

Software Piracy Prevention

Software can be protected against piracy in a number of ways including:

1. Serial Numbers
2. Holograms
3. Licence agreements

1 Serial Numbers

When software is being installed, users are often asked to enter a **unique number which proves the software is original**.

Serial numbers are supplied with the original copy of the software.



2 Holograms

Holograms are often used on the packaging of software and they indicate that the **copy is genuine**.

Software without a hologram on the packaging is usually an illegal copy.



3 Licence Agreements

Licence agreements are part of the software installation process and they inform the user exactly how they are **legally allowed to use the product**.

Users are required to **'agree to terms of use'** before they can complete the installation.



Computer Viruses

Definition: *"A self-copying program that has been created with the purpose of damaging a computer system "*



Key Words:

Virus, Replicate, Infect, Crash, Pop-Up, Prevent

Overview of computer viruses:

- # Computer viruses can cause huge problems if they are allowed to infect a computer.
- # Viruses are programs that automatically make **replicates (copies) of themselves** and then **attach to other files** within the computer.
- # Any files which have viruses attached to them are said to have been '**infected**'.

What problems can viruses cause?

- # Viruses can be designed to carry out different malicious (harmful) functions. Some include:
 - **Annoying pop-up messages on the screen**
 - **Causing the computer to slow down or even crash (stop responding)**
 - **Deleting important files or programs**
 - **Trying to access your personal files like passwords, bank details or credit card numbers etc**

How do viruses infect computers?

- # There are many ways that viruses can infect a computer. The most common include:
 - **Downloading infected files from the internet**
 - **Email attachments that contain infected files**
 - **Plugging a flash memory stick that containing infected files into your computer**



The first computer virus seen over the Internet was created in 1988 by Robert Morris.

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Preventing Software Virus Infections

New computer viruses are being created all the time and this means that you should take steps to reduce the chance that you computer and data become infected. The best methods are outlined in the table below:

- 1 Use **up-to-date anti-virus software**.
- 2 Use **genuine copies** of software.
- 3 Only open **email attachments from people you trust**.
- 4 **Scan flash memory with anti-virus software** before you attach it to your computer.
- 5 Only download software from **legitimate websites**.



Click for Picture
Example

NOTE!

Keeping your **anti-virus software up-to-date** is vital. This is because new versions of viruses are being made all the time.
