

Good Morning!

Computers and internet today are very useful tools for communications, banking, shopping, for entertainment, staying in touch with family & friends, and learning about a number of interesting topics. However, the internet has a dark side, and most people either are unaware or tend to disregard the pitfalls that accompany this fascinating online world.

Among the malicious intentions of those who would compromise our computer are those, to gain access to our personal data for identity theft, to use our computer to send spam, attack or hack other computers on the network, or wreak havoc simply as the act of juvenile mischief. Whatever be the intent, we owe it to ourselves to understand the dangers and learn how to protect ourselves, as it may save us countless headaches, and sometimes-substantial amount of money.

The most common dangers are the several forms of malicious software infections, (or malware), which may compromise our computer system. Unlike viruses of the olden days, malicious software now operates in the background, most times even without the knowledge of the computer user of their presence. Typical malware include, Adbots, Backdoor, DDoS Zombie, Dialers, Downloaders, Hijackers, Keyloggers, Spybots, Spyware, Trojans, Worms, etc.

During earlier days, the fact that we had a virus on our computer would usually become immediately obvious, as they would do malicious damage to our computer. These days, the creators of viruses, which are a generic term for many types of malicious software installed on our computer, have been able to compromise our computer without giving us any signs of infection.

Worms can replicate themselves from one machine to another without the need for downloading them from the internet often sending themselves as attachments in emails they generate from the infected host computer and using themselves as Trojans to open doorways to our computer or to send out spam, remaining undetected, which is without doubt tremendously annoying.

Internet usage is becoming a part of our daily life and so there is a growing need for greater awareness on how to make the internet safe and secure for us so that we can use it with total confidence and trust. I sincerely hope that today's round table discussion will address our need, empower and educate us on, the various policy initiatives, the diverse aspects of internet security, also providing us a far greater insight into the role of internet service providers in keeping the internet safe for our use.

Thank You & Best Wishes!