

Malicious Logic

Introduction

Malicious code is the general name for unanticipated or undesired effects in programs or program parts caused by an entity intent on damage. History is ripe with instances that people have found effective ways to breach an impregnable fortress by having the defenders bring the enemy inside the fortress. The same approach works for computer systems.

Def: *Malicious logic* is a set of instructions that cause a site's security policy to be violated.

The table below indicates to types of malicious logic and their corresponding characteristics.

Type	Characteristics
Trojan Horse	Contains unexpected, additional functionality
Virus	Attaches itself to a program and propagates copies of itself to other programs
Logic Bomb	Triggers action when condition occurs
Time Bomb	Triggers action when specified time occurs
Trapdoor	Allows unauthorized access to functionality
Worm	Propagates copies of itself through a network
Rabbit	Replicates itself without limit to exhaust resource

We will be talking about these types of malicious logic in the following sections.