

Task Eleven Viruses

Computer viruses are a lot like human viruses and in fact that's where the name comes from.

A programmer whose intention is to cause chaos and damage to computer systems creates a computer virus maliciously. These programmers write programs that are meant to damage computer memory and programs. Some viruses replicate themselves and attach to other files in a computer system until potentially a computer can become completely corrupt and not work at all.

There are many different viruses created each day and anti virus software has to be updated regularly to keep up with them. You are very unwise these days if you don't have any kind of software that protects your system from viruses. Places that you can get viruses from are:

- The Internet- downloading files is risky specially if you're not sure of the source. Viruses can be hidden in the download
- E Mail attachments- opening attachments that you're not sure of is a bit dangerous as programmers can send viruses to millions at once through E mail inboxes
- Removable storage devices- if someone has saved a corrupt file onto a USB pen, a floppy or a CD ROM it can be spread to any other computer that the device is used in; it is a bit like a dirty tissue!

At our school we have SOPHOS anti virus protection that scans the computer every time you log on. We cannot download any programs onto the school network as this could lead to a virus getting in that way. All CD drives have been disabled so we cannot bring in CD ROMs and we cannot use USB pens until they have been checked so as to prevent viruses being brought in from home.

At home I have got Norton Antivirus that scans my files when I ask it to. The only problem is with this that viruses are created everyday and as I have mentioned earlier, Anti virus software can soon be outdated. Downloading regular updates from the Internet is the only way to combat this.