# A Study on the Key Applications of Malware

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**Abstract**: *Malware, a portmanteau of "malicious software," represents a significant threat in today's interconnected digital landscape. This abstract explores the multifaceted impacts of malware applications on individuals, organizations, and society at large. Types of malware include computer viruses, worms, Trojan horses, ransomware and spyware. These malicious programs steal, encrypt and delete sensitive data; alter or hijack core computing functions; and monitor end users' computer activity. malware jeopardizes individual privacy and security by surreptitiously infiltrating personal devices, often leading to identity theft, financial loss, and unauthorized access to sensitive information. Beyond personal repercussions, malware poses substantial risks to organizational integrity. It can compromise corporate networks, disrupt operations, and inflict substantial financial losses through data breaches, ransomware attacks, and intellectual property theft.*

**Keywords:** computer viruses, worms, Trojan horses, ransom ware , privacy, security and spyware