

LESSON 115

BEWARE THE LOVE VIRUS

Aside from having antivirus software on your computer and keeping the virus definitions in that program up-to-date, there are other things you can do to avoid being attacked by love-bug type of viruses.

First, delete any e-mail with an attachment that ends in ".vbs". A ".vbs" attachment is created in Microsoft Virtual Basic Script language that can really cause damage to your computer.

You should also delete any e-mails with attachments that end in ".exe" ".com" and ".js" as all of these files contain programs that can be executed. The only exception would be an attachment sent to you in direct response to your request.

Windows Scripting Host is a feature that runs any attachments that end with ".vbs". You can turn off the Windows Scripting Host feature. Here's how.

Double-click on My Computer and then open Control Panel. Open Add/Remove Programs and then click on Windows Setup. Double-click on Accessories. Scroll down and find the check mark next to Windows Scripting Host. Uncheck it and then click OK twice.

You can run an online virus check that scans your hard drive for malicious programs. Take a look at House Call by Trend Micro. Go to **www.housecall.antivirus.com**. Register on the site and then bookmark the site as a favorite. House Call will scan any drive you select while you surf the Net.

Microsoft has announced updates to Outlook and Outlook Express and will post them on its Web site. Go to **www.microsoft.com** and click on Microsoft Announces Forthcoming Outlook E-mail Security Update, located on the main Microsoft page. The Outlook updates will be posted there in the next couple of days.

