

## Virus Removal

Most of the calls, that you will go on, people will tell you that they have a virus and that's the reason why their computer is moving so slow. This is not the case. Here's the definition of a computer virus:

**A computer virus** is a type of computer program that, when executed, duplicates itself by modifying other computer programs and inserting its own code. When this duplication succeeds, the affected areas are then said to be "infected" with a computer virus.

So with that said, a virus is rare! However, most computers are infected with Malware.

**Malware** is software that is specifically designed to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorized access to a computer system. For example, a program that claims it will update your computer drivers would be malware.

**Malware programs** that encrypt your data and hold it as hostage waiting for a cryptocurrency (virtual money) pay off has been a huge percentage of the malware for the last few years, and the percentage is still growing. Ransomware has often crippled companies, hospitals, police departments, and even entire cities.

Most ransomware programs are Trojans, which means they must be spread through social engineering of some sort. Once executed, most look for and encrypt users' files within a few minutes, although a few are now taking a "wait-and-see" approach. By watching the user for a few hours before setting off the encryption routine, the malware admin can figure out exactly how much ransom the victim can afford and also be sure to delete or encrypt other supposedly safe backups.

**Ransomware** can be prevented just like every other type of malware program, (by using a good anti virus program) but once executed, it can be hard to reverse the damage without a good, validated backup. According to some studies, about a quarter of the victims pay the ransom, and of those, about 30 percent still do not get their files unlocked. Either way, unlocking the encrypted files, if even possible, takes particular tools, decryption keys and more than a bit of luck. The best advice is to make sure you have a good, offline backup of all critical files.