

Short Learning Objects for E-learning and MOOCs

English

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Malware

*Sumaja Sasidharan*⁴⁰

Abstract: - Malware is a MALicious softWARE designed to damage or gain control to a computer and steal the data. A Malware can spread through social networks, internet downloads and emails. The first known example of a malware was Creeper Virus created by Robert Thomas, BBN Technologies in 1971 as an experimental self-replicating program. There different types of malware: viruses, Trojan horse, Worms, Spyware, Ransomware, Keylogger etc. A malware can infect not just Windows systems but Mac Computers, Tablets and Smartphones. To be safe from Malware attacks always practice safe browsing, use strong passwords and keep the antivirus updated. The first known example of malware was creeper virus created by Robert Thomas, BBN Technologies in 1971 as an experimental self-duplicating program.

Keywords: - Malware, ransomware, viruses

Introduction

In today's world where data privacy is of utmost importance, malwares are a major threat not just for big organizations but anyone who is an active computer user. Most of you might remember the wannacry ransomware attacks that happened in May 2017 that affected more than 300,000 computers across 150 countries resulting in a total damage of billions of dollars. A malware is a program or file that is designed to damage or gain control to a computer. Once installed, the attacker can spy your online activities or can use your system to attack others. A malware can spread through social networks, internet downloads and emails. "Malware stands for Malicious Software." Malware can infect not just Windows systems but Mac computers, tablets, smart phones.

Different Types of Malwares

a. Viruses

A computer virus is a self-replicating program. Once executed, replicates itself thereby corrupting the system and destroying the data

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