I've named my virus—now what do I win?!
August 2006

I've always wondered what goes through the minds of those dastardly evil-doers that are responsible for creating computer viruses. I mean, you have to have some kind of objective in mind for what your virus will be designed to do once you unleash it upon the poor unsuspecting world…wouldn't you?

Once created and tested, you then have to christen it with some sort of name…probably something you feel would be devilishly clever, or perhaps ominous, foreboding and threatening in some way…or maybe even just some inside-joke name that you think is just funny as hell.

Out of curiosity, I started looking up the names of existing viruses to see what's already out there.

Now, I'm not doing this for inspiration or anything, you understand. I'll just come right out and admit that I'm not clever enough to develop a computer virus myself. See, I have a pretty good touch when it comes to PCs, servers and networks, but I feel like I know *less* than nothing when it comes to programming. And to create most any kind of computer virus, you need to have a fairly advanced understanding of, and no small amount of experience with, programming.

OK, now that we all agree that I have no future in masterminding any killer viruses—or even just clever annoying ones—let's take a look at some of the kooky virus names that other evil-doers have already come up with.

First off, let's check out the category of death/destruction/world obliteration names, perhaps otherwise known as "intended result of my virus" names:

Anarchy, annihilator, Armageddon, atomic, cancer, chaos, crash, creeper, demon, destructor, doomsday, explosion, flame, hacker, hellfire, Hiroshima, hysteria, leprosy, lethal, lightning, Mr. Virus, Lucifer, malaria, marauder, massacre, mayhem, megadeath, monster, morbid, murderer, zapper, nightmare, no_hope, ominous, oops, overkill pandemonium, parasite, pincher, plague, pollute, predator, prophecy, problem, punisher, quake, radiation, rape, rash, red_alert, retaliator, retribution, revenge, saboteur, satan, shark, slash, slaughter, shrapnel, spawn, spooky, squisher, stalker, stealth, superhacker, surrender, terminator, terror, timebomb, TotalChaos, twister, typhoon, vandal, voodoo and warlock.

Viruses named after emotions or states of mind:

Angry393, attitude, dumb.192, happy, horror, L'amour, lewd, lust, mad, naughty, obnoxious, pain, pretentious, rage, relax, sarcasm, silly, sorry, stoned, surprise, tease, thriller, timid, trance, unashamed, undesirable, unhappy, unruly, wonder, and lazy.

Here's a category of virus names that describes exactly what a virus is not:

BetterWorld, birthday, best_wishes, beard, butterfly, finger_joke, flower, freedom, friend, gift, girl, heal-the-world, HappyMonday, hooters, hymn, justice, lover, lucky, macaroni,

magic, mocha, Monte_Carlo, moonlight, NiceDay_Trojan, paradise, peacekeeper, pretty, preacher, rainbow, rescue, shiny, simple, smile, Thanksgiving, and welcome.

Viruses named after people or characters—and who can even guess what it is that this class of viruses is even capable of:

Batman, beavis, commando, criminal, dark_avenger, darth_vader, desperado, devil, dictator, Dracula, Elvis.1584, Frankenstein, freddy_krueger, Gates, ghost, Godzilla, grog, harlot, Hitchcock, hippie, joker, kinneson, Lenin, Linda, larry, lillith, dick.1242, loreen, loren, MacGyver, Mario, Mathew, merlin, Melissa, Michael, miss crump, Morrison, mummy, Murphy, nelson, ninja, nobody, nympho, Olivia, otto, ozzy, peter, phil, pirate, ratboy, sandy, Sophia, Sylvia, The Fly, tiffany, tina, tony, TRex, vampire, Victor, Viking, virgin, Vulcan, wally, wanderer, warrior, weirdo, werewolf, Wilbur, WillyWonka, wizard, Yo-Momma, and Zues.

I'd hate like hell to discover an infestation of "Yo-Momma" on my computer, wouldn't you?! Now, here is a group of viruses with names probably describing what you'll think of the **#$!%&!** who designed the virus that just laid waste your computer:

Amoeba, backdoor.assassin, bad_boy, bastard, beast, bleah, cow, critter, cybercide, die, fatty, feelbad, fraud, freek, geek, gimp, guerilla, harm, Hey_You, hideous, ignorant, KillMe, lame, leach, LittleDevil, lobotomy, mosquito, mutant, nazi, nipple, nutcracker, orifice, ox, poison, possessed, python, premature_burial, Red Devil, renegade, ringworm, salamander, scoundrel, scream, slug, snake, stinkfoot, Stupid.Saddam, SuperWorm, swine, termite, trash, twisted, ugly, vulture, and weasel.

Again, I'd have to say that it would be just plain embarrassing to be leaning over the water cooler at work some Monday morning, moaning to your co-workers about how your PC had been overrun with the "Nipple" virus over the weekend.

There are, of course, many, many more viruses than I've listed here…some 65,000 of them, in fact. But the ones I've categorized here are some of the more interesting names. There are plenty of them with names that have little or no meaning, so I've naturally left those out.

However you choose to categorize these often amusingly named viruses, there's no getting around the fact that they are a giant pain in the caboose, and that they've given rise to an entire anti-virus software industry. Thanks to these jerks that apparently have nothing better to do with their time, we can all look forward to an eternal battle between the virus jerks and the saintly anti-virus sleuths that endeavor to stay one step ahead of them.

Makes you just wonder if these people sit around at create-a-virus jerk parties sipping soda pop and handing out boobie prizes to whichever of them comes up with the best name for their nasty creations…I can just hear it now:

"Whooo Hooo! I've named my virus—now what do I win?!"