

D. Dobrovolsky, M. Rogalyova
O.V. Gerasina, scientific supervisor
I.A. Ivanchenko, language adviser
SHEI "National Mining University", Dnipropetrovsk
From the History of the Most Dangerous Viruses

It is a well-known fact that various computer viruses have already been classified and studied. Nevertheless, some of them having been found recently, deserve special attention as they caused great damages to the computer users systems.

The complexity of their structures allowed them to break safety of computers as they were designed for other operational systems.

According to the research of Computer Economics, the most destructive and the fastest spread virus was **Nimda** - it infected millions of computers in 22 minutes.

Melissa, created by David L.Smith (1999), is considered to be one of the most dangerous viruses to have affected the systems. It could spread through email attachments, replicating itself once activated and dispatched the replicates to 50 contacts in the user s email address book. So, e-mail did not work until the virus was stopped. It should be noted that Microsoft and Intel had to switch off their own post servers. Melissa led to \$.80 million loss.

I LOVE YOU virus, created by O.Guzman (2000), was similar to **Melissa**, and spread itself through e-mail attachments. Being basically a worm, it had the stand-alone capability to replicate itself and inflict damage. In the email's subject it was said to be a love letter from a secret admirer and once opened, the virus infused itself into the systems. The virus is known to attack the poor system's hard drive first, then the registry keys and meanwhile keeps copying itself and entrenches deep into files and folders. By some survey, the virus had said to have infected more than 3 mln computers, having. It caused around \$ 10 Billion in damages.

Sasser and **Netsky**, created by S.Jaschan (2000) were designed to act completely opposite as compared to each other. The **Sasser** worm exploited the vulnerability in the network ports and infected the host computers. Instead of spreading through email attachments, it would first scan the IP addresses of potential computers and then infected them. On the contrary, the **Netsky** worm would penetrate the systems via the email messages and through Windows networks. Both these viruses resulted in DoS attack and they slowed down the internet traffic considerably.

To sum up, computer viruses have gone a long way like biological ones, mutating and changing, but the knowledge about the above-mentioned viruses could serve as the base for making new antivirus programs software that will protect your home computers. Computer operators and users should install and update anti-virus software in order to avoid virus attacks!

References:

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