



# Anti-Spyware Software Comparison

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## Solutions For Advanced IT Services

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### Anti-spyware Comparison

The following table summarizes some of the features of popular anti-spyware software. Several software applications have a component that **actively protects** systems by:

- Scanning memory for spyware
- Monitoring the registry for changes to system startup settings and browser hijacking activity
- Monitoring the system for modifications to the hosts file

In addition to actively protecting systems, check to see if your anti-spyware software can:

- Set ActiveX kill bits to immunize Internet Explorer from known spyware
- Add a list of known spyware sites to Internet Explorer's list of restricted sites

Feature	Ad-aware Lavasoft	Spybot Safer Networking	Anti-spyware Microsoft	Spysweeper Webroot	CounterSpy Sunbelt Software
Approx cost per year	Free to \$27	Free	Beta	\$30	\$20
Schedule day/time	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Protect system	Paid version	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prevent browser hijack	Paid version	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Protects hosts file	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE set ActiveX kill bits	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
IE restricted sites	No	Yes	No	No	No
Browser helper object	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
ActiveX controls	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Platform: Windows XP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Platform: Windows 2000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Platform: Windows 98	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Spyware effectiveness	64%	55%	66%	90%	86%

Note: All packages have the following features:

- Checks memory for spyware
- Checks registry for spyware
- Checks hard drive for spyware
- Provides customized scanning options
- If required, removes spyware on reboot
- Provides a log history of scanned results
- Whitelist of approved sites
- Supports most recent operating systems
- Manual updates to spyware definitions
- Configure software to automatically check for spyware definition updates at specified intervals

### Summary

When a threat is found, most products restore your system to the original settings. Microsoft's anti-spyware software chooses Microsoft solutions (MSN as home page, IE as your browser, and MSN Search as your default search engine) when restoring settings.

In addition to installing anti-spyware software, consider other security risks. See our Managed Security Services (Doc No 0502110) for more information on managing your security related risks.

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