

What is a virus?



A computer virus is a programme designed to alter the way a computer operates, without the knowledge or consent of the user.

A virus infection can have a massive effect on your business

How are viruses transmitted?

Viruses are usually disguised as something else.

For example:

- e-mails or e-mail attachments
- Internet downloads
- Web pages
- Software releases on disc or CD

What are the signs of a virus infection?

Some **common signs** of a virus infection include:

- Your system slows down. This can be especially noticeable if your machine is connected to a network.
- You see activity on your machine that you think you did not cause. For example, a disc drive light may flash unexpectedly.
- If you are running an internal e-mail server, you may find that this becomes overloaded or slows down.
- Data files become corrupt or go missing. Sometimes, popular programmes such as Microsoft Word or Excel will display a message advising that your file is not in the correct format.
- Unexpected changes in the content of your files.

For more details on virus recovery and prevention, as well as many other aspects of Information Security, just visit : www.dti.gov.uk/bestpractice/infosec