

## Re: How safe is Microsoft Messenger?

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- *From:* [comphelp@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:comphelp@xxxxxxxxxx) (Todd H.)
  - *Date:* 09 Feb 2006 14:36:52 -0600
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"David Allan" <davidm.allan@xxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

Thanks to one and all for your advice... but you're loosing me with some of the jargon. Nobody has confirmed that Microsoft Messenger comes with risks, such as being an open door to virus attacks... that's what concerns me most.

Oh, it is. Instant messaging is instant. Worms are starting to propagate this way—the usual tack is that an IM comes from someone on your buddy list that you trust, you figure it's okay to see, you click, and download something, and presto yer infected. all the while unaware that it wasn't you rbuddy typing at a keyboard but rather a bot that'd infected his machine that was sending you that message.

Maybe I'm worrying about nothing... but I'm still worrying!!!

If you don't need instant messaging in your life, skip MSN Messenger, AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo Instant Messenger, etc. Your computer will be safer for it.

But, so long as you fastidiously keep on top of instant messenger program updates, you don't configure it to automagically accept incoming file transfers, stay on top of OS updates, restrict messaging only to folks on your buddylist, and don't click on links willy nilly sent to you via IM, you can use them relatively safely.

But if you don't need it, don't use it.

Best Regards,

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