

Factors

- The wide adoption of internet
- The global network is a good medium for virus pandemics
- The multiplication of internet applications and services
- Fast publication of program vulnerabilities
- Slow release of corrective patches
- Slower adoption of these patches (not automatic)

Code-Red (2001)

- Exploits a security flaw (buffer overflow) of Microsoft IIS web server (MS01-033) patched one month earlier
- In few days, 359 000 machines infected

Nimda (2001)

- Exploits another security flaw of MS-IIS
- The Internet's most widespread worm so far (the most part of the infection was done in 22min)

Klez (2001)

- Exploits a security flaw of Microsoft Internet Explorer layout engine used by Outlook and IE
- Infection through email attachment however the user does not have to open this attachment to get infected