



QuoteRUSH is dedicated to the security of your information! In this edition of the Security Awareness Series, we're covering Malware.

What is Malware?

Malware, short for "Malicious Software", is any program created by cyber-criminals to infiltrate, damage, or control devices without the users prior knowledge or consent. *E.g. Viruses, Worms, Trojans, Ransomware, and Spyware*

Why is Malware Dangerous?

- It often works silently, so the user never knows
- Once infected, attackers can gain control of your system, capture your activities and credentials, or copy files from your PC (*including pictures, documents, etc.*)
- Malware can impact Smartphones, Tablets, Smart Watches, and Smart Home devices like thermostats and locks!
- Apple products (Mac and iPhone) ARE NOT immune to malware if unsecured.

How to Protect Yourself:

- **Update devices regularly:** Enable auto update if possible to stay on top of security patches for devices.
- **Be Cautious with Emails/Messages:** Avoid clicking suspicious links, downloading unexpected files, or responding to urgent or "too good to be true" messages.
- **Use Strong, Unique Passwords:** Protect your accounts with long, unique passphrases. Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA/2FA) when possible.
- **Download from Trusted Sources:** Only install apps/software from official stores or reputable websites. Fake apps are a common way attackers infect devices.
- **Install Antivirus Software:** Use a reputable antivirus program where supported and set it to update automatically. While it may not block every threat, antivirus can add an important extra layer of protection.



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