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Top 100 parasites of 2005

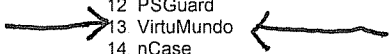
Author: Jevgenij Timofejenko

The last year really was the year of spyware, adware and malware threats. It began as usually, but the end of 2005 left a sharp and intimidating impression. We saw an outbreak of corrupt anti-spyware products, sophisticated, hard to get rid of browser hijackers and trojans. The early beginning of 2005 was quite calm – Internet users got used to well-known adware and spyware threats distributed mostly by advertising companies. However, most of us thought that the situation cannot get any worse. But it actually did. At the end of the year completely new parasites appear. We had to go through the hoops correctly identifying and removing yet unseen risks like SpySheriff, Vundo or Smitfraud. You couldn't get rid of these pests even with the help of a powerful antivirus or anti-spyware. Simplified manual removal instructions provided by well-known security software vendors also did not work. The new generation of spyware, adware, browser hijackers and trojans has evolved so quickly that almost no-one knew what to do. Parasites became more complex and integrated. For example, common adware started not only serving unsolicited commercial advertisements, but also secretly downloading and installing a variety of much more harmful threats. Internet users were assaulted by deadly effective downloaders and new viral threats designed to drop spyware parasites on the compromised computers. Spyware makers joined forces with virus authors presenting an explosive mixture of viruses and spyware.

The last year was very disturbing. You can see from the Top 100 of the most widely spread and vicious security and privacy risks of 2005.

The following list is made by the 2-Spyware.com research team. The overall infection rate, spreading speed, payload, relations with other parasites, stability and stealth – these are only a few factors from the large list that we took into consideration rating last year's parasites. However, we do not pretend to be absolutely correct – rating spyware is very difficult, because the most recent pests combine virus payload with spyware and adware functionality. Nevertheless, we made our best putting the following Top 100 all together and making it trustworthy enough. We hope that you will find this information useful.

- 1 [CoolWebSearch](#)
- 2 [SpvAxe](#)
- 3 [SpySheriff](#)
- 4 [Vundo](#) and [Vundo.b](#)
- 5 [NewDotNet](#)
- 6 [Look2Me](#) and [Look2Me Adware](#)
- 7 [SaveNow](#)
- 8 [ISTbar](#)
- 9 [Smitfraud](#)
- 10 [EliteBar](#)
- 11 [Lop](#)
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- 29 [WinAntiVirus](#)
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- 31 [RazeSpyware](#)
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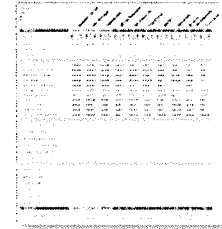
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The Attorney General of New York, Eliot Spitzer, has sued Direct Revenue. one

- 49 AutoSearch
- 50 IncrediFind

- 51 NavExcel
- 52 VirtualBouncer
- 53 SafeSurfing
- 54 DyFuCa
- 55 Topantispyware
- 56 NaviHelper
- 57 Lookfor cc
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- 59 Spy Trooper
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- 80 eXact Search Bar
- 81 Zlob h
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- 83 TopAV
- 84 PSN
- 85 Affilred
- 86 Delf aeo
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- 88 TIBS
- 89 CasinoOnNet
- 90 SearchMaid
- 91 AdServerNow
- 92 123Search
- 93 BargainBuddy
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2-Spyware.com provides all important information on the listed parasites. Detailed descriptions and manual removal instructions can be found in our [Encyclopedia of computer parasites](#)

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Article submitted on 26/02/06

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