

Malware

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Malware, a portmanteau from the words **malicious** and **software**, is software designed to infiltrate or damage a computer system without the owner's informed consent. The expression is a general term used by computer professionals to mean a variety of forms of hostile, intrusive, or annoying software or program code. The term "computer virus" is sometimes used as a catch-all phrase to include all types of Malware, including true viruses.

Software is considered Malware based on the perceived intent of the creator rather than any particular features. Malware includes computer viruses, worms, Trojan horses, most root kits, spyware, dishonest adware, crimeware and other malicious and unwanted software. In law, Malware is sometimes known as a computer contaminant, for instance in the legal codes of several American states, including California and West Virginia.

Malware is not the same as defective software, that is, software which has a legitimate purpose but contains harmful bugs.

Preliminary results from Symantec published in 2008 suggested that "the release rate of malicious code and other unwanted programs may be exceeding that of legitimate software applications." According to F-Secure, "As much Malware [was] produced in 2007 as in the previous 20 years altogether." Malware's most common pathway from criminals to users is through the Internet, by email and the World Wide Web.

Now the question is how to check and see if you have any and how to remove it. The link below will take you to a site that has a FREE program to download. I used it on a friend's computer that had been acting very strange. It is very easy to use. The first time you run it, it will take some time, but after that I would say run it once a month and do an update prior to running it.

<http://www.malwarebytes.org/mbam.php>

To use the program:

- Install
- Run live update
- Do a full scan
- See Results & Delete all if you have any
- Go to Quarantine & Delete all if you have any