

Re: Beta anti spyware

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2005-02/0963.html>

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Philly lawyer wrote:

> *I just went back and went through the entire download site again,
> including clicking on and reading every single link to additional
> information. As an attorney, I perform critical, close reading of
> documents on a daily basis and I'm good at it. As a matter of fact,
> the site in fact does not ever explain that this is a test program,
> does not specifically invite feedback from consumers, and in no way
> suggests that the software is anything other than a finished product
> similar to other free software often provided by Micorsoft to its
> users. (I know, I know, there's that "Beta" thing, but I discussed
> that in my previous message.) I now realise that since when I went
> back the second time (contrary to your implication, I had gone
> through it thoroughly before I downloaded the software) I had the
> inside info about the meaning of "Beta," I could pick up on the very
> few references in the literature that suggest not that there is some
> testing going on, but only that some additional "tweaking" is going
> on with the product. You can throw some more nasty comments about my
> failings and flaws in this whole episode if you wish, but I stand by
> my critique of Micorsoft's conduct in all of this.*

Bottom line: do not install any software unless you understand **exactly** what it is. You yourself signed up for security updates from Microsoft – this was an announcement of a new product they plan to release. If you didn't understand what it was, and what everything in the EULA meant, perhaps you should not have installed it – having done so, you should not blame anyone other than yourself for having done so.

Perhaps it should go without saying, but a computer is not a toasteroven. I agree that hardware & software company marketing departments continually reinforce the belief that you don't need to do much beyond "plug it in & go", but we all know that isn't true. These