

## **LESSON 177**

### **VIRUS ATTACK - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

There are several good "anti-virus" programs available. Both Symantec (Norton) and McAfee anti-virus programs can protect you from known virus programs. The problem is that several hundred virus programs are released each week. Unless your anti-virus program's virus list is current, an unlisted virus can still attack you.

The latest virus is the SIRCAM worm. It arrives as an e-mail attachment. If you open the attachment, SIRCAM sticks itself in more than one folder in Windows, it makes changes to the Windows Registry file and it can even reside in your Recycle Bin folder. It will e-mail itself out to everyone in your Address Book if you are using Outlook or Outlook Express as your e-mail program. Finally, on October 16th, it will cause problems ranging from a major slowdown in your system to deleting all the files on your hard drive.

#### **THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO WATCH FOR TO AVOID SIRCAM.**

The body of the e-mail with the SIRCAM attachment will always include "Hi, how are you?" as the first sentence "See you later, thanks" as the last sentence, or both.

The e-mail may say one of the following:

**"I send you this file in order to have your advice"**

**"I hope you can help me with this file that I send you"**

**"I hope you like that file that I send you"**

**"this is the file with the information you asked for"**

The attachments can be Sirc23.exe or Tech Specs & Financials.doc.com.

If an e-mail contains any of this language, DON'T OPEN IT. Delete it right away. Remember, "don't talk to strangers"? Now it's "don't open e-mails from strangers or people from whom you weren't expecting an attachment."

