



What to do if you receive an email warning about a dreadful virus

It is more than likely that the message is a hoax, so please check before spreading unnecessary alarm. Check with websites like:

Hoax-Slayer, <http://www.hoax-slayer.com/site-search.html>

ThatsNonsense.com is based in the UK, <http://www.thatsnonsense.com/category/internet-rumors>

Snopes, <http://www.snopes.com/?s=virus+hoax>

Urban legends <http://urbanlegends.about.com/cs/nethoaxes/ht/emailhoax.htm>

Check on computer viruses and urban legends at any of the anti-virus software houses eg Symantec http://www.symantec.com/enterprise/security_response/threatexplorer/risks/hoaxes.jsp

Alternatively just copy and paste some of the key words in the incoming e-mail into Google. Try it and use the Advanced search with the word "hoax" to narrow it down if it doesn't work on other suspect hoax messages.

About.com has an interesting article "How To Spot an Email Hoax" at <http://urbanlegends.about.com/cs/nethoaxes/ht/emailhoax.htm>

So - either ignore such messages and delete them, or please check what you are forwarding before you worry someone else unnecessarily!

To find out more about how to stay safe online go to a Computer Friendly Security course: <http://www.computerfriendlystalbans.org.uk/security.html>