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Computer Viruses and Information Security

Urgent problem in the world of information security is computer viruses. It is very serious problem, because nowadays the number of infected computers is constantly increasing. Tens of thousands of computer viruses now operate in the Internet, and new computer viruses are found every day. The fight with them is a very important part of information security

A computer virus is a computer program that contains a piece of code executed after the launch of the virus in the computer system. During operation, the virus infects other program copying itself. Computer virus is transmitted from computer to computer as a causative agent from person to person. Computer viruses can damage computer systems, steal personal information, slow down your PC performance, cause data loss, disrupt some programs and processes. You can pick up computer viruses through normal Web activities like: sharing music, files or photos with other users, visiting an infected Web site, opening spam email or an email attachment, downloading free programs without reading license agreements carefully. You can also pick up computer viruses through portable devices (flash-memory, disks).

Here is a description of some types of anti-virus programs and the way they work:

1.   Programs-detectors detect files infected by one of the known viruses.

2.   Programs-doctors not only find infected files, but also "cure" them, delete virus from the body of the program file, restore the program to its original state. In early work looking viruses in memory, destroying them, and only then proceed to "cure" files.

3.   Programs-auditors are among the most reliable means of protection against viruses. Auditors remember original state of the programs when the computer is not yet infected with the virus, and then periodically compare the current state of the source file. If there are changes, the message is shown on the display.

4.   Programs-filters Watchman. They control the operation of your computer and detect suspicious activities. When some program performs these suspicious activities, Watchman sends a message, and the user can or cannot make a transaction. Filters allow detecting the virus at an early stage of its existence, but they do not "treat" files and disks.

If you want to protect your computer from viruses you must run effective anti-virus software, don't open e-mail attached files, and always use up-to-date antivirus protection and antispyware. By following these simple steps, you can remain virus-free.