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COMPUTER VIRUS

Computer viruses are programs that spreads across computers by attaching a copy of itself to the files on your computer. When you run the infected file the virus gets into action.

A virus is usually harmful and can corrupt data, overwrite files, or use up system resources , and slow it down in the process. Some may be merely distributing like asking you to key in certain messages to continue or popping up messages on the screen. Viruses are usually written by programmers to cause trouble.

TYPES OF VIRUSES:

There are many types of viruses

(a) Viruses which attack certain area or location like

- ***(i) Boot sector viruses***
- ***(ii) File Viruses***
- ***(iii) Cluster Viruses***

(b) The main ones that attack computers in peculiar manner:

- ***(i) Stealth Viruses***
- ***(ii) Polymorphic Viruses***
- ***(iii) Multi partite Viruses***
- ***(iv) Fast, slow and sparse infecting viruses***

(c) Other types:

- ***(i) Phising***
- ***(ii) Malware***
- ***(iii) Adware***
- ***(iv) Spyware***
- ***(v) Spam***

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LINUX

Linux is a scaled-down UNIX operating system originally developed by Linus Torvalds, the University student in Finland, now used in everthing from PDAs, watches, PCs, consumer electronics, servers and supercomputers.

Beginning Linux was originally Minix, an educational version of UNIX developed by Andrew Tannerbaum. As an interesting aside, we might be talking about Minix today if not for licensing that Minix required. Few people heard about today, far less than have heard about Linux.

Early on, Linux grew as a cheap UNIX that ran on Intel-based PC equipment. At the time, you could purchase UNIX for PCs at a high cost.

Linux Distributions Technically:

Linux is really just an OS kernel, produced under the direction of Linus Torvalds. But Linux usually comes with a set of utility, desktop, and server programs, including networking suites, web servers, file systems, compilers and a whole lot more. For example, Linux includes the XFree86 of X Window system, the GNU compiler GCC, and code from quite a lot of other sources. But to make things confusing, there?s more than one version of Linux.

A number of organizations, commercial and some volunteer, collect together versions of all these programs with the Linux kernel, test that everything works together, and then release what is called adistribution of Linux.

The main Linux distributions include: RedHat, Kondara MNU/Linux, SUSE, Linux Mandrake, Knnopix and slackware.

Open Source:

Open source movement is a large movement of programmers and the computer users that advocate unrestricted access to the source code of software. It grew out of licenses like BSD, the ubiquitous access to Unix source code at universities. The boundary between the Open source and Free software movement is blurred. The biggest strength of Open Source has been that is free. The basic idea behind Open source is, when programmers read, redistribute and modify the source code for a piece of software, the software is evolving.

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BIOMETRIC SECURITY

It is a security system that uses measurements of a person?s physical characteristics that are difficult to abuse or evade contrary to old-fashioned password or document based forms of identification. Some of the methods are: Voice recognition, Face recognition, Iris scan, Finger print, etc.

Voice Recognition :

Digitised voiceprints that are made from a person?s speech samples are stored on a ?smart? credit card or passport. This provides an extra level of security beyond the other biometric data already stored on the card?s chip. The two main patterns are Speech pattern and Voiceprint.

Face Recognition:

(a) A camera captures an image of face in a crowd;

(b) The system adjusts to compensate for the angle at which the photo is taken;

(c) Numerical values are assigned to some of the 80 unique features to create a profile that can be checked against existing profiles.

Iris Scan:

The features of the colored disc around each person?s pupil are unique and cannot be altered without damaging vision. Security software uses a mathematical process called demodulation to turn these features to digital ID code that can be checked against a copy that is stored in a database. There are specific areas scanned for unique features.

Finger Print:

The inexpensive , widely available technology uses either a digital camera or an electric current to create an image of the distinctive features of a finger.

One drawback is that these systems can be defeated using a cast of the victim?s finger-print or by a severed finger, etc.

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PODCASTING

Podcasting is a way of delivering audio over the internet. It is similar to Internet radio. The difference is that one can subscribe to podcast, have it downloaded and listen to whatever one would like. The advantage being allowing users to take audio programming away from the web and listen to it privately on portable music players.

The name first appeared in an article by BenHammersly in The GaurdianFeb in 2004.By 2004 end, the details of how-to-podcast was posted on internet. The concept clicked in iPod+broadcasting. But to listen to it, only a software is needed on any computer one wants to listen.

Podcasting has wider applications and seems to replace the traditional whitepapers. IBM is planning to use podcasts on its investor?s relation site as part of broader effort to communicate directly to them and public about important hot newsbreaks.

IPOD VIDEO:

Having sold 28 million iPod ever since its launch in 2004, Apple computers has come out with a revolutionary idea-iPod video. This new player can play video, music and television programs.

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COMMON COMPUTER TERMS

LIVEWARE:

The users working the system are termed as liveware.

FINWARE:

It is defined as software embedded into the hardware. Example: ROM which has the basic input-output system (BIOS).

MULTIPROGRAMMING:

This type of processing enables more than on program to reside in the central memory at the same time, and share available processor time and peripheral units.

DISTRIBUTED DATA PROCESSING:

It is also known as decentralized processing. This approach involves using a of computers interconnected by data communication lines where each remote location has a small computer or microcomputer for input-output communication with a central computer and some local processing.

DATABASE:

It is a general collection of data shared by a variety of users.

FEATURES:

- Data is independent of any programme.
- Redundancy of data is eliminated.
- Data is usable by many users simultaneously.

TIME SHARING:

It is concurrent use of a single computer system by many independent users. In time sharing, many terminals can be attached to a central computer. The terminal users can thus share time on the computer. The operating system can allocate the CPU time of various users by giving each a time slice, each operating independently without awareness of use by others.

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GENERAL KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Press	To
CTRL+C	Copy.
CTRL+X	Cut.
CTRL+V	Paste.
CTRL+Z	Undo.
DELETE	Delete.
SHIFT+DELETE	Delete selected item permanently without placing the item in the Recycle Bin.
CTRL while dragging an item	Copy selected item.
CTRL+SHIFT while dragging an item	Create shortcut to selected item.
F2	Rename selected item.
CTRL+RIGHT ARROW	Move the insertion point to the beginning of the next word.
CTRL+LEFT ARROW	Move the insertion point to the beginning of the previous word.
CTRL+DOWN ARROW	Move the insertion point to the beginning of the next paragraph.
CTRL+UP ARROW	Move the insertion point to the beginning of the previous paragraph.
CTRL+SHIFT with any of the arrow keys	Highlight a block of text.
SHIFT with any of the arrow keys	Select more than one item in a window or on the desktop, or select text within a document.
CTRL+A	Select all.
F3	Search for a file or folder.
ALT+ENTER	View properties for the selected item.
ALT+F4	Close the active item, or quit the active program.
ALT+Enter	Displays the properties of the selected object.
ALT+SPACEBAR	Opens the shortcut menu for the active window.
CTRL+F4	Close the active document in programs that allow you to have multiple documents open simultaneously.
ALT+TAB	Switch between open items.

ALT+ESC	Cycle through items in the order they were opened.
F6	Cycle through screen elements in a window or on the desktop.
F4	Display the Address bar list in My Computer or Windows Explorer.
SHIFT+F10	Display the shortcut menu for the selected item.

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