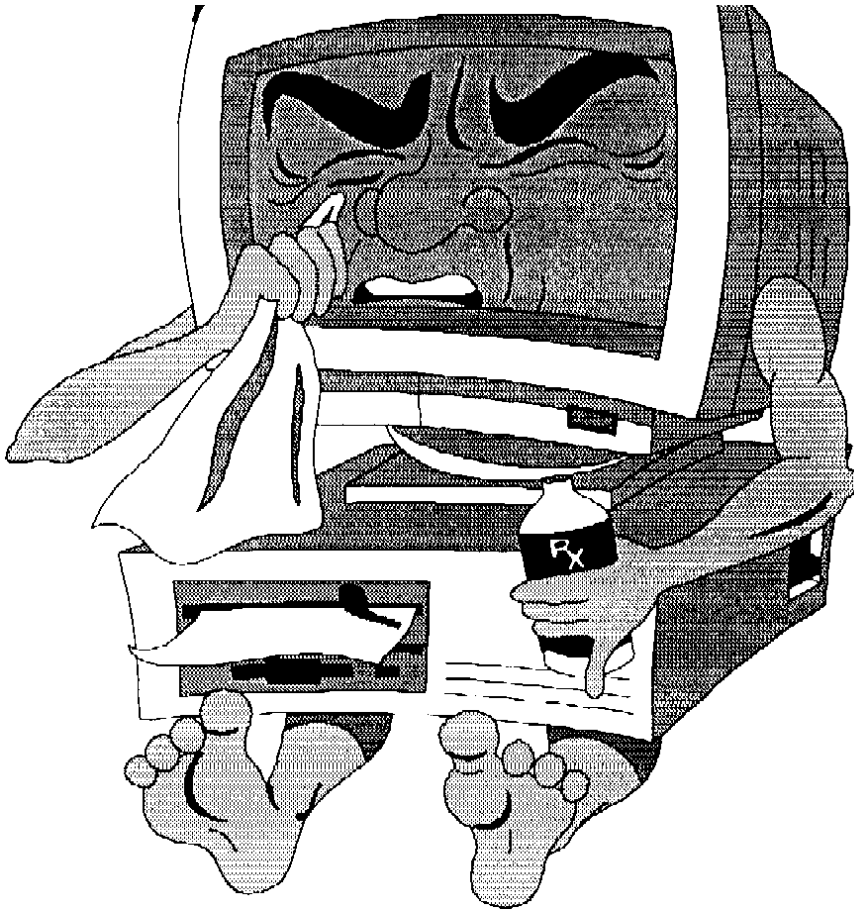


COMPUTER VIRUS



A computer virus happens when for some reason an incorrect or damaging instruction is placed in the computer's operating systems. This can be present in software which you install or you may import it via an incoming e-mail from the Internet. If you are not connected up to any outside networks it is very difficult for your computer to catch a virus.

If you have a virus you can sometimes tell by the strange reaction your computer may have to particular instructions. Some viruses are very sinister and may never be found. Viruses have been placed in large computer systems and the owners held to ransom under pain of losing all their data if they do not pay up.

A virus is not the same as a faulty piece of software although it is sometimes difficult to tell the difference. The watchword here is to be careful who you accept disks

from for copying purposes. Sometimes an infected disk can be passed to you without the owner knowing that it is infected. It is worthwhile keeping a record of what you copy for future reference. Record keeping is good practice in any case.

If you think your computer has been infected it is worth getting an expert to look into it because it could ruin your enjoyment of working on your computer as well as losing some data.

How can you protect against your computer catching a virus?