

# Online Habits of Young British Men Increase Risk of Spyware Infection

Submitted by: Onechocolate Communications

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## Britain Has Highest Spyware Infection Rate in EU

London, UK, October 18, 2006 – Young males aged 18 to 29 are at the highest risk of being infected with spyware according to new research conducted by leading anti-spyware developer Webroot Software, Inc.([www.webroot.com](http://www.webroot.com)), in co-operation with market research solutions provider GMI.

A survey of over 600 UK respondents showed that young men are significantly more likely to be infected with spyware than their female counterparts. The likelihood of infection was increased by the risky online behaviour of young males, such as opening instant messages (66%), downloading files (65%) and visiting adult entertainment sites (56%). Young women, however, reported that their web browsing is limited to much safer activities, with over 91% stating they had never visited an adult entertainment site and 61% had never clicked on pop-up ads.

This survey follows the recent State of Spyware report issued by Webroot that found Britain to have the highest spyware infection rate within the EU. With an average of 30.5 pieces of spyware detected on every consumer PC and 89% of consumer PCs infected with some form of spyware, this is clearly a major threat to every user.

“The chances of becoming infected with spyware rapidly increase when performing certain online behaviour, such as visiting adult entertainment sites or social networking sites such as MySpace.com,” said David Moll, CEO of Webroot. “These sites have become a breeding ground for spyware.”

Symptoms of spyware infection can go completely unnoticed for months, silently recording personal information such as passwords and online banking data. It is often not until users start seeing symptoms that they take action, which can often be too late.

The symptoms of infection can also vary significantly. 69% of users reported sluggish PC performance, whilst almost 50% experienced an increase in pop up ads. Other symptoms include unidentified telephone charges, mysterious search results, unexplained homepage changes and unusually slow Internet access.

“Spyware education is a key element to keeping this threat in check,” says Daniel Mothersdale, EMEA Director of Marketing for Webroot. “Webroot is committed to public education and awareness on this topic. We offer online webinars, the State of Spyware report and an online spyware scan available for free on our website for users interested in learning more about how to stay safe from spyware.”

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## About Webroot

Webroot Software, Inc. is the creator and publisher of the award-winning Spy Sweeper line of anti-spyware products for consumers, small businesses and enterprises worldwide. Based in Boulder, Colo., the company is privately held and backed by some of the industry’s leading venture capital firms, including Technology Crossover Ventures, Accel Partners and Mayfield. Webroot’s software consistently receives

top ratings and recommendations by respected third-party media and product reviews, and has been adopted by millions globally. Spy Sweeper and other Webroot products can be found online at [www.webroot.com](http://www.webroot.com) and on the shelves of leading retailers throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. Webroot products are also available as either branded solutions or on an OEM basis. To find out more about Webroot, visit [www.webroot.com](http://www.webroot.com) or call 1-800-772-9383.

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