**ILOVEYOU Virus**

**Origin**

* **Creation:** Developed by two Filipino programmers, Onel de Guzman and Reonel Ramones, in May 2000.
* **Motivation:** Initially intended to steal passwords to access paid internet services. Guzman later claimed it was for "financial need."

**Propagation**

* **Method:** Spread through email with the subject line "ILOVEYOU" and an attachment named "LOVE-LETTER-FOR-YOU.txt.vbs."
* **Mechanism:** The attachment, a Visual Basic script, executed once opened, overwriting files, stealing credentials, and resending itself to the victim’s contacts.

**Impact**

* **Scope:** Affected millions of computers globally within hours.
* **Economic Losses:** Estimated at $10 billion due to damage, recovery efforts, and system downtimes.
* **Disruption:** Targeted organizations, governments, and individuals, causing email systems to crash and widespread panic.

**Lessons Learned**

* **Security Gaps:**
  + Lack of awareness about suspicious email attachments.
  + Vulnerabilities in email systems allowing automatic script execution.
* **Changes Implemented:**
  + Development of more robust email filtering tools.
  + Increased emphasis on cybersecurity awareness and software updates.

