

## THE COMPUTER CORNER

### No. 241: Adware Cleaner

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I consider this little adjunct program a real gift. Completely free, this little ditty was written by the Malwarebytes team and given to us as simply a present. It may have no ribbons, but it does a job that is quick, efficient, and unparalleled. Furthermore, you don't have to install it. Just download it (it comes directly as an .exe file) and run it. Stash it anywhere you like (my copy is in my Cleaning & Security folder, accessed by clicking an icon that is always on my desktop). Run it every month or two or three, and you will be clean.

So, what does it do? It deletes several different classes of malware, especially those associated with your use of the Internet. Of course, **adware** is the first of those. Nasty little bits of code that will shove unwanted ads in your face no matter what you are trying to do. Second, it will get rid of **unwanted toolbars** in your browser, like the Google toolbar that seems to be installed whether you want it or not. Third, it will remove a class of malware called **PUPs**, which is the acronym for **Potentially Unwanted Programs** (this is the program's real forte', which it does using its own expert lists of such bad stuff). Finally, it will remove **browser hijackers**, those bits of code that, for example, try to make you use Google as your browser when your real browser of choice is Firefox. A nice list of annoying "pains" that you don't need for distractions in your life. You simply need to fight back with this little program.

Furthermore, aside from getting rid of those annoyances, it may well speed up your machine. If you have been noticing your machine seems more sluggish of late when browsing, or even when not just browsing, it may be due to these unwanted programs adding extra memory demands and just plain slowing things down. One cleaning may help, and it is easy to do. Furthermore, the stuff Malwarebytes writes is safe. I use them for my virus protection, and I pay a welcome fee for it. In other words, I trust them explicitly.

Where do you get it? Majorgeeks, of course. Go to <http://www.majorgeeks.com/>, look in the left column for Anti-Malware and select it. Then select the Malware Removal and Repair subcategory and choose from the listings AdwCleaner (the latter is the actual name of the program). Download it and run it. Good stuff.

Happy Computing!