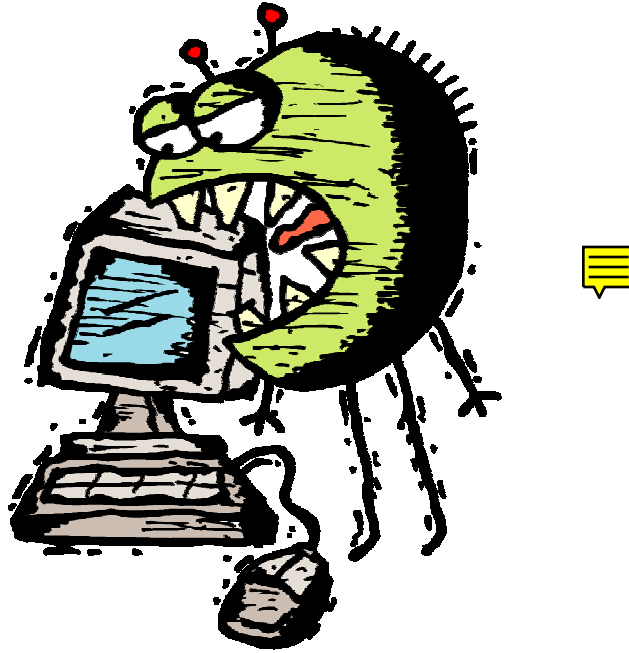


Computer Virus: A Threat or a Hoax?



The image is from Clipart.com

Background

Computer security is a huge concern for personal and institutional computer and Internet users. It is very important to keep your virus protection software up-to-date and respond to information sent by your Internet service provider or IT administrator in a timely manner. But how far do you need to go? Are you doing your friends a favor by forwarding an email virus warning to everyone in your address book? Have you ever considered the cost associated with forwarding messages that beg you to send them to “everyone you know?”

Scenario

You have received two e-mail messages containing e-mail virus warnings (see below.)

Would you act on either of the messages? Would you forward them to your e-mail contacts?

Are all the virus warnings real? If not, why would someone bother to distribute hoax virus warnings? What do you need to know in order to be a careful and responsible Internet user?

Learning Outcomes

1. Students learn to think critically about information accessed via the Internet.
2. Students learn about Internet safety and responsible behavior on the Net.
3. Students explore Internet resources related to Internet safety, security, and hoaxes.

Message 1

The objective of this e-mail is to warn all Hotmail users about a new virus that is spreading by MSN Messenger. The name of this virus is jdbgmgr.exe and it is sent automatically by the Messenger and by the address book too. The virus is not detected by McAfee or Norton and it stays quiet for 14 days before damaging the system.

The virus can be cleaned before it deletes the files from your system. In order to eliminate it, it is just necessary to do the following steps:

1. Go to Start, click "Search."
2. In the "Files or Folders option" write the name jdbgmgr.exe .
3. Be sure that you are searching in the drive "C."
4. Click "Find now."
5. If the virus is there (it has a little bear-like icon with the name of jdbgmgr.exe), DO NOT OPEN IT FOR ANY REASON.
6. Right click and delete it (it will go to the Recycle bin/)
7. Go to the Recycle bin and delete it or empty the Recycle bin.

IF YOU FIND THE VIRUS IN ALL OF YOUR SYSTEMS SEND THIS MESSAGE TO ALL OF YOUR CONTACTS LOCATED IN YOUR ADDRESS BOOK BEFORE IT CAN CAUSE ANY DAMAGE.

Message 2

This is a Medium Threat Advisory Upgrade for Backdoor.Binghe.

Backdoor.Binghe is a back door Trojan horse program that allows unauthorized access to a compromised computer. The Trojan logs keystrokes, steals information, and has ability to execute programs.

Solution: Use the latest version Anti-Virus package to remove it.

Remember, if you were not expecting an attachment, do not click on it, even if it is from someone you know.