

Computer virus 'antidote'

"WEST AUSTRALIAN"

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A PERTH computer retailer has developed a new antidote programme for a "computer virus" sweeping Australia.

The breakthrough will end fears that an original antidote sent from Europe last week is another virus.

News of the antidote came as Australian universities received a warning from the U.S. that the virus was spreading through university computers.

Computer City's product support manager, Mr Terry Mason,

said his company had worked on the antidote since November.

"We have found out how the virus programme protects itself and how it broke into systems," he said.

"Our antidote removes the virus from infected disks and immunises them against further virus attacks."

Mr Mason said half the software his company imported from West Germany had been infected.

"We noticed the virus three

months ago but we thought it wasn't going to be serious," he said.

"But when we saw it spreading around our terminals so we had to do something about it.

"We have given the antidote to our supplier and they are checking and immunising material coming from Germany."

The antidote is available to all computer-users free of charge.

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