

Common Ways to Get Computer Viruses



One of the most common ways your computer can be infected is through someone opening an attachment or a link from unknown or spoofed email accounts. Emails are spoofed into looking like legitimate emails containing either a person you know or a business you know. Make sure you pay close attention to the details before you click on anything. Make sure you are absolutely positive you know who the email is coming from or the link they are trying to get you to click on.

Downloading software is another common way to be infected. It's a common misconception that viruses only come from inappropriate or problematic websites, but viruses are everywhere on the internet. Just make sure that you are downloading from a legitimate site or when you purchase software to be downloaded.

USB sticks have long been the carriers of malware and viruses. The new ransomware strain has now been discovered that uses a way to spread itself via USB sticks. This strain is highly sophisticated and well implemented with encryption procedures that do not need a server. It usually contains a zip file, that if the user double clicks will execute code on the machine. It will appear as a word document that if you try to close will give a corrupt message. Users need to be aware, be educated, and be vigilant.

Online Ads can also be a target for victims of Malvertising. It's just another way your computer can be infected without any realization or traceable evidence. They place clean ads on trusted websites and leave them for a while to gain credibility. After time passes they put a malicious code in the ad that infects your computer when clicked on. If you receive a prompt to Run or Open an .exe file that you don't know where it came from DO NOT CLICK. Shut down your computer and scan for malware.

Last but not least, Social Media will infect millions of people a year. People are more relaxed about clicking on links on Social Media sites and links shared by their friends. Just watch what you are clicking and be aware that viruses are spread through ads and videos.

