

RE: "This file may not be safe" message after converting db from access '97 to 2003.

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.conversion/2004-09/0022.html>

From: Raghu Prakash (raghupg_at_online.microsoft.com)

Date: 09/03/04

Date: Fri, 03 Sep 2004 06:13:26 GMT

Hi Pat,

This is because of your security settings, you can easily change the level of security to not inform you.

When you open a file in Access 2003, you might see a warning that states that the file may be unsafe if it contains code that was intended to harm your computer.

You may see the following warning when opening a file, if the macro security level in Access is set to High:

Access cannot open the file due to security restrictions. Security settings restrict access to the file because it is not digitally signed.

You may also see other similar warnings about your file not being safe.

These messages are a result of new security features that are part of Access 2003. For more information about these security features and how to avoid these warnings from appearing each time you open a file, see [Frequently asked questions about Access security warnings](#).

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/assistance/HA011071651033.aspx>

Macro security levels

The following information summarizes how macro (macro: An action or a set of actions you can use to automate tasks. Macros are recorded in the Visual Basic for Applications programming language.) virus protection works under each setting on the Security Level tab in the Security dialog box (Tools menu, Macro submenu) under different conditions. Under all settings, if antivirus software that works with Microsoft Office 2003 is installed and the file contains macros, the file is scanned for known viruses (virus: A computer program or macro that "infects" computer files by inserting copies of itself into those files. When the infected file is loaded into memory, the virus can infect other files. Viruses often have harmful side effects.)

before it is opened.

Security Because macros can contain viruses, be careful about running them. Take the following precautions: run up-to-date antivirus software on your computer; set your macro security level to high; clear the Trust all installed add-ins and templates check box; use digital signatures; maintain a list of trusted publishers.

Very High

This setting is not available in the Security dialog box in Microsoft Office Access 2003. It is possible, however, to use system policies to set the security level in Access to Very High. When the security level is set to Very High, Access cannot open any Access database (Microsoft Access database: A collection of data and objects (such as tables, queries, or forms) that is related to a particular topic or purpose. The Microsoft Jet database engine manages the data.) or Access project (Microsoft Access project: An Access file that connects to a Microsoft SQL Server database and is used to create client/server applications. A project file doesn't contain any data or data-definition-based objects such as tables and views.) files.

High

Unsigned macros

The file can be opened only if the user chooses to trust the author and certification authority.

Signed macros

The source of the macro and the status of the signature (digital signature: An electronic, encryption-based, secure stamp of authentication on a macro or document. This signature confirms that the macro or document originated from the signer and has not been altered.) determine how signed macros are handled.

A trusted source. Signature is valid.

Macros are automatically enabled, and the file is opened.

An unknown author. Signature is valid.

A dialog box is displayed with information about the certificate (digital certificate: Attachment for a file, macro project, or e-mail message that vouches for authenticity, provides secure encryption, or supplies a verifiable signature. To digitally sign macro projects, you must install a digital certification.). The file can be opened only if the user chooses to trust the author and certification authority. A network administrator can lock the list of trusted sources and prevent the user from adding the developer to the list and opening the file.

Any author. Signature is invalid.

The signature might not be valid due to several reasons. For more information on files and VBA projects with invalid signatures, see the Help topic Troubleshoot macro security level and warnings. User is warned that signature is invalid, and the file is not opened.

Any author. Signature validation is not possible because public key is missing or incompatible encryption methods were used.

User is warned that signature validation is not possible, and the file is not opened.

Any author. The signature was made after the certificate had expired or had been revoked.

User is warned that the signature has expired or been revoked, and the file is not opened.

Medium

Unsigned macros

User is prompted to open the database or cancel the operation. If the user chooses to cancel the operation, the database is not opened.

Signed macros

The source of the macro and the status of the signature (digital signature: An electronic, encryption-based, secure stamp of authentication on a macro or document. This signature confirms that the macro or document originated from the signer and has not been altered.) determine how signed macros are handled.

A trusted source. Signature is valid.

Macros are automatically enabled, and the file is opened.

An unknown author. Signature is valid.

A dialog box is displayed with information about the certificate. The user is prompted to open the file or cancel the operation. The user can choose to trust the developer and certification authority. If the user chooses to cancel the operation, then the file is not opened.

Any author. Signature is invalid.

The signature might not be valid due to several reasons. For more information on files and VBA projects with invalid signatures, see the Help topic Troubleshoot macro security level and warnings.

Any author. Signature validation is not possible because public key is missing or incompatible encryption methods were used.

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User is warned that signature validation is not possible. User is prompted to open the file or cancel the operation. If the user chooses to cancel the operation, then the file is not opened.

Any author. The signature was made after the certificate had expired or had been revoked, and then the file is not opened.

User is warned that the signature has expired or been revoked. User is prompted to open the file or cancel the operation. If the user chooses to cancel the operation, then the file is not opened.

Low

When security is set to low, all macros are treated equally, regardless of origin or certificate status. With low security, you receive no prompt or signature validation, and macros are automatically enabled. Use this setting only if you are certain that all macros in your files are from trusted sources.

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/assistance/HP010446071033.aspx>

Please let me know has this helped You...

Thank you...

Raghu...

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