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How to Prevent Virus thro' Email

By Dilip Dahanukar

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Recently my Norton Anti-Virus (NAV) detected a virus coming through email. This happened as my preview pane was open in the Inbox and it opened the virus email automatically as soon as it was downloaded. The NAV could not repair the file so I had to delete the infected file. I found to my utter horror that deleting the file disabled my browser. It also disabled my CD writer. I had to save my data using Iomega 250MB zip drive which fortunately worked but only in the slow SAFE mode of Windows! Ultimately I had to Quick Restore my Compaq computer. It took me 2 days to reload various programs and data! This could have been avoided if I had taken a few simple precautions. I have written out these precautions as tips on how to configure the email program so that you can prevent a disaster like mine.

Tips for configuring both Outlook Express (OE) and Microsoft Outlook (MSO) particularly to block viruses hitting your computer automatically. These precautions will save you a lot of trouble.

- 1.Switch off the preview panel in the INBOX. This prevents any virus getting into your system by automatic opening in the preview pane.
- 2.Switch off the "include this account when receiving mail or synchronizing" for every account you have. You can do this by disabling (no tick mark) on this feature, which you will find by menu chain: Tools, Accounts, account-name, properties, General. This will ensure that the mail is not flowing-in automatically.
- 3.Before downloading mail, access the mail on the net. Most of these webmail sites show the size of the files, which unfortunately is not a feature with either OE or MSO. Any mail over 100KB is suspect should be deleted. Also delete any junk mail. Only download and receive mail that you want to save on your computer.

4. To download and receive mail, don't click on Send/Receive on the mail Tool Bar, but go into Tools, and move the cursor on "Send/Receive" and move right to get a sub-menu where you select the precise account, with which you want to send or receive.
5. Send by clicking on the small arrow next to "Send", and selecting the precise account by which to send. The mail will wait in the Outbox till you send through the Tools, Send/Receive menu as given in 3 above.

step-by-step tutorial. A Template makes it even easier!

<http://www.netbizzquick.com/WhatPop.htm> Check it out! Contact the author at <mailto:dilipsd@vsnl.in>

Virus prevention and removal

By Ashish Jain

Virus prevention and removal by Ashish Jain

A virus is a piece of code that gets loaded onto your computer without your knowledge and runs against your wishes. The first known occurrence of viruses goes back to 1987 when the ARPANET was infected by one.

One common misnomer among people is that you can infect your computer just by opening an email and reading its text. That is not possible; it is usually the files attached to the email that contain the virus. The most common file types are ".SCR" ".VBS" ", ".PIF"

Prevention is better than a cure: Here are some tips to make sure that your computer does not get infected.

- * Get a good Anti-Virus software like Norton Anti-Virus, MacAfee, PC Cillin etc.
- * Keep your anti virus software updated by downloading new virus definitions regularly. Most Anti-Virus software comes with the feature of updating virus definitions.
- * Keep your windows operating system updated by regularly downloading new updates from the Internet. Windows O/S's have a lot of security loopholes and bugs that can be easily exploited by worms and viruses.
- * Make sure the anti virus scans the file each time before its opened.
- * Floppy disks and removable media are a good source of viruses; always scan them before accessing files on them.
- * Never open email attachments from sources that are unknown or suspicious.
- * Do not open emails that have questionable subject lines.
- * When in doubt about a file, don't open it.
- * Even with the best of precautions bad things can still happen. Backup all your data and important files.

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Even after taking all these precautions if your computer does get infected, then here are a few things that you can do:

Online clearing tools – are a good source of trying to clean out the virus, there are many Anti–Virus websites that offer free online virus detection and removal services.

Removal tools – If you have an Anti–Virus software then you can go to the website of that software and download removal tools designed specifically for the virus. However, you must find out the name of the virus that infects your PC beforehand.

If you have a backup of all your important files, you can also consider formatting your hard disk.

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