

VIRUSES SUSPICIOUS FILES

A reader writes: "Anyone who really wants to play it safe should scan their documents before sending them. That would at least give them some peace of mind--knowing that at least they tried to make sure the item did not have a virus. Of course, if the software does not detect a virus that's present, there is nothing you can do, but at least you tried to be proactive about it. People should also look at every attachment to an e-mail as a potential virus. That's why I always scan my attachments, at home and at work.

"In general, I would scan any Word or Excel document, as they are susceptible to macro viruses. I would definitely scan anything with an .exe [extension]. I doubt anyone would ever send me anything with a .vbs extension, so I probably would delete that. In the case of any other oddball file attachment, I would look closely at the file type. In other words, if I do not normally have people sending me .txt files, I would probably look at that as a red flag."

Any email containing a single hyperlink, I delete as this is often the way a worm sends itself from an infected computer using the addresses in that address book. It also often selects one of the names in the address book to show as the SENDER of the email.

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