

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH COMPUTER VIRUSES

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Computer viruses have entered the scene of computing in a big way in the last few years. Though, initially confined to a few installations they spread like bush fire, creating havoc and panic among users. There are many more, blissfully unaware of the lurking menace, till they are rudely brought to the reality and existence of these dreaded pests.

Data losses are caused by many factors such as malfunctioning of hardware, corrupted software, and glitches and power outrages. However, the attack from computer viruses are so spectacular and sudden that they leave a permanent impact on the victims.

The rate at which these have grown are impressive, as they have more than doubled in the past year. Many antivirus packages and utilities have been developed, adding more confusion than ever to the users.

The threat of computer viruses became so bad and data losses too frequent that the authors were forced to evolve a systematic approach to combat the menace. The paper explains the methods adopted by the authors to prevent, arrest and remove the spread of computer viruses. They also relate some interesting case histories, which led to detection and removal of viruses, from the computer systems.

The paper also explores the possibility of unknown viruses, being present in the system, and lists strategies of combating them.

The authors conclude that inspite of having so many vaccines and utilities to combat these pests, the best form of defense is educating all users on preventive measures, and alerting them to tell-tale signs giving away the presence of viruses. This is all the more important for local users as a large number of organisations are procuring computer equipment with the view of computerising their activities, which will only make them more vulnerable to computer viruses.