

The River Cities DAILY TRIBUNE

'Living In a Tech World' Column

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Should You Really Open That Email Attachment? - Supplement

Know what you are opening!

Do Not Open Email Attachments with these Extensions (.last 3 letters)

If you are in the habit of downloading files from the Internet you should avoid possibly destructive files with extensions such as .exe, .scr, .lnk, .bat, .vbs, .dll, .bin, and .cmd, unless you KNOW the download site, and trust it to be free of potential dangers. This includes being wary of files offered on Facebook or MySpace.

- .EXE (machine language)
- .COM (machine language)
- .VB (Visual Basic script)
- .VBS (Visual Basic script)
- .VBE (Visual Basic script-encoded)
- .CMD (batch file - Windows)
- .BAT (batch file - DOS/Windows)
- .WS (Windows script)
- .WSF (Windows script)
- .SCR (screen saver)
- .SHS (OLE object package)
- .PIF (shortcut to DOS file plus code)
- .HTA (hypertext application)
- .JAR (Java archive)
- .JS (JavaScript script)
- .JSE (JScript script)
- .LNK (shortcut to an executable)

A way to trick users into opening a virus. Many people have learned that text files (.TXT) and image files (.GIF, .JPG, etc.) are safe to launch because they are data and not executable software. They have learned to be leery of .EXE, .VBS and other extensions that are executed immediately. Thus, virus writers try to trick more people using double extensions, so "I LOVE YOU.TXT.vbs" is really not a .TXT file, but a .vbs file, a Visual Basic Script that is executed immediately.

These Extensions are safe to Open

Text .TXT

Images - Following are common image file types.

There are many other graphic formats, but these are the most common.

- .GIF
- .JPG
- .BMP
- .PNG
- .AI
- .WMF
- .TIF
- .EPS
- .PCX
- .DXF