

In This Issue

[Server Placement](#)

[Spyware?](#)

Quick Links

[Parallax Solutions Online](#)

About Us

Parallax Solutions is an information technology consulting firm located in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area. What we are trying to bring to the table is a clear understanding of how offices can utilize hardware and software to effectively manage their electronic information.

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I hope you have enjoyed this issue of our newsletter. If you are concerned that your network isn't living up to its potential, give us a call.

**Sincerely,**

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Featured Products

[CounterSpy Enterprise](#)  
[APC UPS Systems](#)

Issue: # 5

Sept 2008

Welcome to the latest edition of our technology newsletter. This month, we are covering server placement within your office space and Windows XP versus Windows Vista.

Steve Bantz

p.s.

Just a reminder that we archive all past newsletter issues on our website. You can view the archives by clicking [here](#).

Server and equipment placement

Not all of us have a dedicated "server room" in which to store valuable network equipment. However, placing it in a secure location that is temperature controlled and clean can go a long way toward making sure your server lives a long happy life.

Try to avoid setting equipment on floors if you can. They will gather lots of dust and will also be susceptible to static electricity from the carpet. At the very least, it should be on a piece of furniture in a cool dry location.

These days, if you have more than one server, the preferred method is to buy rack mountable equipment for secure mounting in an enclosed rack. It keeps equipment secure, cool, and neatly organized. Depending on your needs, a rack can easily be had for well under \$800. Imagine having your servers, tape drive, UPS, and lcd monitor neatly mounted in a fan cooled rack. It definitely gives you peace of mind knowing that your equipment is properly secured and organized. The last thing you want to show people is a server room with equipment on the floor and spaghetti wiring everywhere.

Spyware

Suddenly, your computer has a mind of its own. Ads are popping up everywhere and you suddenly receive warnings that you have spyware and you should "click here" to buy a product to solve the world's problems. Is this the thing to do? The answer is a resounding NO.

Spyware can manifest itself in a variety of ways. Most spyware finds its way onto your PC via the web browser or through e-mail attachments. There is a wide array of spyware out there, most of it designed to bombard you with ads to try and convince you to buy something to rid your computer of these annoyances. In reality, by clicking the button, you are letting the spyware dig its roots deep into

your system, often times rendering it useless.

Most anti-virus software packages include the ability to discover and eliminate attempts to hijack the machine. Since viruses and spyware are equally destructive, they have been lumped into a new classification, known as malware.

What products do we recommend at Parallax Solutions? We like the Sunbelt Security package, known as Counterspy. It is an inexpensive way to protect your machines from potential disaster. Counterspy Enterprise can be fine tuned to take care of everything behind the scenes so the user doesn't even know they are being protected. Sunbelt now has a new package known as VIPRE, which includes both anti-virus and anti-spyware in one package.

Every terminal server we roll out contains an installation of Counterspy Enterprise. To date, not one piece of spyware has interfered with thin client connections.

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