COMPUTER VIRUSES

COMPUTER HOLIDAY ASSIGNMENT

WHAT IS A COMPUTER VIRUS

- A computer virus is a malware program that, when executed, replicates by inserting copies of itself (possibly modified) into other computer programs, data files, or the boot sector of the hard drive; when this replication succeeds, the affected areas are then said to be "infected". Viruses often perform some type of harmful activity on infected hosts, such as stealing hard disk space or CPU time, accessing private information, corrupting data, displaying political or humorous messages on the user's screen, spamming their contacts, or logging their keystrokes. However, not all viruses carry a destructive payload or attempt to hide themselves—the defining characteristic of viruses is that they are self-replicating computer programs which install themselves without the user's consent.

WHAT A COMPUTER VIRUS CAN DO ?

- Many computer viruses are stopped before they can start, but there is still an ever growing concern as to what do computer viruses do and the list of common computer virus symptoms. A computer virus might corrupt or delete data on your computer, use your email program to spread itself to other computers, or even erase everything on your hard disk.

- Computer viruses are often spread by attachments in email messages or instant messaging messages. That is why it is essential that you never open email attachments unless you know who it's from and you are expecting it.

- Viruses can be disguised as attachments of funny images, greeting cards, or audio and video files.

- Computer viruses also spread through downloads on the Internet. They can be hidden in illicit software or other files or programs you might download.

- IT CAN INFECT EXECUTABLE PROGRAMS FILES SUCH AS WORD PROCESSOR'SPREADSHEETS AND OPERATING SYSTEMS

- IT CAN INFECT DISKS BY ATTACHING IT TO SPECIAL PROGRAMS ON THE HARD DISKS, CALLED BOOT RECORDS.THESE ARE PROGRAMES THAT TH ECOMPUTES USES TO START ITSELF UP

- IT CAN INFECT OUR E-MAILS AND THUS SPREAD ITSELF