

History Of Virus

This document provides a brief history of viruses.

In the Year	What happened ...
1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elk Cloner, the first virus spreads from Apple II floppies. It displays a rhyme “It will get on all your disks, It will infiltrate your chips, Yes it’s Cloner!”
1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Cohen writes a paper “Computer Viruses - Theory and Experiments”. Len Adelman coins the term Virus. They create the first virus on a VAX 11/750 machine running on Unix.
1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basit and Amjad, replace the executable code in boot sector of a floppy with their own program. When the floppy is run, the program installs itself in the computers memory. Any floppy accessed by the drive, has the code written into it. • Ralf Burger creates a virus, which copies itself to other files. He calls it Virdem.
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PC support lady at the University of Delaware sees a volume with the label © Brain on floppies. It is the Brain Virus and all it does is, copy itself on a disk and create a volume in its name. • File Viruses appear which infect COM files. ‘Popular’ types are Leigh (Jerusalem), Surviv 01 and 02. • IBM Christmas Worm hits IBM mainframes. It replicates half a million times per hour. • Stoned, a virus, which displays the message “Your PC is now stoned”, appears from the University of Wellington, New Zealand.
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MacMeg, a hypercard virus hits Macintosh machines. • Internet Worm causes the first Internet crisis and shuts down many computers.
1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aids Trojan sent out in the guise of AIDS information hits the computer Industry. It encrypts the hard drive and wants payment for the decryption key. • Datacrime virus threatens IBM computers. It was supposed to get launched on Friday the 13th.

1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulgarian virus exchange factory (VX) BBS starts in a big way. Virus authors form a 'forum' to exchange tips and tricks. • Mark Ludwig writes a book "The Little Black Book of Computer Viruses" which tells you how to write virus programs.
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tequila comes from Switzerland. It is the first Polymorphic virus and changes itself to avoid detection.
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelangelo appears. Induces hysteria with threats of massive damages, but actually very little happened. • Two new 'tool kits' are released: Dark Avenger Mutation Engine (DAME) and Virus Creation Laboratory (VCL). They can help you create your own viruses.
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Internet Liberation Front virus hits Griffith Air Force Base, Korean Atomic Research Institute, NASA, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, GE, IBM and other companies on Thanksgiving Day. • The first macro virus to attack Word files, Concept, is released.
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boza, the first virus designed specifically for Windows 95 files arrives. • Laroux, the first Excel macro virus appears. • Stoag, the first Linux virus attacks Linux machines
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strange Brew, the first Java virus attacks. Back Orifice, the first Trojan works as a remote administration tool that allows a computer via to be controlled via the Internet.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa, the first combination Word macro virus and worm to use the Outlook and Outlook Express address book sends itself through e-mail.. • Corner is the first virus to infect MS Project files. • Tristate, the first multi-program macro virus that infects Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files appears. • Bubbleboy, the first concept worm that activates when an e-mail message is opened in Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express.). No attachment required.
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denial of Service (DoS) attacks shut down Yahoo, Amazon etc. • Love Letter worm shuts down e-mail systems around the world. • Timofonica worm sends messages to Internet-enabled phones in the Spanish telephone network. • Liberty, the first worm for PDA's is accidentally released. • Pirus, a concept virus attempts to add to HTML and PHP files.

<p>2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gnuman (Mandragore) appears. This worm disguises as an MP3 file. • Winux, which hits Windows and Linux machines, appears from the Czech Republic. • LogoLogic-A spreads via MIRC chat and e-mail. • AppleScript worm using Outlook Express or Entourage on the Macintosh spreads via e-mail to address book entries. • PeachyPDF worm, the first to spread using Adobe's PDF software appears. • Nimda, Sircam, CodeRed, BadTrans worms demonstrate massive firepower in bringing down whole networks and organizations.
<p>2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LFM-926, the first virus to infect Shockwave Flash (.SWF) files appears. Named for the message it displays while infecting: "Loading.Flash.Movie..." • Donut shows up as the first worm directed at .NET services. • Sharp-A, the first native .NET worm written in C# is seen. It is also unique as it is one of the few malware programs reportedly written by a woman. • SQLSpider worm is released. It attacks applications using Microsoft SQL Server technology. • Benjamin uses the KaZaa peer-to-peer network to spread. • Perrun virus, attaches itself to JPEG image files. • Scalper worm attacks FreeBSD/Apache Web servers. The worm is designed to set up a flood net (stable of zombies used to overwhelm one or more systems). • Klez.H, a stealth virus appears. It spreads using a Windows system hole that allows file names with double extensions. • I-Worm.Cervinec, I-Worm.MyLife.b, Zircon C, worms that attach to e-mails appear. They are .exe files.