

Viruses

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VIRUSES



A virus is a software programme capable of reproducing itself and usually capable causing great harm to other programs on a computer; "a true virus is a program that can replicate itself and cause damage to the system it is running on".

This virus replicates and takes action when it is executed. When a specific condition is met, the virus will go into action and infect files in the directory or folder that it is in and in directories that are specified in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file PA

Direct Action Viruses

Overwrite Viruses

Virus of this kind delete the information contained in the files that it infects, rendering them partially or totally useless once th

The only way to clean a file infected by an overwrite virus is to delete the file completely, thus losing the origina

Boot Virus

This type of virus affects the boot sector of a floppy or hard disk. This is a crucial part of a disk, in which information on the disk itself is stored together with a program

The best way of avoiding boot viruses is to ensure that floppy disks are write-protected and never start your computer with an unknow

A computer virus can cause the following problems:

Render a computer useless- Some viruses can prevent you from being able to use your computer at all. The CIH virus of 1999, named after its Taiwanese creator, Chen Ing Hau, activated on its creator's birthday. It made computers virtually useless by overwriting a critical pa

Physical Damage- Other viruses damage specific parts of your computer. One virus, a Trojan virus called WinFixer, coerced users into installing it by telling them there was something wrong with their computers. It was capable of

Deletion of files- Some viruses delete your files to cause havoc. One variant of the Mydoom worm, for instance, periodically searched the drives of infected computers for files with extensions like

Disabling Functionality- To further spread and to evade removal, some viruses can disable programs that deliver updates and remove viruses. As of April 2009, variants of the Kido worm, also known as Conficker and Downadup, check once per second for running antivir

preventing many users from removing the worm from their computers.

But if your lucky (this is rare) it will do nothing, just spread itself without doing any danger whatsoever

Viruses can be prevented though and here are few of many ways you can do this:

Install anti-virus software- good ones are AVG, Norton Anti-Virus, Sophos Anti Virus and McAfee Anti V

Install a QUALITY firewall- There are many firewalls available, some good, some bad so make sure you get a g

Install and [anti-spyware software](#) [4]- Like firewalls there are many available, some good and some bad so pick a

Email Attachments- BEWARE OF EMAIL ATTACHMENTS. Don't open them unless you requested the attachment, that is the way some of the worst viruses can be spread easily. Even if it looks like a friends email or an admin's email, don't open it

Keep a regular BACK-UP of important files- You can use floppy, zip disks, writable CD's, tapes, another hard disk, me

Above I mentioned that a good way to prevent viruses are Anti-Virus Software however there are drawbacks from

- Most good software costs a lot and you still have to pay yearly (sometimes monthly).
- It can instantly slow down your internet connection when you connect to the internet.
- They can claim that things that aren't viruses that you are downloading are actually viruses (Norton Anti-Virus did that Pegasus Mail in the past).
- They effectiveness drops after a while. One magazine found that in 2006 the effectiveness dropped by 40-50% and 20-30% more in 2007.
- Not-so-new software most likely cannot detect new viruses that have been made.
- If a file is damaged by a virus the software usually takes the virus out of the document but does not return the file to its undamaged state.

So there are some drawbacks but there are also many advantages, you can choose to use anti-virus software but you could also use

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