

### Are you experiencing problems using “legacy software”?

We had a client desperately trying to email us a Word document. Unfortunately, it was saved in the old Word 97 format. A lot of people are unaware of the issue our IT department has brought to our attention.

Today, we stumbled across an article at Canadian Lawyer, at <http://www.canadianlawyermag.com/author/lisa-r-lifshitz/time-to-say-goodbye-dealing-with-legacy-software-15445/>, on the risks of legacy software. This is a good article to refer to for those who think the issue is no big deal.

We are starting to hear protests that the email block is an inconvenience. This will not change our process – we see it as an opportunity to provide you with some value-added advice on enhancing your IT security and safety by transitioning your files to more secure formats.

The older versions of MS Office 2007 and older are no longer getting security updates which make their file formats, e.g. .doc, .xls, ppt risky to use.

Newer and safer versions of these file types, e.g. .docx, .xlsx, pptx, etc. have been available since MS Office 2007 which was released 10 years ago. It is best practice to update to the new file formats and avoid accepting or sending the old format files because of security flaws that will likely never be updated/patched. Word 2000–2003 users on Windows systems can install a free add-on called the "Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack" to be able to open, edit, and save the new Word 2007 files.

For those looking for a more in-depth explanation there are many articles available by searching online, e.g. [“Is it safe to use an old version of Microsoft Office?”](#)