

## Understanding what you're up against



What is the difference between all of these?

## Our newcomer of late... RANSOMWARE



How much is your data worth?



## Virus: What is it?



Viruses Wreak Havoc On Your Files



The term computer virus is often used interchangeably with malware, though the two don't actually have the same meaning. In the strictest sense, a virus is a program that copies itself and infects a PC, spreading from one file to another, and then from one PC to another when the files are copied or shared.

Most viruses attach themselves to executable files, but some can target a master boot record, autorun scripts, MS Office macros, or even in some cases, arbitrary files. Many of these viruses, like CIH, are designed to render your PC completely inoperable, while others simply delete or corrupt your files—the general point is that a virus is designed to cause havoc and break stuff.

You can protect yourself from viruses by making certain your antivirus application is always updated with the latest definitions and avoiding suspicious looking files coming through email or otherwise. Pay special attention to the filename—if the file is supposed to be an mp3, and the name ends in .mp3.exe, you're dealing with a virus.

Now, let's look at malware...



#### What is Malware?

The word Malware is short for malicious software, and is a general term used to describe all of the viruses, worms, spyware, and pretty much anything that is specifically designed to cause harm to your PC or steal your information.

Spyware, scareware and worms oh my!

# SPYWARE STEALS YOUR INFORMATION



Spyware is any software installed on your PC that collects your information without your knowledge, and sends that information back to the creator so they can use your personal information in some nefarious way. This could include keylogging to learn your passwords, watching your searching habits, changing out your browser home and search pages, adding obnoxious browser toolbars, or just stealing your passwords and credit card numbers.

Since spyware is primarily meant to make money at your expense, it doesn't usually kill your PC—in fact, many people have spyware running without even realizing it, but generally those that have one spyware application installed also have a dozen more. Once you've got that many pieces of software spying on you, your PC is going to become slow.

What many people don't realize about spyware is that not every antivirus software is designed to catch spyware. You should check with the vendor to make sure the application you are using to protect you from malware is actually checking for spyware as well. If you come across a PC that is already heavily infected, run a combination of MalwareBytes and Combofix to clean it thoroughly.



Trojans and worms...

## Scareware Holds Your PC for Ransom



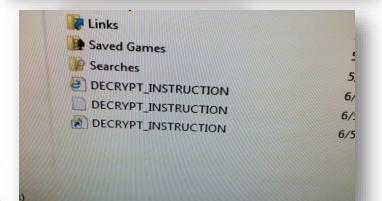
Scareware is a relatively new type of attack, where a user is tricked into downloading what appears to be an antivirus application, which then proceeds to tell you that your PC is infected with hundreds of viruses, and can only be cleaned if you pay for a full license. Of course, these scareware applications are nothing more than malware that hold your PC hostage until you pay the ransom—in most cases, you can't uninstall them or even use the PC.

If you manage to come across a PC infected with one of these, your best bet is to Google the name of the virus and find specific instructions on how to remove it, but the steps are usually the same—run a combination of MalwareBytes, SuperAntiSpyware, and maybe ComboFix if you need to.

Worms and Trojans...

## RANSOMWARE... How much are you willing to pay?





Ransomware is a type of malware which restricts access to the computer system that it infects, and demands a ransom paid to the creator(s) of the malware in order for the restriction to be removed. Some forms of ransomware encrypt files on the system's hard drive, while some may simply lock the system and display messages intended to coax the user into paying.

#### **Most Commonly:**

- Encrypts most of your data files like (pictures, documents, zip files, Spreadsheets)
- •Data can only be recovered by paying a ransom via "Bitcoins"
- •Or, from a backup that has NOT been encrypted.



# TELEPHONE SCAM: THEY SAY THEY WORK FOR:



Anyone who calls you, and says that they work for Microsoft or ANY company and that your PC is infected: HANG UP!

### All Antivirus applications Stink!

## Why?



All use system resources which takes away "power" from your computer

Can be cumbersome to setup and use (especially for a novice)

All offer a false sense of "security"

Let's see the competition!

#### Let's Meet Our Contestants!























#### Which Applications are Free











#### Which Applications Stink the Least

#### THE PAID VERSIONS



**ESET** – LOW on resources!





**Trend Micro** – VERY GOOD, but expensive.

avast! – VERY GOOD, but HARD ON YOUR PC!

Which are the WORST ONES!

### Which Applications Stink the Most

...and the Award goes to....







#### Why?

All use a considerable amount of computer resources.

Extremely cumbersome to setup and use

I often tell clients:

"Instead of using these products, you're just better off getting the virus"

They are all more expensive than most

# What to do when you get malware/virus/spyware ....because, by God you will no matter what you use.



No, it's not Thundercats





http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/combofix/how-to-use-combofix

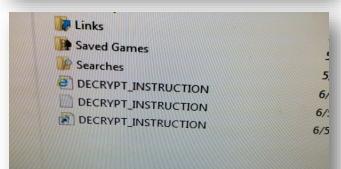
**Combofix** 

http://www.malwarebytes.org/

**Malwarebytes** 

#### What to do when you get RANSOMWARE





If you have This



We still need to remove it with these









#### If you "suspect" you have RANSOMWARE

Suspect "meaning":

Weird stuff
started
happening after
you visit a site
or open an
unfamiliar link
to an email



TURN OFF THE COMPUTER!!!!



Do you have a Backup? What Kind? External Hard Drive? Offsite (Cloud)?

#### **Steps to Removal**



Download and Run **Combofix** in Safe Mode



Download and Run Malwarebytes QuickScan



Download and Run HitManPro



Download and Run Emsisoft

### **HOW TO LIMIT YOUR RISKS**

- Website Blocking Open DNS, ISA
- Update Windows
- Update Adobe Flash and Reader
- Use Script Blocker like "No Script" for Firefox
- Do not use Internet Explorer 6 or 9 (Windows XP/Vista). Best to use updated IE11, Firefox, Chrome, etc.

OpenDNS







# **Cloud Backups**



Find the right solution for you, and back up your data to the cloud.





