



A trojan horse is something that appears to be different than what it actually is, and is a reference to ancient history and the siege of Troy.

✦ AI Overview

You are exactly right. A **Trojan Horse** is a classical idiom and modern cybersecurity term that describes **anything that misleads by appearing harmless or beneficial on the outside while concealing a hidden threat or malicious intent inside**. [1, 2]

The Ancient Myth & History

The term originates from the legendary [Trojan War](#) fought between the Greeks and the city of Troy. [1, 2]

- **The Problem:** Greek forces spent ten fruitless years laying siege to the heavily fortified walls of Troy.
- **The Stratagem:** The clever commander Odysseus devised a trick to build a massive, hollow wooden horse.
- **The Deception:** The Greek army sailed away, leaving the horse behind as a supposed gift and peace offering to the gods.
- **The Downfall:** The celebratory Trojans pulled the horse inside their gates. That night, Greek soldiers hid inside the horse crept out, opened the city gates, and destroyed the city. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

The Modern Computing Meaning

In cybersecurity, a [Trojan horse \(or Trojan\)](#) is a widespread type of malicious software (malware). [1]

- **The Mask:** It disguises itself as legitimate, harmless software like a free game, utility tool, or email attachment.
- **The Infiltration:** It relies on user interaction to execute, meaning you must open or install it yourself.

- **The Payload:** Once running, it can steal data, spy on your activities, encrypt your files for ransom, or open a hidden "backdoor" for hackers to control your system remotely.
- **Key Difference:** Unlike standard computer viruses, actual Trojans do not self-replicate or spread on their own across files. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Are you researching this for a **history project**, looking to understand a **cybersecurity threat**, or just curious about **idioms**? Let me know, and I can provide deeper details or safety tips!

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AI can make mistakes, so double-check responses

    