

Difference between Virus and Malware

Feature	Virus	Malware
Definition	A specific type of malicious software that self-replicates by infecting other files or systems	A broader term that encompasses various types of malicious software
Replication	Can replicate itself and spread to other files or systems	Can include self-replicating viruses, but also includes other types of malicious software such as worms, Trojans, adware, spyware, ransomware, etc.
Dependency	Requires a host file or program to spread and infect	Can be self-contained or depend on other files or systems for execution or spread
Intent	Designed to cause damage, disrupt operations, or gain unauthorized access	Designed for a variety of purposes including damage, theft, surveillance, or unauthorized access
Infection Method	Often spread through infected email attachments, malicious downloads, or compromised websites	Can be spread through various channels including email, websites, social engineering, removable media, etc.
Visibility	Can be easily detectable and identifiable as a specific type of virus	Can be difficult to detect and may require specialized tools or techniques for identification
Malicious Actions	Can delete, modify, or corrupt files, slow down the system, or spread to other systems	Can include a range of actions such as stealing data, displaying unwanted ads, tracking user activities, encrypting files for ransom, etc.
Signature Detection	Can be detected by signature-based antivirus software	Detection can be based on known signatures, heuristics, or behavior-based analysis

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Prevention and Removal	Can be prevented and removed using antivirus software and regular system updates	Requires the use of antivirus and antimalware software, regular updates, and safe browsing practices
Examples	Examples include the Melissa virus, ILOVEYOU virus, etc.	Examples include worms like Conficker, Trojans like Zeus, ransomware like WannaCry, etc.

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