

Why do People Create Computer Viruses?

As a computer technician, my clients frequently ask me "*Why do people create computer viruses?*", especially after I have been called out to remove a virus from their computer. This is what I tell them.

There are hundreds of thousands of viruses out there (if not millions) and they often designed for different objectives. Most of them fall under the following categories:

- To take control of a computer and use it for specific tasks
- To generate money
- To steal sensitive information (credit card numbers, passwords, personal details, data etc.)
- To prove a point, to prove it can be done, to prove ones skill or for revenge purposes
- To cripple a computer or network

What is a Computer Virus?

A computer virus is a computer program that can copy itself and infect a computer.