

March's awareness quiz

The challenge

1. Aside from malware (**malicious software**), what other kinds of “wares” are there? Get creative!

Malware

Software

2. Which of those “wares” could be used to infiltrate, compromise or exploit an organization? Think of realistic incidents or scenarios in which this has happened or might occur and scribble brief notes about them on your list.

Model answer

Note: this is not a definitive or comprehensive answer, merely a way to get the discussion going. Ask members of the audience to call out the most interesting or unusual item on their list, and outline the associated security incident. No need to be too intense - enjoy the tangents and laughs, live the moment.

“Wares” include:

- Abandonware – software long since given up on by its author
- Adware – software that pops up annoying advertisements for things that won’t pop up
- Beggarware – software that periodically *begs* the user for money for tea
- Bloatware – software that used to be slim and svelte until it reached middle-age
- Blubberware – software that is either so beautiful or so ugly that it makes you cry
- Coarseware – software for swearing
- Courseware – software for training
- Crimeware – software used by criminals for their nefarious purposes
- Crippleware – software that struggles to do what you want it to do
- Firmware – harder than software but softer than hardware
- Freeware – software with no strings attached, well no price tag at least
- Glassware – transparent but fragile software, prone to being shattered
- Hardware – computer equipment, nuts n bolts, bits n bobs
- Houseware – IT stuff at home: media centers, games consoles
- Malware – malicious software: viruses, worms, Trojans, APTs and so forth
- Middleware – a layer between hard, firm and software
- Playware – entertaining programs
- Ransomware – malware used to extort victims into paying a ransom
- Shareware – software shared among evaluators, cheapskates, skinflints and pirates
- Sneakerware – software delivered by marathon runners
- Software – cuddly computer programs
- Spyware – snoopy or spooky software
- Tupperware – branded plastic containers carrying lunch snacks
- Underware – unmentionable programs
- Vaporware – exciting new program, announced ...but not yet actually available ...
- Wetware – human beings (we’re mostly water)
- Workware – software use by one’s employer

Further information

Browse the intranet *Security Zone* for more on malware, or check [Your Dictionary](#) for even more obscure “wares”.