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Two Worms Creep Out Of Apple Mac

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The inevitable has happened. For the first time, two worms have reared their heads out of Apple Mac, an operating system that was considered to be virus-proof otherwise. While the first worm named, OSX/Leap-A or OSX/Oompa-A spreads via instant messaging systems, the second one, OSX/Inqtana-A finds its way through a Bluetooth vulnerability.

Leap-A spreads using iChat instant messaging system, sending itself to available contacts on the infected user's buddy list in a file called latestpics.tgz. Once launched, it can damage software applications and the operating system itself.

The second worm, OSX/Inqtana-A, tries to spread from one infected system to others using a Bluetooth OBEX Push vulnerability named, CAN-2005-1333. However 'Inqtana.A' has not been found in the wild so far. It works through a Bluetooth library that's locked into a specific Bluetooth address. First time analysis identifies this one to be a relatively low threat.

“There are two major reasons why Apple didn't have any virus so far. One, its usage is very low compared to Windows OS. Two, its predominant users are graphic designers, not programmers, who are far too unlikely to write a malicious code. Now, these threats are not grave, per se. But it must come as an eye-opener to Apple Mac users that their computers too can be targeted by malware writers”, views Aneesh Paliwal, a

Security Analyst, MicroWorld Technologies.

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