

Malware

Malware is **malicious software**.

It refers to a variety of forms of hostile or intrusive software.

- viruses
- trojans
- spyware

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The impacts of malware are generally negative and are often similar.

The key difference is in **how they spread**:

- viruses - hidden in other programs; copy themselves
- trojans - disguised as useful software
- spyware - packaged with other software