Guide to Fighting Macintosh Viruses:
Instructions for the Rest of Us

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Christopher E. Shull
The Wharton School
University of Pennsylvania
Shull@wharton.upenn.edu

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This document may help you understand and cope with Macintosh viruses. It may however fail in this objective. Use it at your own risk. Neither the author, Christopher E. Shull, nor his employer, the University of Pennsylvania, make any warranty, either express or implied, with respect to the information contained herein.

Instructions

This document describes how to cope with Macintosh viruses.

1) **Do Not Panic.** As of this writing, all known Macintosh viruses are easily detected, destroyed and prevented.

2) **Read these instructions** from front to back, and then follow them step by step.

3) **Using Disinfectant to Find and Kill Viruses**.
   a) Obtain a boot-able diskette containing the program Disinfectant from a trusted source. Disinfectant was written by John Norstad of Northwestern University. The current version is 1.8, dated May 20, 1990. (This is also a good time to get a copies of GateKeeper and GateKeeper Aid, which are described in steps 5) and 6).
   b) Write Lock this diskette by sliding the write protect tab to the open position (so you can peek through the little hole).
   c) Start or Restart your Mac from this diskette.
   d) Run Disinfectant by double clicking on its icon, and then following the simple on-screen instructions on the main screen. (See Figure 1.) Note that Disinfectant suggests that you read its documentation first (by clicking the About button.) This is an excellent idea. However, if you are in a hurry and willing to risk using software you don't understand, just read the summary above and then click on the Disinfect button while holding down the appropriate key(s). (Scanning before Disinfecting has no benefit for normal folks).
   e) Disinfectant will report the details of its work in its center window.
   f) Examine the summary report to make sure all viruses were removed and no errors were encountered. If there were errors, try to fix the problems and disinfect the problem files or device again. If they do not go away, you need to read the instructions or get help from a Mac expert.
   g) When Disinfectant reports that no Viruses have been found, your main disk is clean. After disinfecting, be sure to restart your computer so memory resident viruses are destroyed! You may now copy Disinfectant to your hard disk so you can more easily use it on diskettes. This is an excellent time to Disinfect all of your diskettes using the command key-Disinfect button combination. The next step is to make sure you don't get any more viruses in the future.

Figure 1: Main Screen for Disinfectant 1.8

4) **Using Disinfectant to Prevent Viruses.**
    a) Disinfectant can be used to prevent the spread of viruses simply by scanning and disinfecting every new diskette that you ever use on your Mac, and every diskette that you use on someone else's Mac, and every program you buy or download.
    b) Because this requires a conscious, methodical, and conscientious effort, an automatic method of preventing the spread of viruses is desirable.

5) **Using GateKeeper to Prevent Viruses.**
    a) GateKeeper, by Chris Johnson, is also a Control Panel Document. The current version is 1.1.1, dated June 26, 1989, and is much easier to configure than version 1.1. Using GateKeeper requires some study on the part of the user, but should result in a more rigorously defended system.
    b) Before installing GateKeeper, make sure your system is free of viruses (see instruction 3 above), or your computer may not be able to start. You should also carefully read the GateKeeper Introduction and the GateKeeper Release Notes documents, which come with GateKeeper in MacWrite format and are therefore readable in most Macintosh word processing programs.
    c) To use GateKeeper, just copy it into your System Folder and restart your computer. Upon restarting GateKeeper will warn you that it is in "Notify Only" mode.
    d) To put GateKeeper to work, you must select Control Panel from the Apple menu, then select the GateKeeper icon on the Control Panel. You will then see the screen in Figure 2. Click on the Info-Settings switch in the top right corner to get to the screen in Figure 3. Click on the "Notify & Veto" radio button to turn on GateKeeper's defenses.

Figure 2: Gatekeeper Info Controls

Figure 3: Gatekeeper Settings Controls

6) **Using GateKeeper Aid to Prevent WDEF Virus.**
    a) GateKeeper Aid is a companion program for GateKeeper. It too was written by Chris Johnson, but is a Startup Document. The current version is 1.0.1, dated December 21, 1989.
    b) Unlike GateKeeper, GateKeeper Aid requires little effort -- simply drop it into your System Folder and restart your computer.   You are now defended against the WDEF virus.

7) **If GateKeeper Detects a Virus**, return to Step 3) to remove it.

8) **Join a Macintosh Users' Group** so you can keep abreast of virus developments. This is important, because new viruses will appear that manage to circumvent the safeguards above.