

Air Mobility Command

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Newsletter

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Do Your Part.

#BeCyberSmart

**October is National Cyber
Cybersecurity Month**

Week 1: MALWARE

What is Malware

7 Common Types of Malware

How to become Digitally Adept

What is Malware: Malware is software that usually derives from code designed to cause damage to data and systems or to gain unauthorized access to a network. The first malware, designed in 1971, was an experimental, self-replicating program, called “Creepers.” It gained access to one machine then copied itself to remote systems where users were greeted with the message:

“I’m the creeper, catch me if you can!”

In May 2020 malware called “RobbinHood” infected Baltimore city networks, holding data for ransom until \$70,000 was paid. Most impacted were several real estate companies; their purchase information was encrypted thus shutting down the real estate market until the systems were restored 2 weeks later.

7 Common Types of Malware

- Viruses: Are uncommon, as they require end user input to get started.
- Worms: Self-replicating malware from one system to another.
- Trojans: Mask as legitimate programs then wreak havoc once inside.
- Ransomware: These encrypt your data and hold it as hostage for a payment.
- Adware: Can redirect websites to similar looking sites to steal user info.
- Malvertising: Uses legitimate ads to covertly deliver malware.
- Spyware: Designed to secretly observe activity on a device and send those observations to a snooper.

Technology is useful, engaging and entertaining but there are many ways your computer can get infected with malware along the way.



For more information contact your Wing CyberSecurity Office or e-mail the HQ AMC Cybersecurity Office at AMC.Cybersecurity@us.af.mil

How to become Digitally Adept

- Avoid free software downloads. There is an increased risk of hidden and unwanted add-ons such as toolbars and applications. Hidden within the add-ons can be spyware, browser hijackers, and unwanted ad pop-ups.
- Don’t use filesharing applications. These applications may sound great, especially if freeware, but unregulated software may contain malicious code and can cause your computer to become unstable and/or lose data. Besides, distributing copyrighted material without payment can have legal implication risks.
- Peer-to-peer programs can physically damage your PC. A new method to create crypto currency can literally steal your computing power through hard-hitting CPU processes that can cause your device to overheat if improperly cooled while making your applications slow to a crawl.
- Regularly download and install patches for operating system and applications.
- Regularly scan your computer with Anti-Virus/Internet Security software. MacAfee is available for free to DOD employees at: <https://storefront.disa.mil/kinetic/disa/service-catalog#/forms/antivirus-home-use>

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