

# The Arkansas Cyber Defense Center

## Malware

Malware is any type of malicious software. Examples include viruses, spyware, worms, Trojans, or even ransomware. Malware is usually installed onto a victim's computer through a malicious link, malicious website, infected USB or other storage devices, or by disguising itself as a legitimate program.

### Types of malware:

Virus: A type of malware that will replicate itself and spread itself to other connected devices.

Ransomware: A type of malware that will block access to the files on your computer usually by encrypting them until a ransom is paid.

Worm: A type of malware that is very similar to a virus but does not need to attach itself to a different program in order to execute.

Trojan: A type of malware that disguises itself as a legitimate program or file.

Spyware: A type of malware that is used to spy on and gather information about the victim.

Adware: A type of malware that displays ads on your device.

### Red flags:

- Device frequently freezes or crashes
- Your files are unexpectedly being deleted or modified
- Unknown programs or files appear on your device
- Apps or programs run or stop without your input
- Your security settings change without your consent
- Default search engine changes without your consent
- Your camera activates without your permission
- New toolbars appear in your web browser
- Links redirect you to the wrong pages
- Your default search engine suddenly changes without your permission
- Strange emails or other forms of messages are being sent to your contacts without your consent

