A potentially dangerous macro has been blocked

Macros can add a lot of functionality to Microsoft 365, but they are often used by people with bad intentions to distribute malware to unsuspecting victims.

Macros aren't required for everyday use like reading or editing a document in Word or using Excel workbooks. In most cases you can do everything you need to do in Microsoft 365 without allowing macros to run.

> **Note:** If you're an IT pro looking to configure this setting, or if you just want more advanced technical details, see Macros from the internet will be blocked by default in Microsoft 365.

What should I do now?

Still wondering if you should proceed?

❏ **Were you expecting to receive a file with macros?** Never open a file attachment you weren't expecting, even if it appears to come from somebody you trust. Phishing attacks often appear to come from a person or organization you trust in an effort to get you to open them.

❏ **Are you being encouraged to enable content by a stranger?** A common tactic of attackers is to create some pretense such as cancelling an order or reading a legal document. They'll have you download a document and try to persuade you to allow macros to run. No legitimate company will make you open an Excel file to cancel an order and you don't need macros just to read a document in Word.

❏ **Are you being encouraged to enable content by a pop-up message?** If you downloaded the file from a website, you may see pop-ups or other messages encouraging you to enable active content. Those are also common tactics of attackers and should make you suspicious that the file is actually unsafe.

If a downloaded file from the internet or a file opened from a network share wants you to allow macros, and you're not certain what those macros do, you should probably just delete that file.
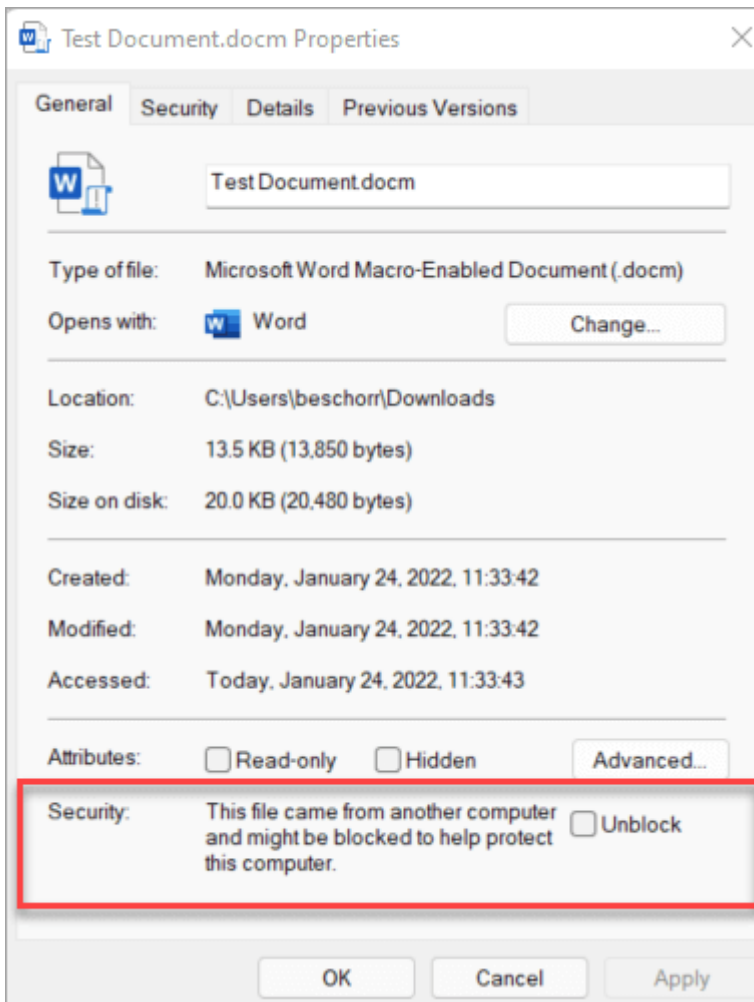
If you're sure the file is safe and want to unblock macros

There are a few different ways to do it, depending on your situation.

