

# VIRUS ALERT!

*"Love Bug" Mutations Pose Serious Threat*

Last week, the world was introduced to what was hailed by some as "the most damaging and widespread virus or Internet worm that we've ever seen". The "Love Bug" or "ILOVEYOU" virus was launched from the Philippines over the weekend and was an international threat within 6 hours of inception. Major corporations across the world experienced massive computer problems, and networks such as CNBC closed their email services for days. The FBI launched a full-scale investigation and initial estimates of the Love Bug's potential damage was as high as \$10 billion.



That was last week. Since then, the Love bug has become a hacker's dream. The creative simplicity of the the ILOVEYOU virus allowed "copy cat" viruses to be made and distributed with ease. Variations started showing up almost immediately and within 24 hours there were 11 confirmed variations of the original virus. One of its latest variation was apparently released on May 18th and is far deadlier than it's predecessor.

For once, the news media was a saving grace. The "ILOVEYOU" virus received worldwide attention almost from birth. By Monday afternoon, the message was out - "Don't read any ILOVEYOU emails".

NEWLOVE, the Love Bug's latest variation has a very devious way to avoid such easy detection and entice its victims. Press releases and television coverage may not be as successful with this mutant strain, which is much more harmful, covert and powerful than the original.

## **"NEWLOVE" THREAT**

NEWLOVE, like all the Love Bug strains, is both a virus and a worm. This means it tries to damage your computer and then spreads itself to your friends through emails, chat rooms, and the Internet.

### **Worse than the Love Bug!**

"NEWLOVE" virus will:

- Try to replace all files on your hard drive with copies of itself.
- Send itself to everyone in your address book.
- Randomly Change the subject title with

While the virus code is the same as Love Bug, NEWLOVE has several new, devious twists. First, the subject of the email is changed at random and may contain text from the previous victims (likely someone you know) personal files. Second, this virus is programmed to *replace* all of your hard drive files with copies of itself. When a file is replaced (rather than deleted) on your hard drive, it is almost impossible to recover. The result is an almost complete hard drive crash. Finally, NEWLOVE will try to send itself - with a new subject title - to everyone in your email address book.

This virus is dangerous, but not unstoppable. Instructions for protecting your system are on the accompanying page. Call us if you have any questions or need help with this virus.

**BE** Bryant Enterprises  
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[www.helpmedoc.com](http://www.helpmedoc.com)



# TOUGH LOVE

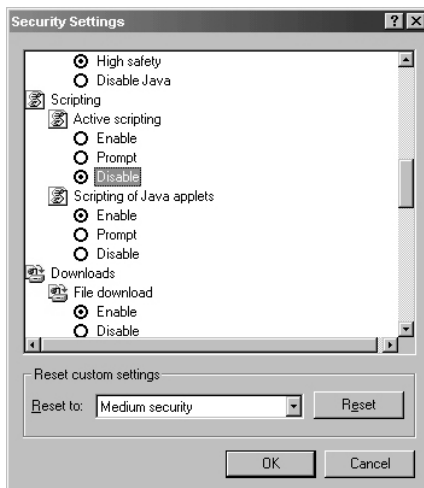
## How to defend against Love Bug strains

Love Bug, ILOVEYOU, NEWLOVE and all known variants rely on a Windows application called "Visual Basic Scripting" (VBS). All of these virus attachments have a .VBS extension, which is one way to spot them in your email attachments. If you receive an email attachment with a .vbs extension, delete it immediately and inform the sender (through a new email) that he may be infected.

Spotting the email is the last resort, the best defense is to disable scripting and script hosting in Windows.

### Step 1: Disable Active Scripting

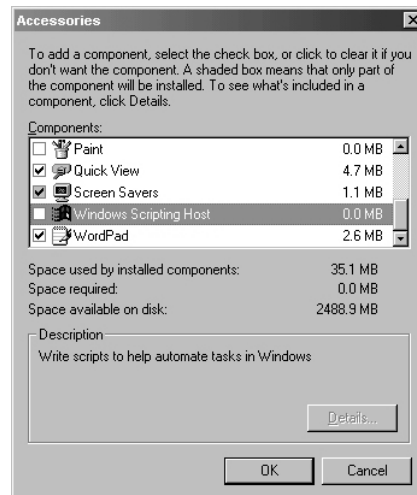
- Click on the **Start** button
- **S**ettings
- **C**ontrol Panel
- **I**nternet
- Click on the **Security** tab
- Select **Custom**
- Click on **Settings**
- Disable Active Scripting, as shown below.
- Click **OK**
- Click **OK** on the next Screen
- Restart your computer



Disable Active Scripting in Windows

### Step 2: Remove Windows Script Hosting, if Installed

- Click on the **Start** button
- **S**ettings
- **C**ontrol Panel
- **A**dd/Remove Programs
- Click on **Window Setup** tab
- Double-Click on **Accessories**
- If checked, remove the check from Windows Scripting Host, as shown below.
- Click **OK**
- Click **OK** on the next Screen
- Restart your computer



Disable Windows Scripting Host

### Step 3: Backup/Update virus Scanner/Scan for Viruses

- Copy all important files onto a backup tape or Zip Drive. A full backup is your best protection against viruses.
- If you do not own a virus protection program that is compatible with your version of Windows, spend the money to buy a new version.
- Go onto the web and update the virus definitions for your virus scanner. Your virus scanner is only as good as it's last update. Updating is easy to do and takes only a few minutes. You will not be protected from the Love Bug, ILOVEYOU or NEW LOVE if you have not updated in the last week
- Run a full virus scan on your computer. Have the scanner look at every file. This can take 1/2 hour or more, but will ensure you are not infected.