

Outlook Express

RESTRICTED ACCESS

by Dick Trissel, July 2006, in CCCC, the news-letter of the Santa Clara, California, Computer Club

I suddenly encountered a message banner in Windows XP, SP2, while opening an e-mail message [in Outlook Express].

It read: "*To help protect your security, Internet Explorer has restricted this file from showing active content that could access your computer.*"

It said to click on the message for more information.

It then gave me the option to open the e-mail anyway.

That option gave me a blank message page where I knew there was a message to display (the person that sent it was looking over my shoulder [while standing behind me]).

After hours of research and experimentation, I found the culprit. By comparing my Internet Explorer with SP2 to a version without SP2, I found 14 differences in the Internet Options > Security tab and the Advanced tab. By the process of elimination, I found the actual item that was causing the problem viewing HTML files.

The culprit was in the *Tools > Advanced* tab section of *Internet Options* (not the Security tab section). The Advanced tab Security section has an item called: "Allow active content to run in files on My Computer." This should be changed from un-checked to checked.

Of course, this allows active content that may be harmful to run on your computer. So, use this fix with diligence.

A Note from Darry D: If you are using Internet Explorer 7:

- ❶ RIGHT-click anywhere on the ToolBars (at the top of the window).
- ❷ Click on "MenuBar" (1st choice).
- ❸ Click on "Tools".
- ❹ Click on "Advanced" tab.