and a detailed explanation of each incident is given. Rollback capability. Includes a file shredder.	95 98 ME NT 2000 XP	Free; donations encouraged	<a href="#">ZDNet.UK</a> <a href="#">Downloads.com</a>
<a href="#">Spyware Begone!</a> MicroSmarts Free <a href="#">download</a>	Detects and protects against adware, spyware, ID theft, key loggers, hijackers, worms, Trojans, parasites, dialers, and popups. Will clean infections.	95 98 NT ME XP 2000	\$39.95 single	<a href="#">TopTenReviews</a> <a href="#">5StarTools.com</a>
<a href="#">Spyware Blaster</a> JavaCool Software <a href="#">Download</a> full version for free	Emphasizes protection over detection. Can take a "snapshot" of such items as browser settings, back up an encrypted copy of the hosts file, kill all Flash, and create custom list of ActiveX controls to block, so that if the computer does become infested, it's easier to restore it to its desired state.	95 98 ME NT 2000 XP	Free	<a href="#">WindowsMarketPlace.com</a> <a href="#">WebUser.co.uk</a>
<a href="#">Spyware Doctor</a> PCTools <a href="#">Download</a> free trial	Easy to use; scans, detects, removes; includes rollback capability. Protects against Trojans, spyware, adware, keyloggers, spybots, and other varieties of trackers.	95 98 ME 2000 XP 2003	\$29.95 single	<a href="#">AdwareReport.com</a> <a href="#">Download.com</a>
<a href="#">Spyware Eliminator</a> Aluria Software <a href="#">Try online</a>	Detects, protects, and removes a wide variety of undesirables. Integrates with Aluria Security Suite. Frequent updates and numerous configuration options.	XP 2000 Pro ME 98	\$29.99 for a single copy	<a href="#">AdwareReport.com</a> <a href="#">PCMag.com</a> <a href="#">TopTenReviews</a>

<a href="#">Spyware Remover</a> BulletProofSoft	Detects and removes adware, spyware, trackers, key loggers, Trojans, hijackers, dialers, and malware. Includes a firewall.	98 ME NT 2000 XP	\$29.00 single	<a href="#">PCMag.com</a>
<a href="#">SpywareGuard</a> JavaCool Software <a href="#">Download here</a>	Real-time detect and block, uses database for known problems and heuristics to identify newbies. Live updates and reporting capabilities.	98 ME 2000 XP	Free; donations welcome	<a href="#">CNET Reviews</a> <a href="#">SnapFiles.com</a>
<a href="#">STOPzilla</a> Roxio <a href="#">Download free trial here</a>	Enables protection against spyware and pop-ups separately. Behavior is easy to configure. Includes "Tracks Eraser" to remove all trace of Internet activity on shutdown. Real-time protection only; no scanning. Auto/manual updates.	98 ME NT4 2000 XP	\$19.95 single; includes one year of free service	<a href="#">Download.com</a> <a href="#">AdwareReport.com</a> <a href="#">Personal Computer World</a>
<a href="#">Norton Internet Security AntiSpyware Edition</a> Symantec	Symantec's Internet Security product enhanced to include spyware protection. Detects, protects, and removes Internet threats. Automatic updates.	XP 2000	\$79.95 single	<a href="#">PCWorld.com</a> <a href="#">ZDNet.UK</a>
<a href="#">XoftSpy</a> ParetoLogic <a href="#">Free trial download.</a>	Claims to detect and remove over 39,000 known parasites: trackers, worms, hijackers, adware, spyware, malware, key loggers and Trojans.	95 98 ME 2000 XP	\$39.95 single	<a href="#">AdwareReport.com</a>

## More information and reviews

- Great introductory article on how spyware works—<http://www.securitypipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=60404103>
- Read about rogue anti-spyware products; check a product here before downloading or purchasing—[http://www.spywarewarrior.com/rogue\\_anti-spyware.htm](http://www.spywarewarrior.com/rogue_anti-spyware.htm)
- Spyware and adware removal help—<http://www.pchell.com/support/spyware.shtml>
- Online guide to spyware and anti-spyware software—<http://www.spywareguide.com/>
- Spyware/Adware removal guide—<http://www.io.com/~cwagner/spyware/>
- PC Security software reviews/comparisons—<http://www.adwarereport.com/mt/archives/000032.html>
- The Spyware Review—<http://spyware.keytosuccess.info/>
- Articles and papers concerning spyware/adware—[http://www.educause.edu/content.asp?page\\_id=645&PARENT\\_ID=741&bhcp=1](http://www.educause.edu/content.asp?page_id=645&PARENT_ID=741&bhcp=1)

- Spyware reviews—<http://anti-spyware-review.toptenreviews.com/?ttreng=1&ttrkey=spyware>
- Spyware Weekly—<http://www.spywareinfo.com/>
- Computer Associates Spyware Information Center—<http://www3.ca.com/securityadvisor/pest/>
- Microsoft Security Guidance Center—<http://www.microsoft.com/smallbusiness/support/computer-security.msp>
- PC Pitstop Spyware Information Center—<http://www.pcpitstop.com/spycheck/default.asp>



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## Additional resources

- Sign up for our [Downloads Weekly Update](#), delivered on Mondays.
- Sign up for our [TechRepublic NetNote](#), delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- Check out all of [TechRepublic's newsletter offerings](#).
- ["Spyware: IT's public enemy No. 1"](#) (TechRepublic)
- ["Combine and conquer using anti-spyware tools"](#) (TechProGuild)
- ["The Anatomy of Spyware"](#) (TechRepublic download)

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