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NEWS RELEASE
COMPUTER COP USER PRIVACY UPDATE

For Immediate Release

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The Rock County Sheriff's Office distributes free Computer Cop internet monitoring software that enables parents to protect their children against online sexual predators, cyber bullies and other dangerous and inappropriate situations that can occur when children use the computer. The software scans the computer for inappropriate images, videos, and words.

A recent report from the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) has raised concerns with Computer Cop's software key logger function. The EFF is a civil liberty watchdog organization that monitors the internet for what they regard as civil liberty violations. According to the EFF when using the key logger function, a user's privacy is unprotected.

The Sheriff's Office has reviewed the claims about the key logger function and has determined that even though that possibility of a security breach is low, the potential does exist. There are a few steps that a person can take while using Computer Cop to ensure their privacy is protected.

To reduce the potential of a security breach, the Sheriff's Office recommends the following steps to turn off the keystroke 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 you 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.

There have been no problems or complaints with the copies of Computer Cop that have been distributed by the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office believes Computer Cop is still a valuable tool for parents to monitor children's activity and to ensure that they are using the internet in a safe manner.

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