

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	vii
Preface	ix
Sean Cubitt	
Introduction: The General Accident of Digital Network Culture	xiii
Disease and Technology	xiii
Media Theory Meets Computer Technology:	
Definitions, Concepts, and Sources	xxiv
Eventualization	xxix
Section I:	
Fear Secured: From Bugs to Worms	1
Prologue: On Order and Cleanliness	2
Security in the Mainframe Era: From Creepers to	
Core Wars	8
The Shift in Safety: The 1980s	21
Fred Cohen and the Computer Virus Risk	33
The Morris Worm: A Media Virus	45
Viruses and The Antidotes: Coming to the 1990s	55
Viral Capitalism and the Security Services	65

Section II: Body: Biopolitics of Digital Systems	91
Prologue: How Are Bodies Formed?	91
Diagrams of Contagion	98
The Order-Word of AIDS	108
Excursus: Faciality	114
Digital Immunology	117
The Care of the Self: Responsible Computing	129
The Psyche of the Virus Writer: Irresponsible Vandalism?	140
Intermezzo: Viral Philosophy	165
Section III: Life: Viral Ecologies	173
Prologue: The Life of Information	173
The Benevolent Viral Machine	181
Cellular Automata and Simulated Ecologies	189
Organisms of Distributed Networks	202
Ecologies of Complexity and Networking	217
Coupling and Media Ecology	229
Afterword: An Accident Hard, Soft, Institutionalized	247
Appendix: A Timeline of Computer Viruses and the	
Viral Assemblage	257
Bibliography	265
Index	289