

## Re: Running program files on XP with non-executable extension?

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.misc/2005-11/0401.html>

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**Date:** 11/23/05

Date: Wed, 23 Nov 2005 05:05:39 GMT

"Roger Wilco" <yesman@yourservice.invalid> wrote in message  
news:11o4tdmbuchf516@corp.supernews.com...

>

> *"Solly" <solly@by.co.com> wrote in message*

> *news:MPG.1dec0bfc778e4c399897c6@news-text.blueyonder.co.uk...*

>>

>>

>> *Windows 98 SE*

>> *Word 2000*

>>

>> *Will start up word and load a document regardless of file*

>> *extension.*

>>

>> *Renaming it to book.xyz still opens it.*

>>

>> *What this shows ia the parser must be looking not just*

>> *at the file name but inside the file content.*

>

> *Could be that to support OLE the OS must have this ability – they should*

> *have unregistered extensions (and no extension) default to give the*

> *"open with" dialog box instead of just invoking Word based on the file.*

> *You can still edit the registry to do this, but I don't know the*

> *particulars of how to do so.*

>

>> *just one more reason not to trust any microsoft software.*

>

> *To me, the whole idea of association by extension is wrong. Associations*

> *really should be by actual filetype (what you are complaining about) and*

> *the associations by extension kept to a minimum.*

>

>> *I wonder what other applications do this.*

>

> *You could experiment with other OLE(2?) enabled applications..*

>

>> *If you cant tell how your software behaves you can never*

comp.security.misc: Re: Running program files on XP with non-executable extension?

- > > *have a secure system no matter what you do with fire walls.*
- >
- > *Absolutely, and installing and running additional software on the*
- > *machine is not the right approach to increasing security.*
- >

Interesting...I tried this and a couple other experiments and found some interesting results:

- 1) Double-clicking on the file on the desktop (instead of opening it inside of Word) does cause the pop-up box asking what program to use to open the file.
- 2) Tried to open a shortcut on the desktop (from inside Word) to WinZip and what appeared looks like a 208 page document of code (not very readable, just a lot of gobbledygook like "fÄj\$høFLV<u Vjèð").
- 3) Tried to open an actual program executable (an EXE file) and once again saw a bunch of code.

Apparently Word tries to open each and every file regardless of the type (tested this with Word 2000 on Win2000 system).