Microsoft reminds users about Feb. 3 virus

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Microsoft has warned its customers about "Mywife," a malware variant expected to come to life on Friday.

Mywife is a mass-mailing malware that security engineers fear could begin permanently corrupting document files on Feb. 3 and could even cripple a computer's security-related applications.

"The malware also modifies or deletes files and registry keys associated with certain computer security-related applications," Microsoft said in a bulletin this week. "This prevents these applications from running when Windows starts."

Microsoft contends that up-to-date anti-virus software will block the infections and reminds customers not to open unsolicited e-mail attachments that cause the virus to spread. If opened, Mywife will send itself to all of the hapless user's friends, relatives and business associates in their address book.

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