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	TITLE	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING A COMPUTER FROM HOSTILE DOWNLOADABLES			
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PATENT

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING A COMPUTER FROM HOSTILE

DOWNLOADABLES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to computer networks, and more particularly to a system and method for protecting computers from hostile Downloadables.

10 2. Description of the Background Art

The Internet is a collection of currently over 100,000 individual computer networks owned by governments, universities, nonprofit groups and companies, and is expanding at an accelerating rate. Because the Internet is public, the Internet has become a major source of many system damaging and system fatal application programs, commonly referred to as "viruses."

Accordingly, programmers continue to design computer security systems for blocking these viruses from attacking both individual and network computers. On the most part, these security systems have been relatively successful. However, these security systems are not configured to recognize computer viruses which have been attached to Downloadable application programs,

commonly referred to as “applets” or “Downloadables.” A
Downloadable is an executable application program which is
automatically downloaded from a source computer and run on the
destination computer. Examples of Downloadables include applets
5 designed for use in the Java™ distributing environment produced by
Sun Microsystems or for use in the Active X distributing
environment produced by Microsoft Corporation. Therefore, a
system and method are needed to protect computers from viruses
attached to these Downloadables.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a system for protecting a computer from hostile Downloadables. The system comprises an interface for receiving a Downloadable, a first memory portion
5 storing security policies and a second memory portion storing known hostile Downloadables. The system further comprises a first comparator, coupled to the interface and to the first memory portion, for discarding the received Downloadable when it matches one of the known hostile Downloadables. The system further comprises a
10 second comparator, coupled to the first comparator and to the second memory portion, for discarding the received Downloadable if it violates one of security policies.

The present invention further provides a method for protecting a computer from hostile Downloadables. The method comprises the
15 steps of receiving a Downloadable, discarding the received Downloadable when the received Downloadable matches a predetermined hostile Downloadable, obtaining Downloadable security profile data on the received Downloadable when the Downloadable does not match a predetermined hostile Downloadable
20 and discarding the received Downloadable when the Downloadable security profile data violates a predetermined security policy.

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