

COMPUTER VIRUS

Computer viruses are programmes that have the unique ability to attach themselves to just about any type of file or program and spread as files that are copied and sent from individual to individual. It is a program that can make a copy of itself. They can destroy files, reformat the hard drive, or cause other problems like taking up disk space and memory or downgrade the performance of the computer.

Harms caused by computer virus

Majority are harmless. Its main purpose is to irritate the computer users instead of causing damages. But there are viruses which are malicious and can be very harmful to a computer system. They can fill up the disk space of a computer by copying itself endless times. They can modify or corrupt important files, delete information from files, steal your account and password and send them to other people through internet. Now a days the most common means of virus infection is through instant messages or through internet chat software. Emails are the biggest means to spread virus world wide.

Types of Computer virus

1. Bombs – these are viruses which activate themselves after a specific time period and cause damage to the computer systems.
2. Boot sector virus – the boot sector is the area of a hard disk and floppy disk that stores valuable information. Boot sector viruses affect this and can cause damage. These are very harmful viruses.
3. E-mail virus – Transmitted through e-mails mostly comes through attachments. When a person opens the attachment file, the virus copies itself to his computer and causes damage.
4. Trojans – These first appear to be friendly but they are very malicious programs which are used to steal information from your computer. They can be of any type. Some computer games can be Trojan viruses.

5. Worms – a worm is a malicious program that duplicates itself. They eventually fill up the disks space with copies of itself and there by make a computer system to work very slow.

Protecting the computer: These are programs (called Anti-virus programs) which can detect the presence of viruses and either cure the affected file or delete it if

damaged beyond limit. This process is called scanning. There are many anti virus programs available in the market. You have to install these antivirus programs on your computer in order to prevent it from being attacked by computer virus. You can check your system using these antivirus software. Eg: Norton antivirus, MacAfee etc. It is to be remembered that no single anti-virus can detect or cure all the viruses.



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