'e Scan

Anti-Virus

Why we need security for Mac?

'e Scan™
Anti-Virus Security for
Mac
Mac

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Historically, the Mac OS has only seen a limited number of users. Reason being - not only was it expensive but the number of applications built around the Mac were also limited as compared to Windows - which is by far the highest targeted operating system within the hacking or underground community. And why wouldn't it be. With a user base of approximately 85% Windows is the most profitable company for both hackers and businesses.

As far as Apple is concerned, the company witnessed a major turn in events between 2007 and 2010. The successful launch of the iPod, iPhone and iPad catapulted Apple into the most popular and desired brand. Since then each release has churned in high profits levels for the company. Having said that, with the drop in prices and with more options being made available to users, products from Apple are becoming the most sought after. Consumers are now using the Mac OS based products for both work and leisure.

With the rise in popularity, hackers have now turned their attention to the once overlooked audience. Thousands of malicious codes are discovered each day and threats are specifically being made to target Mac users – making it important to deploy a security solution for Macs.

The Impenetrable Myth

The one major issue with most Mac users is that they think their machines are impervious to malware. The point to note here is that the Mac operating system is no more haunted by a small user base. Over the years this base has almost tripled boosting its market share to almost 20%. Unsurprisingly, this has also drawn a lot of attention within the underground community. This basically means just two things: Antivirus software is now a necessity for Mac users and the Macs impenetrability is a myth.

Mac Malware

Social engineering is by far one of the most used techniques in infecting unsuspecting users. Take the example of the recent **Flashback Trojan.** With over 700,000 Macs infected – the flashback Trojan is the most versatile and successful malware built to infect the Mac operating system, forming a botnet that includes 274 bots located in Cupertino, California (location where Apple themselves were headquartered). More than 57% of infected computers were located in the US, 20% in Canada, 13% in the UK and 6% in Australia.

There have also been instances where rogue programs such as the **Mac Defender** have caught users unaware. Much like the rogue programs built for Windows, the Mac defender also grabbed the users attention by warning them of a potential infection.

The growing popularity of Apple products has also made way for **Multi-Platform Malware**. This new strain comes with the

capability of detecting the type of operating system the target machine is running before injecting it with the appropriate code. When a victim loads the malicious **Java Applet**, it breaks the Java Applet sandbox by using the **CVE-2012-0507** vulnerability. This particular vulnerability is present on both Mac and Windows operating system. It then downloads a malware dropper written in **Python** if a Mac operating system is detected. If the system it runs on is detected as Windows, it will then download a standard executable file dropper. Both however install a Trojan horse which opens a backdoor on the infected machine.

Multi-platform based malware is nothing new. Such a strain comes by as a perk for malware writers as this saves a lot of time and resources especially when the need is to compromise multiple operating systems.

The Need for Security

There are certain security measures that need to be implemented to protect both Windows based users and Mac based users. It is critical for users and employees to be aware of the dangers of getting infected by malware. Know the types of malware that are currently in the news. This will help you better understand the overall trend in malware distribution. While educating yourself about the latest trend in malware plays a major role, it is equally important to have an effective antivirus installed.
Here is what you need to look out for when deciding on an Antivirus:
Make sure the Antivirus features a high quality scanner along with active monitoring and protection technologies – these are a must have for any Mac product as of now.

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About eScan

eScan the world's first Real-time Anti-Virus and Content Security software for desktops/servers and is developed and marketed by MicroWorld. It is powered by innovative and futuristic technologies, such as MWL technology, DIRC technology, NILP technology, and sophisticated Anti-Virus Heuristic Algorithms that not only provides protection from current threats, but also provides proactive protection against evolving threats. eScan provides 24x7 free remote support facility, integrated in the software to help customers to get their malware related issues resolved in the fastest possible time-frame. It has achieved several certifications and awards from some of the most prestigious testing bodies, notable among them being Virus Bulletin, AV-Comparatives, West Coast Labs (Checkmark), ICSA, and PCSL labs. Combining the power of various technologies, eScan provides Multilevel Real-time Protection to Computers and Networks.

For more information, visit www.escanav.com

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