

## Malware

### What is malware?

First of all, we need to know what malware is. Malware is a software that intend to damage the system that you are using, steal the data you have or harm the user. Malware could make your system slow and not very inefficient. Also, malware could steal important data that the user is saving in the device, and in that way it could harm the user. Pegasus, viruses and spywares are all a different kinds of malware, they all do the same thing. According to radware website, the first malware was discovered in 1971. It was called “the creeper”, and it did not cause any damages to the user. The creeper displays a screen daring you to capture the creeper, but it caused no harm. Malwares started to develop and became more harmless. Malwares now are used to damage users’ systems, and steal data.

Pegasus was first found in August 2016, and Pegasus is a spyware. Pegasus got exposed after an attempt that failed against a human right defender. After investigating about it, some details about the spyware got reveled. The spyware is capable of reading the text massages on the phone, it can trace the phone, it can get the passwords of the phone, get the calls and get information from the applications that are installed on the phone.

### How does malware get deployed?

Malwares are easy to get if the user is not careful. There are many ways to get malware, such as, emails, unsecure website, unknown links, applications, and attackers. The first thing that makes it easy for the user to get malware is not having a good security system. Security systems can help the user to not get malware and keep the system safe. It can detect malwares in the user’s system and fight them. Also, visiting unreliable websites can get you infected. Websites can be full of viruses that can harm your device and get malwares all over the system. If the user wants to download any program, the user should download it from the official website. Some websites might tell you that you can download the program from here, but instead you get infected by malware and viruses. Moreover, suspicious email is one of the easiest ways to get infected by malware. A lot of people get emails from unknown resource and it gets them infected easily. The email can say anything just to make sure that you click anything to get infected by malware. Links are also one of the ways the user can get infected by malware. Some links could have viruses and they get the user infected as soon as the user click it. Links are easy to spread through the social media, the user can get them in twitter, facebook, or whatsapp. So users should not click in any link before making sure that they know the source of it. Downloading applications could get the user infected by malware. Some applications have malwares on them, and as soon as the user download them, they get infected. Lastly, attackers also one of the ways to get malware. Some attackers can get the user infected using any of the ways I mentioned.

### What does the attacker get from the user?

Attackers usually use malware to get important data, financial data and personal information. Attackers might use malware against the government and organizations to get guarded information and use it for their benefits. Some can get money from the attack, some can get secret information and some can get fame as a hacker, not all attackers want the same thing. Attackers can get every personal information that the user have in the device. They can get pictures and videos that the user does not want anyone to see and use it to blackmail. They can access the user's social media information, and this happens a lot to celebrities. We always see celebrities say something on social media that they should not say, and days later, we find out that the account was hacked and the hackers was controlling it. Moreover, attackers can get credit card information, and take a lot of money. For example, in 2007, Max Ray Butler who was called Iceman was a prolific hacker. According to VPNmentor, Butler was arrested for stealing over 2 million credit card which he was using to purchase what worth \$86 million. Attackers might use malware to get very important data from big companies, and ask for money to give the data back.

<https://www.vpnmentor.com/blog/20-biggest-hacking-attacks-time/>

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