

Anatomy of a worm



A **worm** exploits a security flaw (often of a network service) to infect the machine and replicates itself through the network

- ➔ Very fast infection (does not need the user to be activated)
- ➔ Has a payload as well (more or less harmful)

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)