

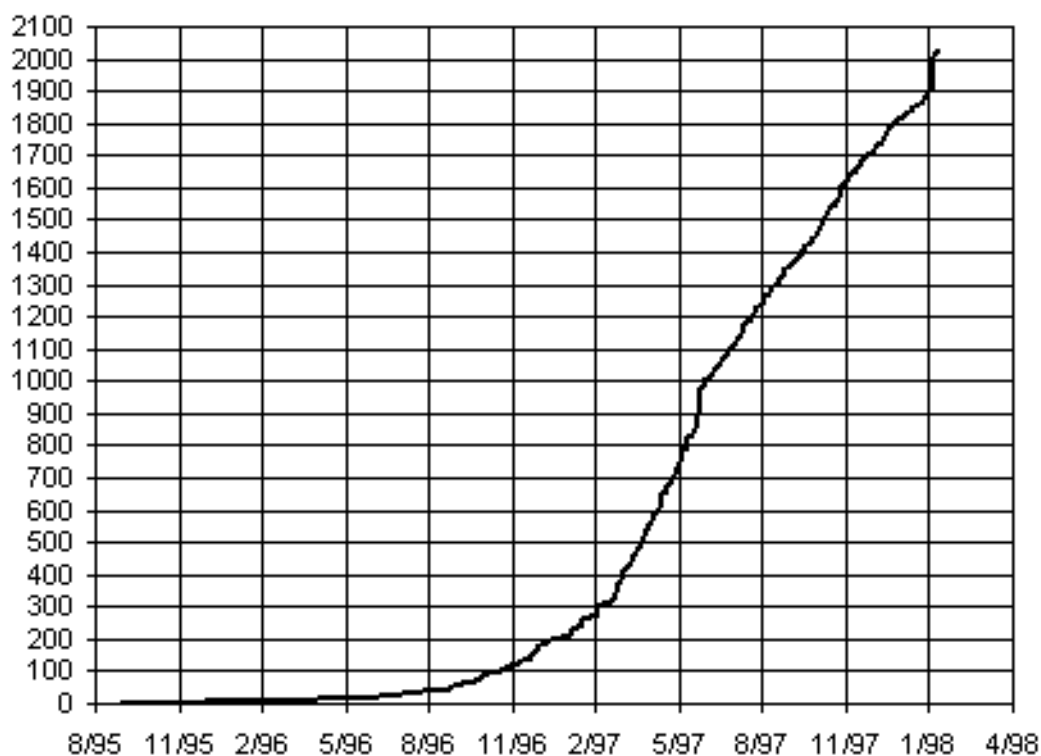
## Introduction

Macro viruses are not a new concept - they were predicted as early as the late eighties. At that time, the first studies about the possibility of writing viruses with the macro languages of certain applications were made.

However, macro viruses are not just a theory. Currently, there are hundreds and hundreds of known Word macro viruses. The milestone of 1000 different Word macro viruses was passed in April 1997 and 2000 macro viruses were reached in February 1998.

## MS WORD MACRO VIRUSES

All Word macro viruses have been written with WordBasic, the powerful macro language of Microsoft Word. These viruses spread through Word documents - Word's advanced template system makes it an opportune environment for viral mischief. This is problematic, because people exchange documents a lot more than executables or floppy disks. Macro viruses are also very easy to create or modify.



*Number of macro viruses from August 1995 to February 1998*