

Personal Computer Hygiene Part 3: Removing rogue software with SpyBot Search & Destroy

LK 11/30/2004

Assuming you have an up-to-date virus checker on your computer, and you have recently used it to scan the hard drives, you may still experience slow performance in general, or find that you get large numbers of “pop-ups” when accessing web sites using Internet Explorer. What may have happened is that in the course of moving around on the internet, your computer has downloaded a rogue program that, for its own nefarious purposes, is now using some of your computing power. Such programs may simply track where you move on the internet, or replicate themselves to other computers.

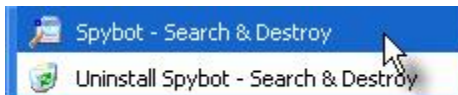
Several scanning programs are available to remove many of these rogue programs. In addition to Ad-Aware described in the second part of this series, another popular scanner is called *SpyBot Search & Destroy*. It is available from <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>

When using Spybot S&D, the procedure is similar to other scanning programs:

- Open the program
- Check for updates of the definition file
- Run the scan.

Starting the Program:

The program will be located under the *Start | Programs | Spybot Search and Destroy*



As the program opens, it will present three buttons, including the third down, which allows you to “Search for Updates”



Finding updates

If the program finds updates, it will list them within the update screen:

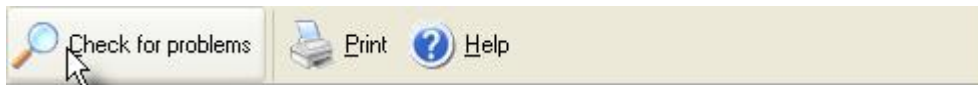


Check the updates needed, then press “Download Updates” Once the updates are installed, then select Search and Destroy from the menu on the left: This will bring you to the main Search and Destroy screen



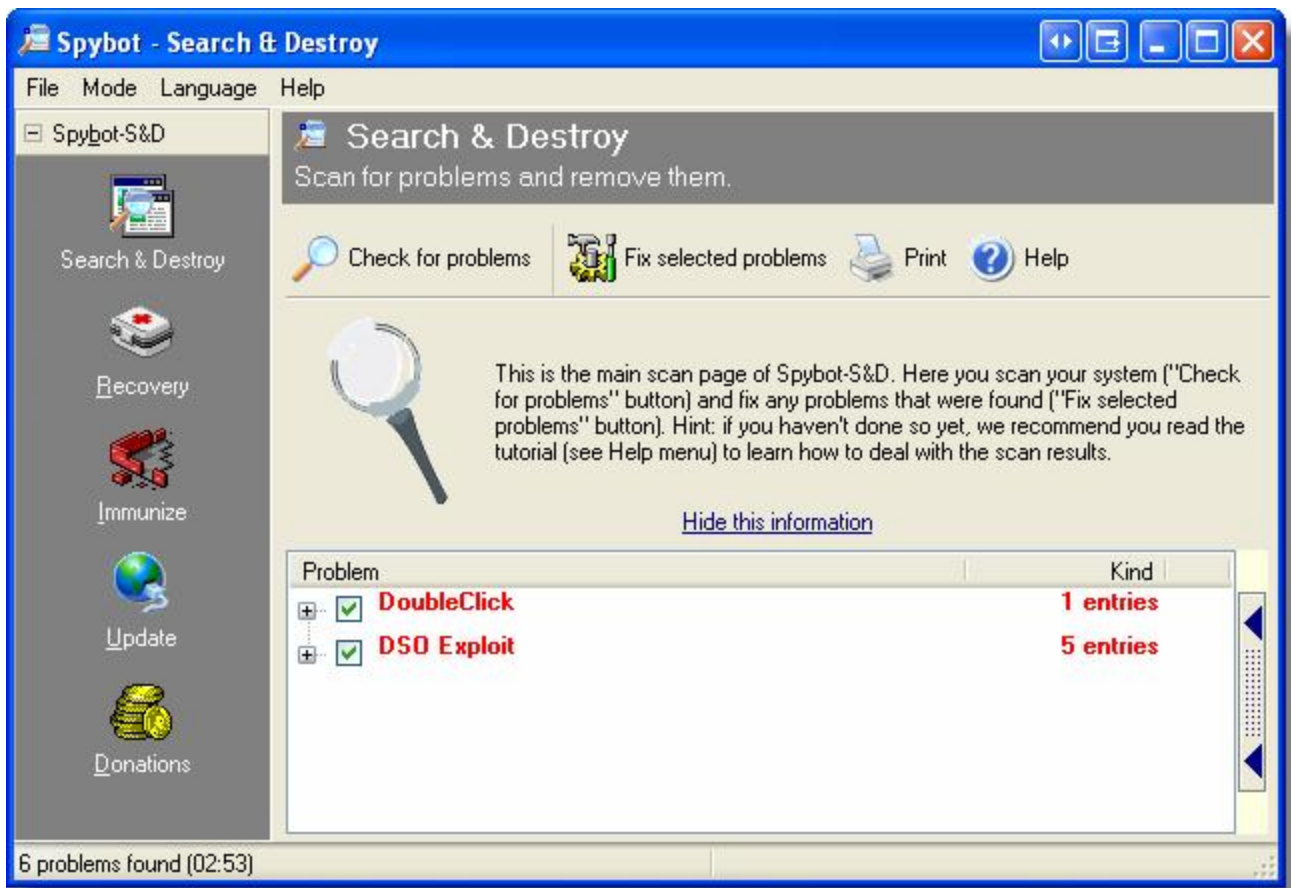
Perform the check.

The main screen shows a menu with the button “Check for Problems”.



When you press this button, the program will scan your hard drive for potential problems. This may take a few minutes.

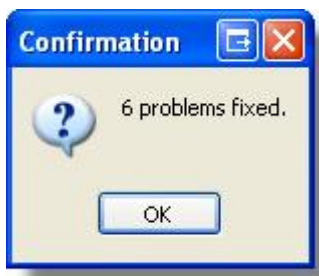
When the scan is complete, you'll a screen showing a list of problems (if any are found, of course...)



In this case, the program has found a couple problems. . Click on the *Fix selected problems* button, to immobilize these problems.



You will get a screen asking you to confirm the fix, and then eventually a screen saying that everything is complete.



At this point, you can close the program.