

Re: FTC Complaint filed

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Media/microsoft.public.windowsmedia.player/2007-02/msg01322.html>

- *From:* garyd <spam@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 24 Feb 2007 21:40:00 -0600
-

cwdjxyz wrote:

On Feb 24, 1:37 pm, garyd <s...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

I have filed a complaint with the FTC about the "stealth" methods being used by Microsoft to load DRM, Media Connect, and WMP11. I am restoring my system for the 3rd time to get rid of that crap, because applications failing and hanging. (This time from a disk image!)

DRM patches were a selectable download at one time, as was Media Connect, and WMP11.

Now they seem to "automagically" appear. I only find it when I'm checking on why some applications fail, or when I can't look at or process recording (home movies or broadcast TV—not HD).

I think everyone who has these kinds of problems should also file complaints with the FTC. They will take Adware companies to court, why not M\$?

I am done playing the bloatware upgrade game! I have spent over \$2000 in the last 8 years buying new components, or building new systems, because they broke what I had working. It is expected to have to upgrade some things when changing versions of Windows, but I refuse to buy new software and/or hardware because of software incompatible upgrades being installed under the guise of an update, and without any notification or right to refuse it!

I don't let Microsoft or anyone else automatically upgrade or otherwise change my programs. When the yellow shield at the lower right of the screen indicates that Microsoft has a download, I go to the Microsoft update site and read the fine print before I accept the update, for example. If you do not want to be bothered again, you can select to not have the update offered again. Then when you go to the update sight again, you will only get a message that you have hidden some updates, they might have an effect on security – blah, blah, blah. I have done this for the IE7, which I do not want. Some who

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allowed automatic updates got the IE7 installed without selecting to do so.

I am not a lawyer, and I have no idea how likely you are to get anything done at the FTC. However, if you find WMP so bad for your needs, there is no reason why you have to use it. Recent additions to the Real player allow it to play nearly, if not all, formats that WMP11 will play, and when you install Real you may also select several additional formats of video and audio. Real now even can use Microsoft .wax and .wvx playlist files. You also need to select to make Real your primary player. For a few more unusual audio types that do not come with Real or WMP as delivered, Winamp is a good additional player, because a huge number of unusual audio plugins are available for it. Real will play most streaming formats such as Microsoft mms as used by many radio stations.

Real has nothing to gain by pushing hardware or software other than their player, and there are versions of Real for many non-Microsoft OSs as well as Microsoft ones.

Real wants to sell you downloads just as do Microsoft and many other player makers – that is one reason they can offer you the players for free. Real can be a bit pushy with their ads, but just be careful what you check or sign up for. There are several services that will sell you downloads including Apple, Microsoft, Real, Napster, Walmart, to name a few. Unfortunately you sometimes have to use their special player software to play their downloads or record them to portable devices, because of "digital rights" controls that the recording and movie companies insist on. I have never bought an mp3 on the web. A music mp3 is of lesser quality than a CD because it is compressed and a CD is not. Moreover commercial CDs are not encrypted and it is quite legal to record backup copies of them for your own use only. When CDs were introduced, there was no idea that home CD recorders would be possible, and commercial CDs required a multi-million dollar factory with clean rooms to reproduce. Some CDs have been recorded with errors or an added data track that trip up recording on some computers, but the better CD burning programs have ways to overcome these intentional errors. Moreover such errors have caused some CD players, especially older ones, to malfunction. The quality of most movie downloads is laughable, and most reviews I have seen of them are quite negative. The reason is that DVDs are already highly compressed, and movie downloads are even far more so. For these reasons, HD DVDs with much less compression are now being made. I find Netflix and other such movie rental services quite satisfactory for movies you do not watch enough to make you want to buy the DVD.

Gee, do you think I haven't tried to stop it? I have never allowed the DRM patches, Media Connect, IE7, or WMP 11 to be downloaded since the first time I crashed! I have flagged all four as "updates" NOT to be displayed again or downloaded, yet they appear on my system unnoticed until I am looking for why

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something no longer works! Removing WMP11 and/or IE7 does not fix anything, because the other code slipped in is not entered in the add/remove programs anymore. It's inserted in "stealth" mode, just like adware/spyware/rootkits. In every case, every time a running application dies, I have found Media Connect, IE7, WMP11, or DRM code installed. A restore does not remove it/them. It won't be long before the hackers learn how to do that too if M\$ keeps the back door open.

I am NOT looking for a replacement for WMP. 10 works just fine with the software I am using. IE is ONLY used for Windows Updates. I do not run any M\$ applications. I am just trying to keep my systems running without having to use recovery disks to get rid of code I didn't ask for or give permission to be downloaded to my systems.

I don't have an XBOX. I don't copy DVDs—I buy or rent them and play them on a DVD player, watching them on my HDTV. I don't rip music from CDs—I don't even listen to CDs. I don't have an mp3 player to upload to, I don't stream video or audio from internet sources, so why does Windows Update keep slipping the code onto my system when all I load is "critical" fixes?

I just want what I bought/built to keep working using software "I" install...

I used to support and maintain 150+ systems and it's classified networks (hardware and software). I have had more problems just trying to keep my 3 systems RUNNING, because of crap "appearing" on my windows systems in the last 6 months than I did in 10 years on the above mentioned network. We (the government/DOD) did not allow Windows to be connected because they are not secure, cannot be made secure, and cannot be kept secure. My problems are a good example of "why" it was mandated not to allow Windows. Adding software and/or features without your knowledge also allows new avenues of attack, which will cannot be stopped because of the "rootkit" known as Windows Update.