MALICIOUS SOFTWARE AND ANTIVIRUS

Malware

Commonly, a computer user can be tricked or forced into downloading software onto a computer that is of malicious intent. Such programs are known as malware and come in many forms, such as viruses, Trojan horses, spyware and worms. Malicious software is sometimes used to form bonnets.

Viruses

Viruses are programs that can replicate their structures or effects by infecting other files or structures on a computer. The common use of a virus is to take over a computer to steal data.

Worms

Worms are programs that can replicate themselves throughout a computer network, performing malicious tasks throughout.

Trojan horse

A Trojan horse (commonly known as a Trojan) is a general term for malicious software that pretends to be harmless so that a user willingly allows it to be downloaded onto the computer.

Spyware

The term spyware refers to programs that surreptitiously monitor activity on a computer system and report that information to others without the user's consent.

Antivirus

Antivirus programs and Internet security programs are useful in protecting a computer or programmable device from malware.

Such programs are used to detect and usually eliminate viruses; however, it is now common to see security suites, containing also firewalls, anti-spyware, theft protection and so on to more thoroughly protect users.

Traditionally, a user would pay for antivirus software; however, computer users now can and do, download from a host of free security applications on the Internet.