Unblock a single file

In most cases you can unblock macros by modifying the properties of the file as follows:

1. Open Windows File Explorer and go to the folder where you saved the file.

2. Right-click the file and choose **Properties** from the context menu.

3. At the bottom of the **General** tab, select the **Unblock** checkbox and select **OK**.

If you don't see the **Unblock** checkbox in properties, try one of the options below.

Unblock all files from a specific network share or website

If you often download files or directly open files from a trusted cloud location, such as your company's website or an internal file server, you can set the site as a trusted site in Windows so macros from the site won't be checked.
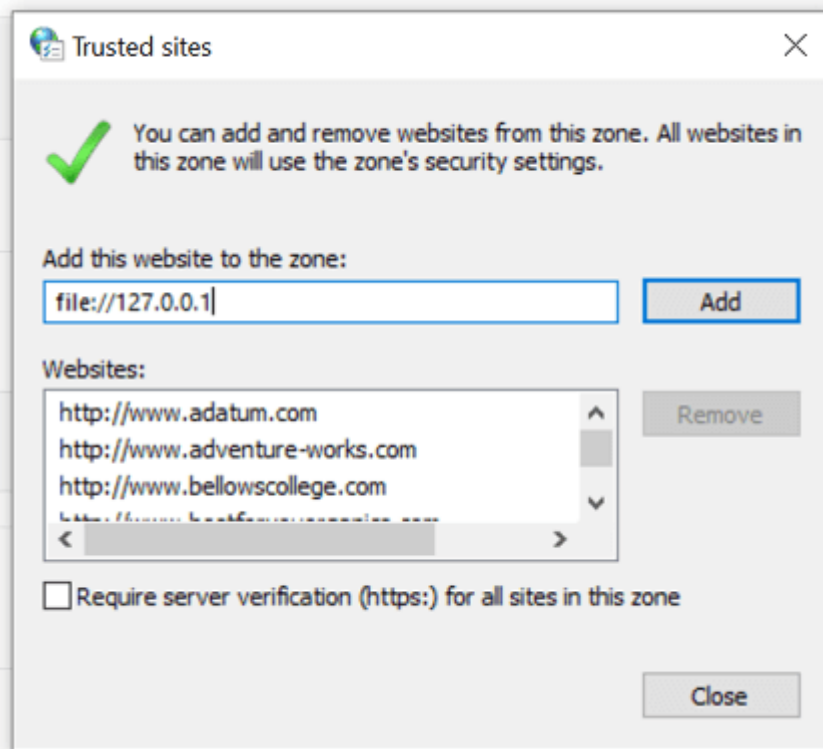
> **Important:** You'll trust all the macros from this site if you choose to apply this setting, so only do this if you know that every file opened from this location is trustworthy.

1. Tap the start button or Windows key and type `Internet Options`.

2. Select **Internet Options** from the search results and the **Internet Properties** dialog box appears.

3. On the **Security** tab, select **Trusted Sites**, and then select **Sites**.

4. Type the URL of the site or server that contains the Microsoft 365 files with the macros you want to run, and then select **Add**.

> **Note:** If you want to add URLs that begin with http:// or network shares, uncheck **Require server verification (https:) for all sites in this zone**.

5. Select **Close,** and then **OK**.

Select a heading below for more information

Unblock a single file you received through email   ⌄

Unblock all files from a trusted folder on your computer's hard drive   ⌄

Unblock all macros from a trusted publisher   ⌄

Still unable to unblock the macro?

Visit Microsoft Support Community to see what others have said or ask your own questions.

Learn more

Macros in Microsoft 365 files

How malware can infect your PC

Microsoft security help & learning

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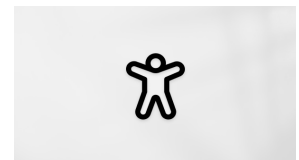Explore subscription benefits, browse training courses, learn how to secure your device, and more.

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