

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Does your employer install spyware to monitor your activities/productivity?](#)

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 8:20 am

I genuinely wonder whether this happens a lot; I've never encountered an employer that installed spy/monitoring software on devices. Still, as I keep reading more and more about it, I wondered if someone here experienced their employer delivering hardware with spy/monitoring software pre-installed and, if so, could you tell us about it?

Lynx - March 12, 2021, 8:25 am

I don't work for an employer right now but I would certainly not respect it.
There are other ways to monitor productivity.

Neon™ - March 12, 2021, 8:37 am

(Mar 12, 2021 09:25 AM)Lynx Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't work for an employer right now but I would certainly not respect it.

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Same here. I just asked my buddy cuz I remember he sent me a pic of him watching some meme videos on the work computer the other day and he told me that he's pretty sure there's no software installed.

Verethragna - March 12, 2021, 8:45 am

My wife works from home on a company pc and they have software installed to monitor their employees. In her department, it's not too bad, but in certain departments, you get written up if you have any sort of background noise or if you're doing something unrelated to your job.

People aren't robots, so you can't expect them to sit still for 8 hours at a time. The people at the top don't care tho, they just want to see results. The whole system needs to be revamped.

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 8:45 am

(Mar 12, 2021 09:25 AM)Lynx Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't work for an employer right now but I would certainly not respect it.

There are other ways to monitor productivity.

That is exactly how I feel about it, even the basic monitoring capabilities offered by Microsoft's Office 365 are even too much for my taste.

(Mar 12, 2021 09:37 AM)Neon™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Same here. I just asked my buddy cuz I remember he sent me a pic of him watching some meme videos on the work computer the other day and he told me that he's pretty sure there's no software installed.

Glad to hear that there's no spy/monitoring software installed on your buddy's computer ??

Neon™ - March 12, 2021, 8:49 am

Actually I remember that my mother was complaining that her employer installed some software that does not track you, but it blocks access to various websites such as social media, random chat software like Skype and Whatsapp etc. this was years ago tho and from what I've heard many people in the office complained about it and the employer removed it.

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 8:56 am

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That's going above and beyond what's necessary, to the point of being scary even. I wouldn't want to work for such a company.

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Ah, I've experienced this before, but not due to software installed on the computer but a configuration on the network-level that blocked all social media, content consumption, and other non-work essential sites.

All the better that the employer removed it.

flavoral - March 12, 2021, 9:04 am

Yep same here. However, they're only installed on equipment provided by the company not my own equipment.

Goku - March 12, 2021, 9:07 am

Nope, if they do such things they need to specify it in the contract.

Otherwise, this would be a huge invasion of your privacy.

And with that you can take them to court and ruin their business or even life.

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 9:09 am

(Mar 12, 2021 10:04 AM)flavoral Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yep same here. However, they're only installed on equipment provided by the company not my own equipment.

Not talking about people's private equipment, but equipment delivered by the employer; even that goes too far for me; What type of spyware does the company install?

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Yeah, it's pretty ridiculous. Especially at a time where parents might not feel comfortable sending their children to school, so background noise may be inevitable.

flavoral - March 12, 2021, 9:21 am

(Mar 12, 2021 10:09 AM)Exalted Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Not talking about people's private equipment, but equipment delivered by the employer; even that goes too far for me; What type of spyware does the company install?

Most tools used by companies do similar things, monitor traffic, access to your screen, log

searches/logins/etc, track activity time, disabling USB ports, remote access to delete files, logging all files/programs downloaded/uploaded, etc...

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 9:40 am

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Glad you're spyware free ?, but yeah, you're right about that. What's your view on such spyware, though?

(Mar 12, 2021 10:20 AM)Verethragna Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah, it's pretty ridiculous. Especially at a time where parents might not feel comfortable sending their children to school, so background noise may be inevitable.

Imagine being fired for having too much background noise caused by external factors you do not control or have very little influence on.

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Ah, yeah, that's true; most spyware does share those kinds of features.

Herbert - March 12, 2021, 9:58 am

The place I worked at prior had TeamViewer active at all time on the work computer, but that's about it.

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 10:04 am

(Mar 12, 2021 10:58 AM)Herbert Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The place I worked at prior had TeamViewer active at all time on the work computer, but that's about it.

I don't mind that at all, as the end-user is still in control. We use AnyDesk for remote access, it's not required, but most of us do have it running at all times to help each other quickly. Not for employer spying, no passwords, only acceptance prompt to prevent unauthorized access.

Juoku - March 12, 2021, 10:21 am

I was working with a company for 4 years or so, and on my 2nd year they started a new initiative to get every employee to download some weird app to their phone, it was a MUST, it basically gives them full control over your phone and the ability to open / close / delete and whatever they want, including monitoring, I downloaded it as it was a must and the after sending them confirmation I deleted it immediately.

Important note, those were company issued phones but still the fact they forced us to download those apps pissed me off, but noone said or did anything because everyone wants to keep their job.

