



## Ten reasons to NOT download free stuff from the Internet at work.

*Good advice from Nesda Technologies Ltd. (C) 2004*

“There ain't no such thing as a free lunch”

**- Robert Heinlein**

There are thousands of free software applications available on the Internet. Many however have a common factor – someone is trying to make a buck. These free applications can come with a “hook” which does have a price...

Here is a list of some of the software that puts you at risk:

- Screensavers.
- Desktop wallpaper or themes.
- Cool pieces of software which tell you the temperature outside or set your clock .
- Music and file swapping software.
- Security updates provided by third parties to “secure” your PC.
- Free Internet “tune ups” to improve your PCs performance.
- Almost any “free” software downloaded from the Internet.

Here are the side effects:

1. They may contain Trojans (viruses) and can corrupt your PC's operating system.
2. They may contain Spy Ware or Ad-ware ( see # 3, 4, 5 and generally the rest of the list...)
3. These “free” applications are usually poorly designed and *WILL* slow your PC down.
4. You have installed the software (clicking on “I Agree”) and have now given someone permission to do whatever they want to the contents of your computer. Did you read what you agreed to?
5. By allowing others to view the contents of the PC you have probably violated your company's privacy policy.

6. Many of these applications are free only for personal use – you are not at home and have probably violated the license agreement thus placing you and your employer at risk for legal action.
7. Some of these applications are malicious in nature and will alter Windows to disable some security features or even allow remote control of the PC!
8. Anti Virus software *WILL NOT* protect you from Spy Ware. AV software protects you from unwanted attacks. After all, you chose to install the free software.
9. Your employer probably has specific policies regarding what gets installed (and by whom) on your PC.
10. A slow, sick PC causes lost productivity and will take time and money to repair. Both of these are a cost to your employer and thus may put your next raise in jeopardy.

The upshot is that you should never install any third party software on your PC. Period. This keeps both your PC and your employer happy.