

Problems with Microsoft Word

A common problem is when people cannot open a word document. This usually happens when somebody with Microsoft Office, or later, saves a document in docx format, and somebody with Microsoft Office 2003, or earlier, tries to read it.

Microsoft introduced the docx (the x is for XML) format, along with the xlsx and pptx formats with Office 2007. There are some good reasons for the new format but no need to go into that. The problem is it is not backward compatible i.e. people with pre 2007 software cannot read the new format.

There is a download from Microsoft that enables Microsoft Office pre 2007 to read the new formats. It also allows you to edit and save in the new formats. Click here on <http://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/download/details.aspx?id=3>, click download, and then click the blue button on the bottom right 'No thanks and continue' (Unless of course you want to select any of the other downloads available). Then just follow the normal download procedure – on Windows Explorer just click 'run'.

Another problem with Word is that Microsoft no longer maintains Word 2003. Nasty people can infect Word with different sort of things. So these people are now rubbing their hands and targeting pre 2007 Word. So, unless you are very happy with virus checkers, firewalls etc. it may be time to get your wallet out and upgrade! It is because of this, that I am reluctant to place pre-2007 doc format documents on the website.