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For Immediate Release

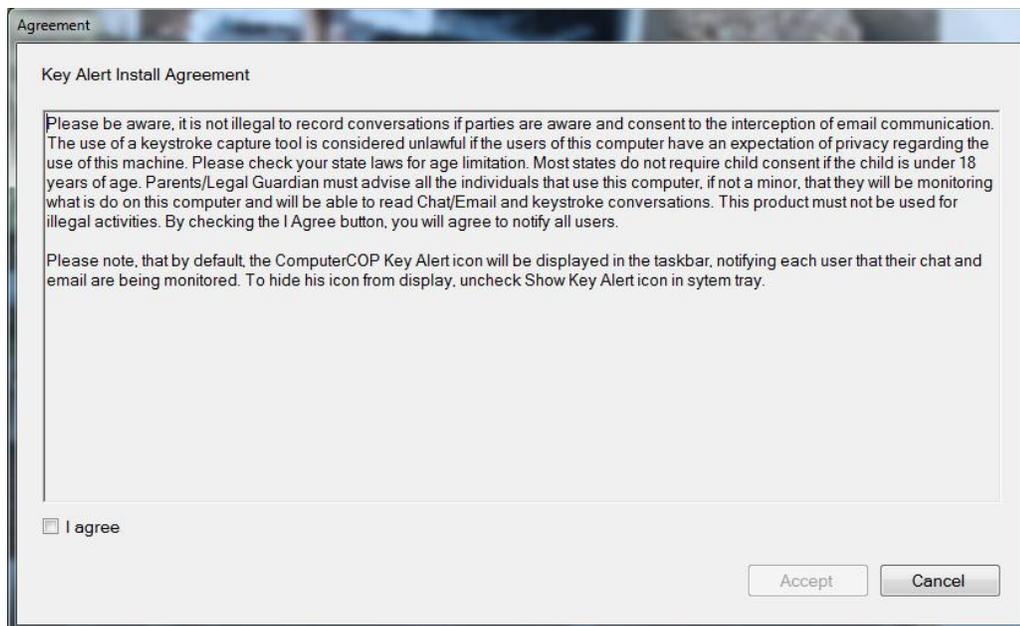
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DA Alerts Users of ‘Computer Cop’ Software about Potential Security Issues

The San Diego County District Attorney’s Office is one of more than 240 law enforcement agencies that have distributed internet monitoring software to help protect San Diego County children from becoming victims of online predators and bullying. The ‘Computer Cop’ software allows parents to quickly scan photos, videos, emails, and chat messages on their children’s computers, looking for inappropriate content. The District Attorney’s Office provided the software free of charge, in part as a response to an increase in prosecutions of internet predators.

Recent reports have pointed out potential privacy issues with the software. The issues can be easily corrected and the DA’s Office is suggesting users of Computer Cop software do the following to protect their online privacy by not using the key stroke logging feature. To avoid or turn off the key stroke logging feature:

Click on the icon that says "Chat/Email," and simply do not agree to the terms of service regarding privacy to install "Key Alert."



If you have already agreed to install "Key Alert" previously, click "Chat/Email" button to the right, and click on "Uninstall Key Alert" to remove it from your system. (Mac users, this appears at the bottom of your screen.)

Finally, when not using Computer Cop software, it is advised that you remove the disc from the computer.

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Every year children are starting to use the Internet and computers at a younger and younger age. Because children are often trusting, naive, curious, and eager for attention and affection predators will target them online in order to take advantage of them. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), less than 5% of parents are aware of online sexual exploitation and even fewer think their child is at risk. It is important for parents, law enforcement and society as a whole to know of the dangers children face on the Internet and how to reduce the risks of being victimized.