

Internet Explorer 6 Warning

Trading Standards Officers are urging computer users still using Internet Explorer 6 to upgrade their browser as soon as possible.

Their warning follows recommendations from Microsoft who have identified security issues in the 9 year old browser. Microsoft state that whilst version 6 was 'cutting edge' when it was first released, its security features have now become outdated.

Internet Explorer users can check their browser version by clicking Help > About Internet Explorer. Outdated and unsecure software increases users' vulnerability to malware and Internet-based fraud, and Officers advise to check for operating system and software updates regularly.

Officers advise that effective online security is crucial, and users should ensure that their PCs are running up-to-date anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software. However, good security need not be complicated or expensive – many security vendors provide free versions of their software for personal use.

Crucially, Internet security software should be supported by user commonsense and awareness of Internet-based threats. For this reason, Officers advise PC users to read up on online security via www.getsafeonline.org. They also advise turning off any 'auto-preview' features in their email software, and encourage all email users to follow their advice for avoiding email spam ([Avoiding Spam](#)).

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