

UNDERSTANDING MALWARE

Malware is short for *malicious software*. It is designed to infiltrate a computer system or mobile device without the owner's consent to gain control over the machine, steal valuable information or damage the data. There are many types of malware, and they can complement each other when performing an attack



Malware remains one of the key threats in cybercrime



Among the different types, ransomware remains a top threat for EU law enforcement



The volume of malware in mobile platforms is increasing



Email spam continues to be one of the most common methods of malware distribution



Phishing attacks are shifting to other distribution channels, like social media

MALWARE: COMMON SOURCES OF INFECTION



EMAIL: Opening suspicious or unsolicited attachments or clicking on links from spam/phishing emails and unknown senders



WEBSITES: Clicking on links to unknown websites or just by visiting them (i.e. websites featuring adult content)



POP-UP WINDOWS: Clicking on them to download software or to view compromised advertisements



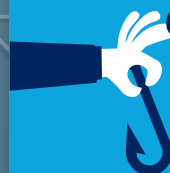
OPEN WI-FI: Cybercriminals use these networks to harvest your personal data and access your electronic systems



SOFTWARE: Downloading pirated or free software (games, screen savers, etc.) or downloading files via peer-to-peer networks



REMOVABLE STORAGE DEVICES: Malware can spread by copying itself to any removable device connected to a computer system



Cybercriminals will use social engineering and phishing techniques to trick you into performing any of the described actions and obtain your personal information

MALWARE: TIPS & ADVICE



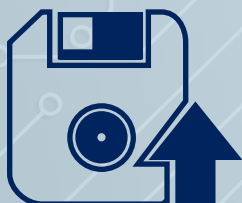
Install and keep antivirus and firewall software updated on your devices



Keep your devices' operating system and all software current



Only download files, software and apps from trusted sources



Back up the data stored on your computer regularly, on a separate storage device and offline



Beware of unusual looking messages received through email, social networks or other tools, even from someone you know



Think before you click on banners and links without knowing their true origin and avoid websites with pirated material