Automated Spyware Research System

Phileas is a revolutionary online research system that finds unwanted programs on the Internet faster than any competitor, and more importantly, before consumers can unwittingly become infected by these programs. Webroot designed Phileas to ensure Spy Sweeper is armed with the most updated threat information available.

Threat definitions are a crucial component of a good anti-spyware solution, providing framework for the strength and accuracy of detection and removal of spyware and adware. Without regular updates, it's impossible for an anti-spyware solution to protect a PC from changing threats. Together, Spy Sweeper and Phileas protect Webroot customers from the legions of new and variant threats introduced on the Internet each week.

Phileas scans the web, searching for new spyware threats.

What Makes Phileas the Best Spyware Research System?

A highly scalable engine, Phileas employs bots to intelligently crawl the Web searching for spyware. It is fast – 10 days of manual threat research takes less than an hour for a single Phileas bot.

Phileas dramatically redefines the industry standard for spyware threat research and exemplifies the commitment Webroot has made to its customers to provide the best possible protection online. As a security company that is serious about protecting its customers from spyware, Webroot has made substantial investments into research and technology, including Phileas, a unique solution to the complex problem of spyware research. This technology dramatically enhances Webroot's anti-spyware capabilities and reinforces its leadership position in the security market.

Waging War Against Spyware

Phileas coordinates an army of bots to scan the Internet for possible spyware. Bots search each site revealing pages with characteristics of exploits or suspicious application code. Innovative, pattern matching technologies allow Phileas to identify known and unknown exploits, and any changes to existing spyware variants. New URL targets identified by Phileas are sent to Webroot for processing and evaluation. The Webroot Threat Research Team uses proprietary algorithms to create definitions for each new spyware signature or variant, which go through an extensive quality assurance process before being released to customers.

Comprehensive Spyware Trends

Webroot gains a far-reaching view of the entire Internet and global spyware trends through the extensive statistics and information collected by Phileas.

Phileas is currently collecting statistics related to:

- Types of spyware that exist on the Internet
- Exploits that are being used to distribute spyware
- Prevalence of different types of spyware generally on the Internet
- Geographic locations where spyware originated
- Specific Web sites that are known to distribute spyware

Proactive Discovery Reduces the Burden on the User Community

As spyware continues to become more pervasive and more complex, spyware threat research is complicated by a resource intensive and technically challenging process. Identifying specific threats is more difficult as advanced forms of spyware morph on a user's machine.

Historically, anti-spyware vendors have had to rely largely on their user community to report information about spyware. This reactive research (waiting until a customer's PC is infected) does not prevent spyware infection and is hindered by redundant reporting of the same spyware problem. As such, these research techniques provide incomplete and ineffective protection against spyware.

Did you know?

- Phileas has scanned more than 50 million web pages
- Webroot has identified thousands of URLs containing possible exploits, with CWS, nCase, VX2, and c2 media Lop being the most commonly found spyware
- Phileas is named after the character Phileas Fogg from the Jules Verne classic, "Around the World in Eighty Days"
- Like it's namesake, the Webroot automated spyware research system covers a lot of ground, quickly
- One hour of work by a single Phileas bot is the equivalent of 80 hours of manual research
- Phileas has enabled Webroot to discover unreported variants of several spyware programs
- One new variant of spyware found by Phileas is capable of changing Windows Security Policy

About Webroot Software, Inc.

Webroot Software, a privately held company based in Boulder, Colorado, creates innovative privacy, protection and performance products and services for millions of users around the world, ranging from enterprises, Internet service providers, government agencies and higher education institutions, to small businesses and individuals. The company provides a suite of high-quality, easy-to-use software that guides and empowers computer users as they surf the Web, protecting sensitive information and returning control over computing environments. Webroot's software consistently receives top ratings and recommendations by respected third-party media and product reviewers. The company is backed by some of the industry's leading venture capital firms, including Technology Crossover Ventures, Accel Partners and Mayfield.

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