

Protecting Your PC from Viruses
Rodman Public Library

Viruses & Worms

◆ Worms

- The spreading of viruses through e-mail attachments or self-propagating programs that are loaded onto your computer through a network

– Examples

- Melissa
- Code Red
- Win32.ExploreZip.210342.A

How Anti-Virus Software Works

- ◆ Looks for patterns in files or memory of your computer that indicate the possible presence of a known virus.
- ◆ Antivirus packages know what to look for through the use of virus profiles (sometimes called "signatures") provided by the vendor.

How Anti-Virus Software Works

- ◆ New viruses are discovered daily.
- ◆ The effectiveness of antivirus software is dependent on having the latest virus profiles installed on your computer so that it can look for recently discovered viruses.
- ◆ ***It is important to keep these profiles up to date.***

E-mail Attachments

- ◆ Social Engineering
 - "I received your email and I shall send you a reply ASAP. Till then, take a look at the attached zipped docs."
- ◆ Don't open files that have multiple extensions
 - joke.doc.exe
- ◆ Don't open any suspicious files

Virus Protection

◆ Products

- Norton AntiVirus (Symantec)
- McAfee VirusScan

More Information about viruses and antivirus software

- ◆ CERT Computer Virus Resource page
www.cert.org/other_sources/viruses.html
- ◆ Symantec Security Response page
securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/vinfodb.html
- ◆ Computer Associates Virus Information Center
www3.ca.com/virus/encyclopedia.asp

Virus Hoaxes

◆ What is a Hoax?

- A message, typically distributed via E-mail or newsgroups, that is written to deliberately spread fear, uncertainty and doubt.
- Hoaxes prey on the lack of technical knowledge and goodwill of all those that receive a hoax.
- Hoaxes are warnings about threats to your computer that do not actually exist.

Finding Out About Hoaxes

- ◆ Computer Associates Virus Information Center
www.cai.com/virusinfo/encyclopedia/
- ◆ Vmyths.com
www.vmyths.com
- ◆ Hoaxbusters
hoaxbusters.ciac.org