

The Computer Virus IR Protection Program

By the early 2000s, computer viruses were running rampant throughout the country, and everyone who knew anything had virus protection installed on their PCs, both at work and at home. It was also the early days of using IR signals to synchronize different modules and electronic components. (By placing one specialized component next to another, they would synchronize their data automatically.) Anyway, on one particularly boring evening, I started thinking about how these two events (PC viruses and IR synching) could be combined to form one rather improbable and hysterical event.

So on the bulletin board outside the cafeteria in Building 845, I posted a sign warning people about the newest computer threat; the IR-transmitted PC Virus that was starting to make the rounds across the country. Since I had to blame the virus on someone, I think I blamed it on a mysterious Russian hacker named Boris Slovekomynski, or something like that. But regardless, the sign advertised the fact that once this virus got loose inside Building 845, it would be ruthlessly transmitted between PCs by IR signals, bouncing off the interior walls of 845 into more and more computers until every one was infected. And the only way to protect your PC was to cover it with a PC condom. Yup...a PC condom.

Naturally, the “PC condom” was nothing more than a thin clear trash bag, which our night-time cleaning woman happily donated to the cause. A healthy supply of these was tacked up to the bulletin board below the sign in the hopes that folks would start using these to cover their computers at night, thus protecting them from those nasty IR-transmitted viruses. And surprisingly, a number of the bags did vanish in the first two days that they were up there, possibly for use as trash bags or other more mundane purposes. But regardless, by the end of that week, it was all removed from the bulletin board and deposited in the “circular file,” probably by the System Administrator who failed to see the humor in the act.

In summary, not a single PC caught an IR-based virus while those PC condoms were available. I never even claimed credit for saving the day.