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writer of virus detector-killer programs.

According to *Popular Science*, "Falling Tears" was first discovered in the Soviet Union. It makes all the letters on a word processor screen fall into a pile. Another virus, discovered in Britain, replaced whatever was on the screen with an image of a front-loader washing machine.

These viruses infect IBM PCs and compatibles, but the Macintosh has also been a popular cyberpunk target, said Michael Moore, an Apple computer sales representative.

"There are a number of viruses — a few nasty ones — released in the Macintosh community," Moore said, adding that most area Macintosh owners have contracted one at one time or another.

Moore said most viruses have been tracked to their source because cyberpunks "are so conceited that they leave hints about who they are in the program code."

McAfee has published lists naming viruses, their origin and what they do. A few of them, from *Popular Science*, are:

"Lehigh," which originated at Lehigh University in 1987 affects IBM PCs and compatibles. It acts quickly and destroys all data.

"Scores," from Electronic Data Systems of Dallas in 1987, affects Macintoshes by making many copies of itself, slowing them and causing printing

problems.

"nVir," from Hamburg, West Germany in 1987, affects Macintoshes by erasing all files. Many variations exist.

"Alameda," from Merrit College in Oakland, California in 1988, infects IBM PCs and compatibles and destroys all data.

"Israeli" or "Friday 13th," from Hebrew University, Jerusalem in 1987, slows systems and erases programs when the computer's calendar reads Friday the 13th.

Cyberpunks are a threat to any computer owner but vendors like Bolkan and Moore are particularly livid.

"The worst thing about viruses is that they cause people to isolate their computers rather than communicate with them," Bolkan said. "They're crippling computer use with fear."

Bolkan and Moore said the remedy is to buy or get one of the many anti-virus programs on the market.

Moore said his store sells a commercial program for \$99.95 but he recommended Disinfectant, by John Norstad of Northwestern University, or Virus RX by Apple, both of which are "freeware" (the programmers release them free of charge.)

Moore, of The Computer Store at 61 W. Eighth Ave., said his store will give free copies to customers who bring in a floppy disk.

Bolkan said there are so many free anti-virus programs

available on computer bulletin boards and in computer magazines for IBM PCs and compatibles that Adept Computer Services in Eugene, where he works, does not sell them.

Compute's PC magazine recently released free disks with Viruscan, by McAfee, as a subscription lure.

It will scan a system for viruses and destroy any it finds.

Computer owners can write to McAfee at 4423 Cheeny St., Santa Clara, CA 95054 for a copy or information (there is a \$25 registration fee.)

According to *Compute's PC*, IBM offers a similar product and McAfee trades notes with them about the most recently discovered viruses.

Another IBM-compatible anti-virus program, Flu-Shot by Ross M. Greenberg, is available for \$2 from PC SIG, 1030D E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA, 94086.

But do not get Flu-Shot4, according to *Popular Science*, because it is itself a virus. It was available on many computer bulletin boards in 1988 and many people were deceived.

Bolkan and Moore agreed that the free virus programs are best because the programmer's motivation is to protect the industry's reputation. The programs are thorough and, because they do not take time to create fancy packaging and menus, they are released more quickly in response to new viruses than the commercial versions.

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