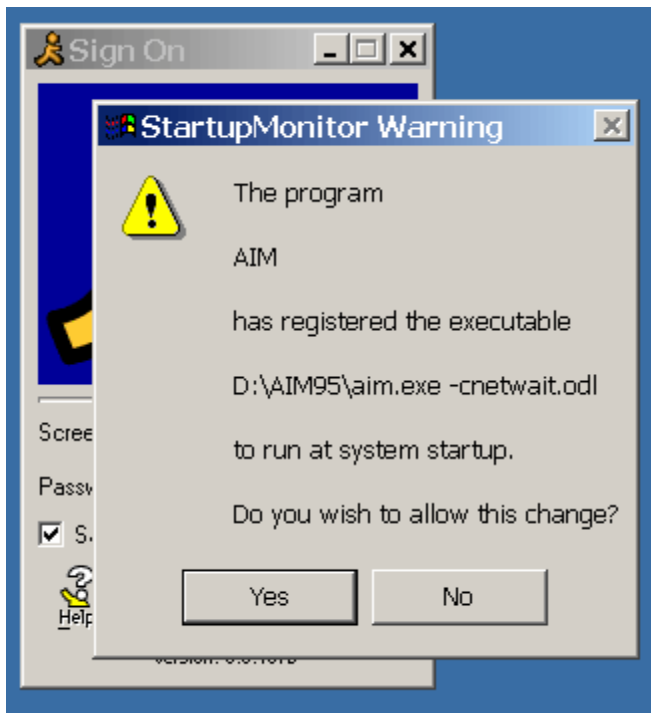


## Startup Monitor

Startup Monitor is a small utility that runs transparently and notifies you when any program tries to run itself when your computer starts. It prevents programs like spyware from secretly installing themselves behind your back, and it acts as a security tool against them.

Once installed, you will never have to interact with Startup Monitor except when applications are being installed on your computer. When anything tries to set itself to run when the computer starts, Startup Monitor will pop up a warning message asking if you want to allow the application to run on system startup.



The only time you should EVER choose yes is if you are purposefully installing software on your computer. If you are installing software from a CD or DVD-ROM,, or if you are updating Windows or system protective software (firewalls, virus protection, etc) then it is OK to say yes. Otherwise, ALWAYS choose no. Since you will also have Startup Control Panel installed (written by the same programmer), if you choose no and later realize you need the application to run when the computer starts, you can open that application and enable it. It is always better to be safe and choose no at first; giving you more time to examine what the program is, research it on the internet, or simply call us and ask about it.

If you are ever unsure of what a program is (spyware applications often give themselves innocuous names to throw victims off), type the exact name of the “.exe” part of the Startup Monitor popup message into Google.com and see what you find out. For

example, if you were to do this for the above popup, you would search Google for “aim.exe”

The results will include links like this:

[Analysis of Running Software](#)

... NOT a Pest, **aim.exe**, NOT a Pest

This will allow you, just by browsing the headlines of the search results, to determine what the application is and whether it is safe to allow it to run.