

Computer Viruses

❖ Fill in the blanks.

1. A **Virus** is a program that infects a computer by attaching itself to another program.
2. **Hackers** are harmless computer enthusiasts while **Crackers** are dangerous people who want to cause harm to computer systems.
3. **Melissa** and **Bablas** are examples of macro viruses.
4. **Trojan Horse** program disguises itself as a utility program.
5. **Norton** and **McAfee** are popular antivirus programs.
6. The **Boot-Sector** virus gets loaded into the computer memory every time you start your computer.
7. If your files suddenly become corrupt or missing, it could mean a **Virus** attack.
8. Unwanted ads which appear while surfing are caused by **Adware**.

What is a computer virus? What are the symptoms when a system is infected by a virus?

Virus:

- ❖ *A virus is a program that enters the computer system by attaching itself to another program and then spreads itself across the system.*

Symptoms of a Computer Virus:

- ❖ Your computer may be infected if you recognise any of these symptoms:
- ❖ slow computer performance
- ❖ Unexplained data loss
- ❖ Frequent computer crashes
- ❖ Unusual display on the screen
- ❖ Sudden decrease in free space on your hard disk

What Does a Computer Virus Do?

- ❖ Computer viruses can harm your computer by damaging programs, deleting files or reformatting the hard drive.
- ❖ Some viruses simply replicate themselves or flood a network with useless data.
- ❖ They can reduce computer memory causing frequent computer crashes.

What are the types of Computer Viruses?

What is the difference between a hacker and cracker?

- ❖ **Hackers** are people who use their computer skills to enter into computer systems without authorisation. They are basically harmless.
- ❖ **Crackers** are malicious programmers who gain unauthorised access to computer systems for the purpose of stealing, altering or corrupting information.

How can a virus enter your computer system?

You can pick up computer viruses through normal web activities such as:

- ❖ Sharing files with other users
- ❖ Visiting an infected website
- ❖ Opening spam e-mail
- ❖ Downloading free games, music, windows or programs from unknown sites

How can we protect our systems from viruses?

Protecting your system from viruses is essential for maintaining data security, privacy, and smooth performance.

How to Protect Your System from Viruses **1. Use Reliable Antivirus Software**

- Install trusted antivirus or anti-malware programs.
- Keep them updated to detect the latest threats.

 2. Regularly Update Your System

- Enable automatic updates for your operating system and applications.
- Security patches fix vulnerabilities that viruses exploit.

 3. Be Cautious with Downloads

- Avoid downloading files from unknown or suspicious websites.
- Use official app stores or verified sources.

 4. Don't Open Suspicious Emails or Attachments

- Watch out for phishing emails with strange links or attachments.
- Verify the sender before clicking anything.

 5. Use Strong Passwords and Enable Firewalls

- Combine letters, numbers, and symbols in passwords.
- Activate your system's firewall to block unauthorized access.

 6. Scan External Devices

- Always scan USB drives, memory cards, or external hard disks before use.
- Disable autorun features to prevent automatic infection.