

Spyware

It is loosely defined as software designed to collect data from a computer or other device and forward it to a third party without the user's knowledge or consent. This often includes collecting sensitive data (such as passwords, PIN numbers, and credit card numbers), monitoring keystrokes, tracking browsing habits, and collecting email addresses. These activities also affect network performance by slowing down the system and affecting the entire business process. They are generally classified into 3 main categories:

- **Trojan spyware** that infects computers in the form of Trojan malware.
- **Adware** that also acts as spyware to monitor computers and devices.
- **System monitors** designed to monitor any activity on a computer and capture sensitive data such as keystrokes, sites visited, emails, and more.

What types are there?

- **Infostealers:** Scans affected computers and steals information such as search history, usernames and passwords, personal documents, etc. Exploits web browser security weaknesses to steal private data.
- **Keyloggers:** Records keystrokes. Records everything that is typed.
- **Banking Trojans:** Programs designed to access and record private information from online banking systems. They can also modify online banking web pages, alter transaction values, or add additional transactions.
- **Modem hijacking:** Oldest form of spyware. A pop-up window appears for the user to click on. Doing so silently downloads a file that takes control of the modem.
- **Mobile spyware:** Allows tracking of geographic location, call logs, contact list, and even photographs.