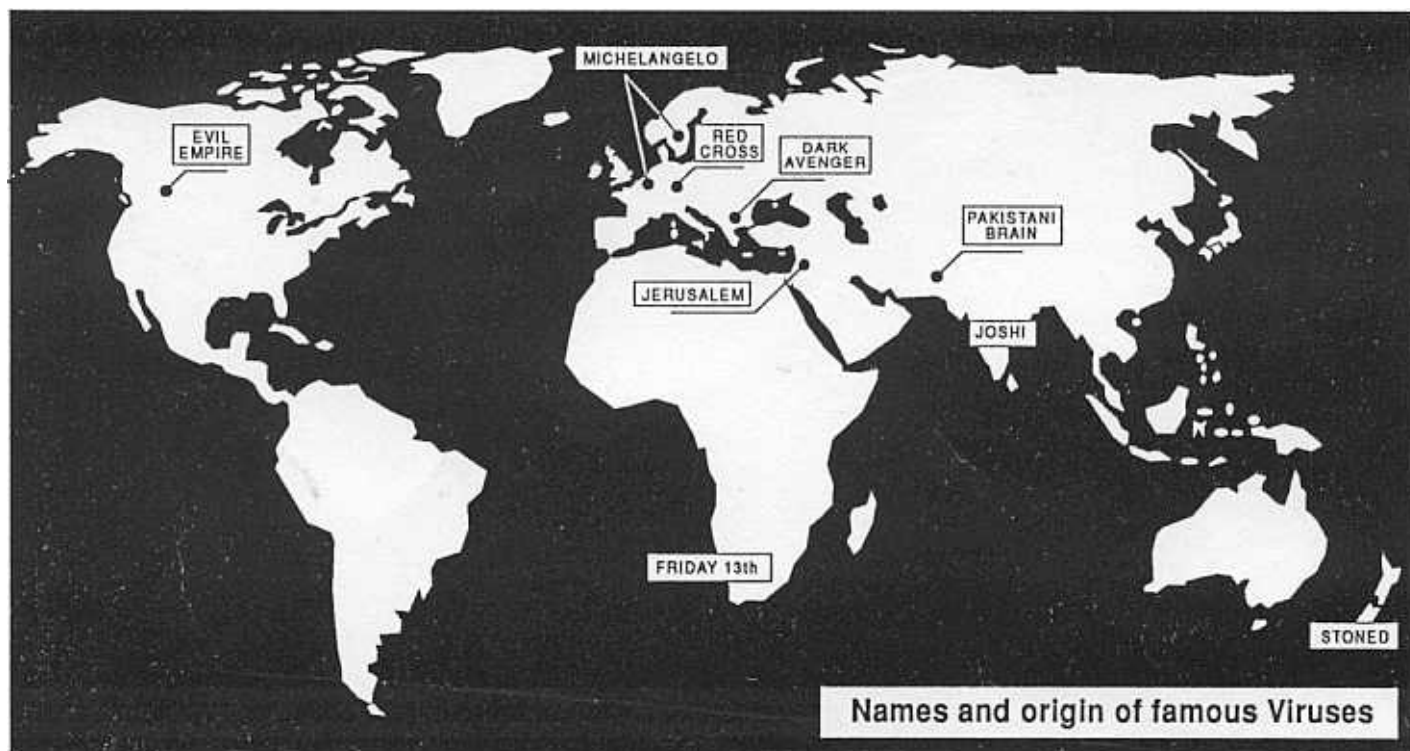


Computer viruses come from all over the globe. Wherever PC computers combine with technical ability and malicious intent, computer virus programs are written. Bulgaria is the computer virus capital of the world. There, a population of well-trained, socially disgruntled and chronically underemployed computer programmers organize themselves. Through a network of underground computer Bulletin Board Systems — BBSes — they program, transmit and distribute viruses. Viruses travel fast. Through infected boot sectors on infected diskettes and infected files transmitted by diskette and modem transfer they spread across the world. When vandals deliberately strive to spread them their spread is even faster.

## WHO CREATES COMPUTER VIRUSES ?



### VIRULENT VIRUS VILLAINS

Here is a short list of the most common PC computer viruses in the world. These three, all boot sector viruses, account for at least 90 % of all PC virus infections. Learn to recognize these and you will be equipped to deal with most attacks.

#### Stoned virus

Boot sector virus - very common

Aliases : Stoned-B, Sex Revolution, Marijuana, Hawaii, etc.

Size : 512 bytes

Method of infection: The Stoned virus stores itself on a disk's original boot sector track, moving the original boot sector track to another area.

Symptoms: When the virus attacks your screen displays the message "Your computer is stoned" or "legalize marijuana". Your computer slows down by about one third. It's easy for a hacker to modify the message so different messages may be displayed.

Damage: Directory and file allocation table (FAT) damage.

Notes: Stoned is easy to modify so it has many variants. The first version was obviously a prank. Some variants are far more destructive.

#### Ping-pong virus

Boot sector virus - common

Aliases : Bouncing Ball Boot, Bouncing Dot, Italian virus.

Size : 1 024 bytes

Method of infection: Ping-pong installs memory-resident when an infected disk boots, hiding in upper Ram above the 64 K barrier.

Symptoms: Before an attack BIOS will report that upper RAM is reduced by 2K. When the virus attacks, a bouncing ball displays on your screen.

Damage: Upper RAM reduced by 2 K and 1 K of bad sectors on infected disks.

#### Brain Virus

Boot sector virus - common

Aliases : Pakistani, Pakistan Brain

Size : 3 072 bytes

Symptoms: Extended boot time, message in disk boot sector: "to all the viruses that are no longer with us." Disk volume label may change to "(c) Brain".

Notes: Brain, originating in Lahore, Pakistan in 1986, was the first boot sector virus discovered. It is very