

## E-Mail Virus - New Electronic Gadgets Can Contain Viruses

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You've heard about computer viruses that invade your computer via e-mails or pop-up ads. But now damaging viruses are showing up inside electronic gadgets shipped straight from manufacturers. Consumers are reporting that new products they've purchased, such as digital picture frames and GPS navigation systems, contained viruses that spread to their computers via USB cable. These viruses can steal passwords, open doors for hackers, and make computers spew spam.

How does it happen? Industry experts aren't sure yet, since manufacturers are keeping detailed information confidential. However, it appears that the occurrences may be accidental, taking place in the final stages of production after the electronics come off Chinese assembly lines. For instance, if employees unwittingly use their own infected devices with a computer at the plant and the same computer is used later to test electronics, those newly made products could become contaminated.

You can protect against most factory-loaded viruses on electronics by running an antivirus program on your computer and keeping it up to date. This software checks for known viruses and suspicious behaviors that indicate an attack by malicious code, whether from a download or a gadget attached to your computer. For additional information on how to protect your computer, visit [www.microsoft.com/protect/computer/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/protect/computer/default.aspx).