



COT Security Alert – Microsoft OLE Vulnerability

Microsoft has announced a vulnerability in Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) technology, which is used in its operating systems and software to enable data sharing and functionality. An attacker could exploit this vulnerability by designing a Microsoft Office document containing an OLE object that would give the attacker the same level of rights on the affected system as the user when it is opened. The attacker could engage the user by sending a malicious email or hosting a malicious website containing a link to the infected document.

Microsoft has not yet developed a patch for this vulnerability and is aware of some limited attacks which use a Microsoft PowerPoint file as the vector; however the type of document that could be used is not limited to Microsoft PowerPoint.

Users are advised to observe security best practices when opening links in emails or when going to Internet websites, including the following:

- Never open a link or attachment in an unexpected email, even if it is from someone you know. If the sender is known, contact them with a separate email or phone call to verify they intended to send the email.
- Ensure you are on a company or other entity's official website before opening documents the site contains.

For more information, including affected Microsoft versions, see the Microsoft Advisory:

<https://technet.microsoft.com/library/security/3010060>.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

Office of Chief Information Security Officer
Commonwealth Office of Technology
Frankfort, KY 40601
technology.ky.gov

Technology-enabled Business Solutions for 21st Century Government