

The Latest Breaking News on the **GOODTIMES Virus**

It turns out that this so-called hoax virus is very dangerous after all. Goodtimes will re-write your hard drive. Not only that, it will scramble any disks that are even close to your computer. It will recalibrate your refrigerator's coolness setting so all your ice cream goes melty. It will demagnetize the strips on all your credit cards, screw up the tracking on your television and use subspace field harmonics to scratch any CDs you try to play.

It will give your ex-girlfriend your new phone number. It will mix Kool-aid into your fishtank. It will drink all your beer and leave dirty socks on the coffee table when company comes over. It will put a dead kitten in the back pocket of your good suit pants and hide your car keys when you are late for work.

Goodtimes will make you fall in love with a penguin. It will give you nightmares about circus midgets. It will pour sugar in your gas tank and shave off both your eyebrows while dating your girlfriend behind your back and billing the dinner and hotel room to your Discover card.

It will seduce your grandmother. It does not matter if she is dead, such is the power of Goodtimes, it reaches out beyond the grave to sully those things we hold most dear.

It moves your car randomly around parking lots so you can't find it. It will kick your dog. It will leave libidinous messages on your boss's voice mail in your voice! It is insidious and subtle. It is dangerous and terrifying to behold. It is also a rather interesting shade of mauve.

Goodtimes will give you Dutch Elm disease. It will leave the toilet seat up. It will make a batch of Methamphetamine in your bathtub and then leave bacon cooking on the stove while it goes out to chase gradeschoolers with your new snowblower.

— circulated through the Net via e-mail in Jan 1997

MUSICAL VIRUS WARNING!!

If someone tries to teach you a tune called "Join The Crew", cover your ears and don't listen to them at all costs. This is not a traditional jig or reel, but a Balkan Virus in 13/8 time whose deceptive counter-Celtic rhythms will erase all tunes in your memory and the memory of anyone who hears it and replace them with a random excerpt from "Your Pets Can Sing 2".

Please send this message to as many musicians as you can. This is a new virus and is unknown to most people. There have been reports from at least 42 cities worldwide of sessions that have been ravaged by this virus, and up to 300 former session musicians are now only able to look at their instruments helplessly while saying "woof, oink, quack" in a vaguely musical manner.

Also, if you receive a tape or CD entitled "Penpal Greetings", throw it out and DON'T LISTEN TO IT!!! This is a warning for all music lovers. The album appears to be traditional in nature, but by the time you listen to it, it is too late. The "Trojan Horse" virus will have infected the boot sector of your CD or tape player.

It is a self-replicating virus, and once the CD or tape has been played, it will automatically attach itself to any other CD or tape you play. The virus will overwrite all of your music and replace it with a random 5 second excerpt from Snoop Doggy Dog's latest album, that will repeat continuously for the length of the CD or tape. This virus can be passed easily by simply lending a tape or CD to a friend, and has the potential to completely destroy all the CDs and tapes in the world.

— circulated through the Net via e-mail in Mar 98

LUSER TRAINING 101

From: Sebastian Mindling, INTERNET:seby@mindling.com
To: [unknown], INTERNET:mkabay@atomictangerine.com
Date: 2000-06-23 12:43 PM
RE: Virus Hoaxes

Enjoyed your NW piece on dealing with hoaxes. This is the form letter I use for unknowing people who send me hoax warnings. Granted, not as in-depth as your response, but I thought you'd get a kick out of it.

-Sebastian

Sebastian Mindling [<http://www.mindling.com>]
seby@mindling.com [<http://www.lithocraft.com>]

Luser Training 101: Template for creating virus warnings

Subject: "Virus Alert" (Insert your text here)

Body:

If you receive an email entitled [INSERT TITLE HERE] do not open it!!!

It will:

[CHOOSE AS MANY DASTARDLY DEEDS AS YOU WANT BELOW]

- a) Eat your hard drive
- b) Infect your mouse and keyboard
- c) Burn up your monitor
- d) Destroy your life, cause mass starvation and global warming
- e) [INSERT OTHER DASTARDLY DEEDS HERE]

This terrible virus was confirmed by [INSERT BIG NAME COMPANY HERE] and [INSERT OTHER BIG NAME COMPANY HERE], it is not a joke and it is worse than [INSERT RECENT REAL VIRUS NAME HERE]!! Immediately forward this message to as many friends as you can so they will be forewarned, you can avoid three years bad luck, and we can clog up all the mail servers with senseless garbage.

/Luser Training 101: Template for creating virus warnings

For more information on hoaxes:

<http://www.symantec.nl/avcenter/hoax.html>

<http://www.stiller.com/hoaxes.htm>

If in doubt about a possible virus, look here:

<http://www.symantec.nl/avcenter/index.html>