

The Computer Virus Contest

Contest Rules

Background:

For pure processing cycles, computer viruses are some of the fastest distributed programs we know of, but unfortunately, many of them are malicious! In an effort to redirect the work of the world's computer virus writers toward beneficial applications, this annual prize provides financial motive to writing safe and beneficial viruses, recognizes the efforts of innovative virus writers in a positive and public way, and provide a legitimate venue for expressing the virus writer's intellect.

The computer virus contest is operated on a strictly non-profit basis, with all contest prizes donated by interested parties and given directly to the contestants, and all expenses of operating the contest donated by ASP.

All contest submissions are also made available for licensing to any interested party (including ASP), subject to the approval of terms and conditions by the virus writer. Many of the submissions will be published in an annual contest book published by ASP, and be made available to all contest entrants free of charge (shipping paid by contestant).

Submissions:

All submissions must be sent on PC compatible floppy disks (3.5 inch or 5.25 inch, 360K, 720K, 1.2M, or 1.4M standard IBM PC format, English ascii text only files), and arrive at the address specified herein on or before the closing date of the contest. Late entries will be automatically placed in submission for next year's contest.

The deadline for submissions for the 1991 prize will be November 10, 1991 (the anniversary of the first demonstrated experiment showing the security implications of computer viruses), and the prize will be awarded on December 22, 1991 (the anniversary of the first widespread mainframe virus).

To be eligible for a prize, contestants must write and test their viruses ONLY on systems where the viruses are permitted by the systems administrator, must provide the means for their easy removal from affected systems, and must submit adequately commented source code for the viruses and documentation describing the story of how and why they were designed, information about the author, what they do, and how they operate. Only material contained on the submitted floppy disk will be considered in the contest. In order to assure the anonymity of virus writers relative to the judging process, we ask that all names, addresses, and other personal information be placed in one file on the disk. All entries should include a copyright notice of the form:

Copyright (c), 1991, [Author's Name Here] - All Rights Reserved

All submissions must be in English, and include instructions on how to compile, assemble, load, or otherwise convert the source code into any other appropriate form. To be considered for the contest, viruses must meet the formal definition as specified in "Computer Viruses" (Dr. Frederick B. Cohen's PhD Dissertation, available for US\$48 through ASP Press, 1986 - also in "Computers and Security" IFIP TC11 journal "Computational Aspects of Computer Viruses" F. Cohen, 1989). This definition is quite broad, and includes most of the well known viruses, all self-replicating programs, and many other sorts of evolutionary systems.

All entries must be accompanied by a signed and dated copy of this form. Pay particular attention to the details of this form, which state (in legal language) that you are the author of the work, that you have followed all of the rules of the contest, that you agree to the rules of the contest and the judgement of the judges, that your work may be included in the contest volume free of royalties, that you will consider reasonable offers to license your work, that you have provided your true name and address, that you have not violated any laws in preparing or entering your submission, and that this contest is governed by US law.

Special recognition may be given for viruses the judges consider worthy of note. For example, the smallest virus, the most efficient virus, the most portable virus, etc. may, at the sole discretion of the judges, be given special prizes.

Submissions will be accepted for all types of computers, and prizes will be awarded based on the evaluation of judges from all parts of the computer industry, but please note that we may be unable to find suitable judges or test facilities for some hardware/software configurations, and this may impact our judgements.

The annual prize will be provided through licensing fees and donations of public spirited computer companies and people interested in parallel processing applications of computer viruses and techniques for virus propagation and control. Dr. Cohen, widely recognized as the "father" of computer virus theory and defenses, has generously provided a seed fund of US\$1,000 towards this year's contest.

Legalities:

ASP bears no responsibility for the submissions to the contest. The safe arrival of submissions is the sole responsibility of the contestant, and ASP has no obligation to return or otherwise handle any submission.

The contest will be judged by judges selected at the sole discretion of ASP, and the decisions of the judges are final. Any or all parts of the prize monies may be split among contestants or given to a single contestant as seen fit by the judges.

All monies donated for prizes will be awarded to contestants, and all expenses for the operation of the contest will be borne by ASP. In exchange, ASP will have the right, at its sole discretion, to publish entries in its annual contest volume. By submitting material to the contest, you grant ASP the unlimited, non-exclusive, royalty-free right to copy, publish, reproduce, and sell copies of any or all submitted material for this purpose.

Wherever suitable, ASP will provide information to potential licensees in an attempt to assist the authors in licensing material. If desired by the contestant, ASP will act as an intermediary in the licensing process; otherwise, ASP will provide potential licensees with the contact information provided by the contestant and leave the process to them.

All contestants declare and proclaim that they are the sole and exclusive authors of all works submitted to the contest, that they own and hold all rights to the works, and that they authorize its use for the purposes described herein.

All contestants declare and proclaim that they have followed all of the rules of this contest, especially including, but not limited to, the rules regarding the development and testing of their viruses, the authorship of their viruses, the legality of their submissions, the ownership and rights to the material, and your name and address.

All contestants agree to all of the terms and conditions of this contest, including the rules regarding the judgement of the judges, the contest prizes, and the licensing of works.

This contest is held and governed under the laws of the Allegheny County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the United States of America, and all matters thereto relating are subject to the sole jurisdiction, applicable laws, and rules thereof.

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