

"Flame" computer virus targets Middle East

One of the most sophisticated pieces of malicious software yet discovered – codenamed *Flame* – has about 20 times as much code as the *Stuxnet* worm that attacked Iran's nuclear program in 2010, and may have infected as many as 5,000 computers worldwide

COMPUTERS INFECTED WITH FLAME IN MIDDLE EAST

Israel/Palestine 98

Lebanon 18

Syria 30

Iran 189

Saudi Arabia 10

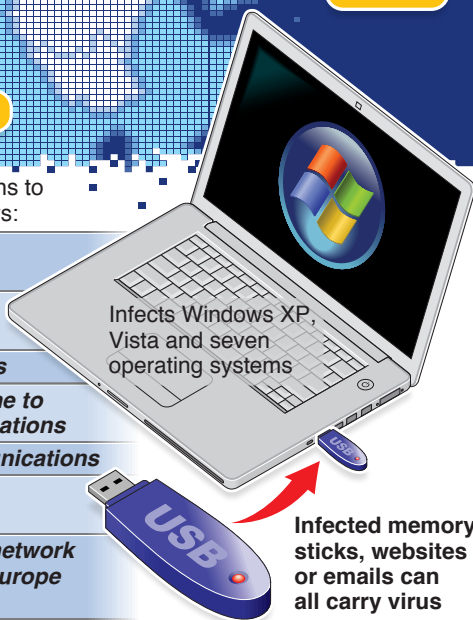
Sudan 32

Egypt 5

Flame: Complex package of modules almost 20MB in size

Virus targets specific organisations to collect information in several ways:

- **Scans local network for vulnerable passwords**
- **Searches hard drive for specific content**
- **Captures screenshot images**
- **Uses computer's microphone to record sounds, e.g. conversations**
- **Accesses Bluetooth communications**
- **Logs instant messaging conversations and emails**
- **Can transfer saved data to network of 80 servers across Asia, Europe and North America**



Flame's age is hard to determine as programmers have faked file creation dates to read 1992, 1994, 1995 etc, but it is believed to be at least two years old