



# Tech Info Library

## Viruses Rarely Spread Between Different Machine Types

This article last reviewed: 29 August 1989

TOPIC -----

Can an infected Macintosh on a network spread a virus to an IBM host?

DISCUSSION -----

A virus rarely spreads between different machine types. (A rare occurrence of this was the virus that infected thousands of UNIX systems through a hole in the mail system. This was possible since the virus actually recompiled itself on each of these machines. Even so, it would not have been possible across operating systems.)

Thus, there should be no way for a virus on a Macintosh to spread to an IBM host. The host would need to be executing 680x0-based code and using all of the basic mechanisms of the Macintosh operating system.

It IS possible, if the host is being used as a file server, for files to become infected. These files still would affect only Macintoshes connected to the host, not the host itself.

Copyright 1989 Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: <None>

=====

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 4416