There were a lot of issues with that company regarding different stuff, especially employee privacy tho.

Verethragna - March 12, 2021, 10:41 am

(Mar 12, 2021 10:40 AM)Exalted Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Glad you're spyware free ?, but yeah, you're right about that. What's your view on such spyware, though?

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Ah, yeah, that's true; most spyware does share those kinds of features.

Unfortunately, it happens all the time. The supervisors audit the employees sometimes and several have been fired for that reason. It's sad that people are doing that during a pandemic when times are extremely uncertain.

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 12:17 pm

(Mar 12, 2021 11:21 AM)Juoku Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I was working with a company for 4 years or so, and on my 2nd year they started a new initiative to get every employee to download some weird app to their phone, it was a MUST, it basically gives them full control over your phone and the ability to open / close / delete and whatever they want, including monitoring, I downloaded it as it was a must and the after sending them confirmation I deleted it immediately.

Important note, those were company issued phones but still the fact they forced us to download those apps pissed me off, but noone said or did anything because everyone wants to keep their job. There were a lot of issues with that company regarding different stuff, especially employee privacy tho.

Even if they were company-issued phones, installing such apps without knowing exactly what they do is very privacy-invading. However, if you keep those phones off WiFi and don't do anything idiotic on them, you should be fine. That no one spoke out about it is not that surprising, people rather pick having a job over being jobless because you didn't want to install some application.

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Really? That's terrible. I hope that that company is going to stop doing that; quickly.

Verethragna - March 12, 2021, 12:23 pm

(Mar 12, 2021 01:17 PM)Exalted Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Even if they were company-issued phones, installing such apps without knowing exactly what they do is very privacy-invading. However, if you keep those phones off WiFi and don't do anything idiotic on them, you should be fine. That no one spoke out about it is not that surprising, people rather pick having a job over being jobless because you didn't want to install some application.

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I hope so as well. Employees deserve better working conditions.

ghostboy - March 12, 2021, 12:25 pm

When working at a call center that is an obvious yes. They blocked all websites and most google searches. Still found a couple things tho

nCoXo - March 12, 2021, 12:44 pm

I doubt as my boss is not that friendly with computers, good for us.

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 12:48 pm

(Mar 12, 2021 01:23 PM)Verethragna Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I hope so as well. Employees deserve better working conditions.

Better sooner than later; employees really do deserve better conditions than that.

(Mar 12, 2021 01:25 PM)triple6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) When working at a call center that is an obvious yes. They blocked all websites and most google searches. Still found a couple things tho
I do get that there is monitoring software installed when you work in a call centre; the fact they

Google searches surprises me.

(Mar 12, 2021 01:44 PM)nCoXo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I doubt as my boss is not that friendly with computers, good for us.
All the better, nothing to worry about then.

Nate - March 12, 2021, 12:50 pm

No, but my school wants to install Respondus Lockdown browser for when I take tests.

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 12:53 pm

(Mar 12, 2021 01:50 PM)N?te Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No, but my school wants to install Respondus Lockdown browser for when I take tests.

That's the kind of software that scares me. Did you get a device from school, or are you on your own hardware? I would grab my old Asus Eee PC to take the test. I would never install such software on my main device.

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Im at college they didn't supply me with a computer, I would have to run it on my main device. I'm sure I can find a laptop around my house to use

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(Mar 12, 2021 01:55 PM)N?te Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Im at college they didn't supply me with a computer, I would have to run it on my main device. I'm sure I can find a laptop around my house to use

Ah, then getting a 2nd device would be the best thing to do; if you don't have any, a cheap laptop can easily do the job as it's tough to trust such software, and you never know what it actually does until one fully RES it.

Nate - March 12, 2021, 1:00 pm

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I know I was watching some youtubers before they said its pretty invasive program with the permissions it requests as well

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Exactly, I kept my job but I deleted that app as quickly as I got it, it was super annoying too, other people that worked with me were technologically challenged and it forced them to change passwords every month and if you failed it once you had to call IT to get your password reset and other shit

Exalted - March 12, 2021, 2:11 pm

(Mar 12, 2021 02:00 PM)N?te Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I know I was watching some youtubers before they said its pretty invasive program with the permissions it requests as well

A good video by Mutahar he uploaded not too long ago:

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Oh man, that really sucks. Good on you for quickly deleting that app, though. Such systems are horrible, that whole process can easily be changed for the benefit of the company and the employees, but control overall, I guess.

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(Mar 12, 2021 03:11 PM)Exalted Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) A good video by Mutahar he uploaded not too long ago:

Oh man, that really sucks. Good on you for quickly deleting that app, though. Such systems are horrible, that whole process can easily be changed for the benefit of the company and the employees, but control overall, I guess.

Thats the video I watched, I've become a avid watcher been watching him ac couple weeks, I have him playing in the background while I sleep as I can't sleep without having some type of background noise

I like the Deep web browsing videos