

DON'T BLINDLY CLICK 'NEXT' WHEN INSTALLING SOFTWARE

Ever wonder by what means mysterious new icons appear on your desktop? Why unknown toolbars appear in your Web browser? How spyware manages to sneak onto your PC? One possibility: You gave them permission.

In your computing experiences, if you've installed more than a handful of programs, you've probably gotten in the habit of automatically clicking every 'Next' button an installer throws your way. Big mistake. During the setup process, some programs ask if you also want to install, say, trial versions of the company's other programs, or maybe a new search tool for your browser. If you blindly click your way through the setup screens, approving things left and right, you'll miss your chance to opt out of these offers--and you'll end up with stuff you probably don't want.

So slow down. Take a few extra seconds to read the fine print, and avoid unwelcome surprises.