

## Trojan Horses: Don't Let Your Guard Down!

Perhaps two of the world's most famous pieces of literature are Homer's *Iliad* & the *Odyssey*, which tell the story of the forbidden love between Prince Paris of Troy and Queen Helen of Sparta. Their romance sparked the Trojan War, in which Greek armies invaded Troy and used a "Trojan Horse" to sneak inside the city's fortress.

Trojan Horse has since become synonymous with any trick or strategy that unknowingly causes a target to invite an adversary into a securely protected place. In cybersecurity, Trojan Horses are malicious computer programs that deceive end users into voluntarily activating them by being hidden within a trusted and seemingly legitimate program.



Once executed, the malware in the "trusted" program acts as a backdoor into your system through which nefarious actors can penetrate and wreak havoc on a computer or network, called a payload. Some of the most obvious symptoms to look for if you think you've been infected with a Trojan Horse are no different than other malicious software: poor performance, a slow-running computer that crashes often, programs running or executing on their own, and increased pop-ups and email spam.

The best way to protect against Trojan Horse attacks is to comply with the following cybersecurity best practices:

1. **Never initiate a download** or install anything from a source you do not trust. It is always better to be safe than sorry. If you are unsure about the source, please use tools like the [Talos Intelligence Reputation Center](#), or contact DCH's Cybersecurity team at [dchois@dch.ga.gov](mailto:dchois@dch.ga.gov).
2. **Never open an attachment** sent via email from someone you do not know. If you suspect an email you received is malicious, please use "[PhishAlarm](#)" in Microsoft Outlook or contact the Cybersecurity team.
3. **Make sure your computer is up to date** with the latest security patches. These are pushed monthly at a minimum. DCH employees must visit the office or utilize Pulse Secure VPN while working from home to obtain them.

Remember, cybersecurity is a team sport, and by following these simple steps and "keeping our gates closed," you can, unlike the city of Troy, help keep us safe and secure.