

Cybersecurity Milestones and Origins

Cybersecurity History · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. What was the name of the first self-replicating program, created by Bob Thomas in 1971, that moved across ARPANET?

- A) Creeper
- B) Elk Cloner
- C) Brain
- D) Morris Worm

2. Which program, written by Rich Skrenta in 1982 for Apple II computers, is widely considered the first computer virus to spread in the wild?

- A) Creeper
- B) Elk Cloner
- C) Stuxnet
- D) ILOVEYOU

3. Who is credited with inventing the concept of the firewall in the late 1980s while working at Digital Equipment Corporation?

- A) Whitfield Diffie
- B) Marcus Ranum
- C) Ken Thompson
- D) Vint Cerf

4. Which company released the first commercial antivirus software, 'V-2000', in 1987?

- A) McAfee
- B) Symantec
- C) G Data Software
- D) Norton

5. In 1976, which two researchers published 'New Directions in Cryptography', introducing the concept of public-key cryptography?

- A) Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman
- B) Diffie and Hellman
- C) Shannon and Turing
- D) Cerf and Kahn

6. What was the first computer worm to cause significant, widespread damage across the internet in 1988?

- A) Code Red
- B) Morris Worm
- C) Nimda
- D) Melissa

7. Which cryptographic algorithm, developed by IBM in the 1970s and adopted as a federal standard in 1977, stands for Data Encryption Standard?

- A) AES
- B) DES
- C) RSA
- D) ECC

8. The first spam email was sent over ARPANET in 1978 by Gary Thuerk; what product was he advertising?

- A) Digital Equipment Corporation computers
- B) Insurance policies
- C) Unsolicited medical supplements
- D) Online gambling

9. In 1999, the 'Melissa' virus made history as one of the first mass-mailing macro viruses; what format did it primarily use to spread?

- A) PDF documents
- B) Microsoft Word documents
- C) JPEG images
- D) Executable .exe files

10. What is the name of the first publicly recognized 'botnet' discovered in the late 1990s, used primarily for IRC-based attacks?

- A) Zeus
- B) Sub7
- C) GTbot
- D) Storm

11. What was the name of the first major malware designed specifically to target industrial control systems, discovered in 2010?

- A) Stuxnet
- B) Duqu
- C) Flame
- D) Gauss

12. In 1991, Philip Zimmermann released which encryption software, which became the standard for secure email communication?

- A) SSL
- B) PGP
- C) TLS
- D) SSH

13. The 'Brain' virus, discovered in 1986, is notable for being the first computer virus to target which operating system?

- A) MS-DOS
- B) Unix
- C) MacOS
- D) Linux

14. Which company developed 'SSL' (Secure Sockets Layer) in 1994 to enable secure transactions on the internet?

- A) Microsoft
- B) Netscape
- C) Oracle
- D) Sun Microsystems

15. What was the first commercial 'Antivirus' software marketed specifically to personal computer users by John McAfee in 1987?

- A) McAfee VirusScan
- B) Norton Antivirus
- C) Dr. Solomon's
- D) F-Secure

16. The concept of 'Computer Security' was formally addressed in 1970 with the release of the 'Ware Report', commissioned by which organization?

- A) NSA
- B) The US Air Force
- C) Microsoft
- D) CERN

17. Which common web security protocol was first introduced as an experimental browser feature in 1995 to replace the insecure 'telnet'?

- A) SSH
- B) FTP
- C) HTTP
- D) Gopher

18. In 2000, the 'ILOVEYOU' worm caused massive disruption globally; how did it propagate?

- A) Via network vulnerabilities
- B) Through email attachments
- C) By exploiting browser bugs
- D) Via physical USB drives