

# History Of Virus

This document provides a brief history of viruses.

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

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

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