VIRUSES & DESTRUCTIVE PROGRAMS

UNIT 6 DIGITAL LITERACY STUDY
S3 OBJ 1
A Virus is a computer program written to alter the way a computer operates without the permission or knowledge of the user.

Viruses can either be considered a **Nuisance or Destructive**.

They can
- Corrupt files
- Destroy data
- Display irritating messages
- Corrupt computer systems

Some viruses **replicate** themselves which means that they copy themselves over and over.
Not all computer viruses behave, replicate, or infect the same way. There are several different categories of viruses and malware. Click on the clipart below to discover eight of the most common types of viruses.

Read the information and give a brief description in your own words of each type on your study guide.
SPREADING VIRUSES

- Viruses spread because people distribute infected files by exchanging disks and CDs, sending e-mail attachments, and downloading files from the Internet.
- Viruses attach themselves to files with .exe, .com, or .vbs filename extensions.
- When you open the infected file, the virus opens and waits to infect the next program you run or disk you use.
- Viruses have the ability to lurk in a computer for days or months, quietly replicating (copying) themselves.
- You may not even know your computer has a virus, thus making it easier to spread the virus.
HOW VIRUSES SPREAD

- Click on the clipart below to discover 11 ways viruses are spread in our computer systems.
- Using your own words, write a brief description of each on your study guide.
PROTECTING YOUR COMPUTER

- Just as you protect yourself from illness and disease, there are ways you can cut the chances of your computer systems being infected.
- Click on the clipart below to discover 11 suggestions for protecting your computer. List them on your study guide.
The most popular tech item to steal are Laptops which are then most often sold.

Theft of personal information can also be stolen through unsecured use of wireless services. Others may be able to access the files you have open in these situations.

Use passwords to keep your files and information safe and to keep most people out of your files.

- View and read this web page on the importance of using strong passwords to help protect your privacy.
- Record at least three things you learned.
Hacking

- **Hacking** means finding out weaknesses in a computer or computer network, though the term can also refer to someone with an advanced understanding of computers and computer networks. Hackers may be motivated by a multitude of reasons, such as profit, protest, or challenge. Their objective is to do damage or steal personal information.

The Penalty

- The federal punishment for hacking into computers ranges from a fine or imprisonment for no more than one year to a fine and imprisonment for no more than twenty years. This wide range of punishment depends upon the seriousness of the criminal activity and what damage the hacker has done.

- Hackers cost business money because of **downtime and loss of data**
INTERNET CONTROLS

- Types of controls for internet safety
  - **Firewalls**: forms a barrier between two networks
  - **Filters**: controls what can be viewed on Internet
  - **Parental Control**: Software allows parental control over what kids do on the Internet
FREEWARE & SHAREWARE

► Freeware
  ▶ is copyrighted computer software which is made available for use free of charge for an unlimited time

► Shareware Software
  ▶ Is typically obtained free of charge, either by downloading from the Internet or other source. A user tries out the program, and thus shareware has also been known as "try before you buy". A shareware program is accompanied by a request for payment, and the software's distribution license often requires such a payment.
PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED ACTIVITY AS A HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT.

The end!

Look for the Extra Credit Opportunity!