

Windows

MALWARE



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Malware (noun) is short for malicious software, software designed specifically to damage or disrupt a system, such as a virus, a Trojan horse, worm or time bomb.

★ VIRUS: A program or code that replicates, that is infects another program, boot sector, partition sector or document that supports macros by inserting itself or attaching itself to that medium. Most viruses just replicate, but a lot do damage.

★ TROJAN HORSE: A destructive program disguised or hidden in an innocuous piece of software or an email attachment. It masquerades as a benign application. Unlike a viruses, Trojan horses do not replicate themselves but they can be just as destructive. One of the most insidious types of Trojan horse is a program that claims to rid your computer of viruses but instead introduces viruses onto your computer.

★ WORM: A program that makes copies of itself, for example from one disk drive to another, or by copying itself using email or some other transport mechanism. It may do damage and compromise the security of the computer. It may arrive in the form of a joke program or software of some sort. It is designed to infiltrate legitimate data processing programs and alter or destroy the data.

★ TIME BOMB: A program that activates on a given date and time. The most famous was “Michelangelo” in the late 1980s that activated on the birth date of the artist reeking havoc upon those who had not heeded the warnings. Fortunately, it was discovered early enough that the majority of users downloaded and installed a program to protect themselves.

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