Can a typo be a crazy malware that can completely destroy computers?

Once upon a time, more exactly, around 2006, there was a simple word that became the internet’s basilisk that could instantly crash, beyond repair, the computers of any user who simply typed it in. This word was „Goggle”. It was widely talked about during its day and in a short amount of time it became a subject that got so popular that it led to the creation of an antivirus commercial and a court case. Despite all of that, pretty no much information on it has survived.

But what’s the matter with this typo? „Goggle.com” was considered to be a dangerous typosquatting site for „Google.com” made in 1998, but turned into a malicious site in 2004. It was coded to flood the user with pop-ups, some of which containing pornographic imagery, when accessed. When a user would try to close the windows, many more sprouted until the computer crashed. It would instantly download several viruses and it used the WMF exploit to install the rogue antivirus SpySheriff. It had the potential to make users need to re-install their operating systems, losing all of their data. In 2006, the site was used as a video/ad for McAfee SiteAdvisor by Greg Bertrand.

Nowadays, many layers of security exist in browsers to prevent this type of problem. Pop-up blockers were the first thing used. Also, UAC was one of Windows attempts to block this type of application behaviour from the operating system.